

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

April 11, 2022

District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:00 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Baraniak, the board approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Three of our Knowledge Bowl teams participated in the State tournament this weekend in Brainerd: Ava Becken, Ilie Hoffert, Nadia Kuxhausen Ralph, James Shuffelton, Will Beaumaster, Wyatt Barber, Max Casson, Gabriel Fisher Navarro, Quinn Lovick, Brekken Modory, Peter Hillmann, Meaghan Kelley, Carter Lefkowitz, Cricket Mohring, and Collin Thomas Green.
- Senior Maggie Malecha is the first ever Northfield Athena Award Winner. This award recognizes outstanding metro area senior female athletes. Maggie was the 2022 Minnesota Senior Goalie of the Year, the 2022 Herb Brooks award winner, and led her team to the state tournament.
- Freshman Ella Pagel is the first ever Northfield female state wrestling champion.
- Senior Jake Messner placed second at the state wrestling tournament and the Wrestling team placed 5th at state.
- Boys Swim was the section 1A runner up. Wrestling and Boys' Hockey teams were conference champs, and the Olympic Weightlifting team placed 2nd at the state meet.
- Arts a la Carte is scheduled on Friday, April 22 at Northfield High School, 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Congratulations to Bubba Sullivan on being inducted into the Minnesota Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Coach Sullivan became the head football coach in Northfield in 1989 and has since won 208 games and the 1997 Class 4A state title.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Budget Prioritization Update. Superintendent Hillmann and Director Mertesdorf presented an update to the board on the district's budget prioritization process. The board will review the finalized budget prioritization report on April 25 and will vote on the budget recommendations on May 9. The board, Superintendent Hillmann, and Director Mertesdorf will select a date to host a community forum to allow the broader community an opportunity for input between April 25 and May 9, 2022.
- b. Superintendent Operations and COVID-19 Update. Dr. Hillmann reported COVID-19 numbers continue to stabilize. Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) held a drive through event celebrating 30 years of making a difference in our community and Northfield Public Schools. Thank you to Northfield High School special education teacher Jake O'Dell for organizing the career speaker series during the high school's flex time, and to Lori Malecha, kitchen manager at Spring Creek Elementary, for making improvements in the inventory tracking system to ensure we are leveraging the food inventory across the district in order to make more efficient use of resources. In 2021, Northfield High School's four-year graduation rate was 96.7%; the state average graduation rate for 2021 was 83.3%.

- c. Charter School Site Visit Reports. Superintendent Hillmann provided a report on his site visit to Prairie Creek Community School on March 29 and to Arcadia Charter School on March 31. Dr. Hillmann met with administrators, staff, students, and board members.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Pritchard, the board approved the consent agenda.

- a. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 28, 2022
- Minutes of the Closed School Board meeting held on March 28, 2022

- b. Overnight Field Trip. Activities Director Joel Olson and Boys Lacrosse Coach Jeff Wright requested board approval for NHS varsity boys lacrosse team overnight trip May 27-28, 2022.

- c. Personnel Items

- i. Appointments

1. Joseph Ascencio Bravo, Recreation Program Assistant, beginning 4/2/22 through 5/31/22, \$10.33/hour.
2. Toby Grawe, Recreation Program Assistant, beginning 4/2/2022 through 5/31/2022, \$10.33/hour.
3. Jamie Jerdee, Middle School Head Boys' Golf Coach, beginning 4/4/2022. \$2,987
4. Blake Kane, Head Girls Soccer Coach, beginning 8/15/2022, \$6,601.
5. Chantal Kheirallah, Summer Targeted Services PLUS Teacher, beginning 7/5/2022 through 8/11/2022, lane/step.
6. Justin Raabolle, Master Electrician, beginning 4/25/2022. Master Electrician salary plus step 4, prorated for the 2021-22 school year.
7. Jonathan Singleton, Recreation Program Assistant, beginning 4/2/22 through 5/31/22, \$11.00/hour.
8. Dominic Sasser, Recreation Program Assistant, beginning 4/2/22 through 5/31/22, \$11.00/hour.
9. Laura Kay Allen, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Health Teacher at the High School, beginning 4/11/2022-approximately 6/9/2022; MA+40, Step 10
10. Judith Boehme, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
11. Jeffrey Eckhoff, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
12. Rosemary Fink, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
13. Mark Johnson, Summer Seasonal Grounds/Custodial Technician with Buildings and Grounds, beginning 5/2/2022-10/31/2022; 16.50/hr.
14. Lynda Maus, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
15. Abigail McFarland, .4 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach for 2 hours/day for 2 days/week at the High School, beginning 4/18/2022; .40 Level 3, Asst 8%
16. Rebecca Messer, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
17. Brenda Niebuhr, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
18. Jessica Provancha, American Sign Language Interpreter with Community Education Recreation, beginning 4/11/2022-6/6/2022; \$26.24/hr.
19. Joshua Wagner, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.
20. Deborah Winkelman, AP Test Proctor as needed at the High School, beginning 05/01/2022-5/31/2022. Substitute teacher rate.

- ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Mary Harrity-Davidson, 1.0 Middle School Boys Tennis Coach, change to .50 Head Coach and .50 Assistant Coach, effective 4/4/2022, \$2,738.
2. Ann Jerdee, Middle School English Teacher, add Middle School Assistant Golf Coach, effective 4/4/2022, \$2,489.
3. Jenny Link, Middle School Special Education Teacher, add Summer PLUS/BLAST teacher substitute, effective 7/3/2022 through 8/11/2022, lane/step.

4. Ryan Pietsch, Spring Elementary Phy Ed Teacher, add Middle School Head Girls' Golf Coach, effective 4/4/2022, \$2,987.
5. Paul Stanaway, Middle School Phy Ed Teacher, add 1.0 MS Fitness Room Advisor for spring session, effective 4/4/2022.
6. Jeffrey Sullivan, High School Special Education Assistant, add High School spring weight room assistant, effective 4/5/2022, Level 3, \$995.86 stipend.
7. Community Education Summer Brochure Instructors
8. Ann Ackerman, Speech Pathologist .50 FTE Greenvale Park Elementary and .50 FTE Spring Creek Elementary, change to 1.0 FTE Spring Creek Elementary, beginning 8/25/2022.
9. Natalie Amy, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School for 2021-22 only, change to Guidance Counselor ongoing beginning 8/25/2022.
10. Tallie Berkvam Peter, 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher for the 2021-22 school year at Spring Creek, change to 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher-ongoing at Spring Creek, effective 4/7/2022.
11. Briana Bulfer, Elementary Teacher through Portage, change to Grade 2 teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning 8/25/2022.
12. Natalie Deane, Special Education Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary, change to Special Education Teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary, beginning 8/25/2022.
13. Lindsey Downs, 1.0 FTE Reading Interventionist at Spring Creek, change to 1.0 FTE First Grade Teacher at Spring Creek, effective 8/25/2022.
14. Brittany Ellerbusch, Grade 2 Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary, change to Elementary Teacher at Greenvale Park, Grade level to be determined, beginning 8/25/2022.
15. Lydia Gross, 1.0 FTE ECSE Teacher at the NCEC, voluntary reduction in contract time to .60 FTE, beginning 8/25/2022.
16. Becki Haar, 1.0 FTE Portage Teacher with the District, change to 1.0 FTE Fourth Grade Teacher at Spring Creek, effective 8/25/2022.
17. Rebecca Hollister, .4 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at the High School, change to .6 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at the High School, effective 4/12/2022.
18. Christine Howard, 1.0 FTE Speech Pathologist at Spring Creek Elementary, change to Speech Pathologist .50 FTE at Spring Creek Elementary and .50 FTE at Greenvale Park Elementary, beginning 8/25/2022.
19. Stephanie Mahal, 1.0 FTE Occupational Therapist, voluntary reduction in contract time to .80 FTE, beginning 8/25/2022.
20. Nicole Papke, .80 FTE Title I Teacher at Greenvale Park, voluntary reduction in contract time to .50 FTE, beginning 8/25/2022.
21. Betsy Peterson, 1.0 FTE Kindergarten Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary, change to 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary, grade level to be determined, beginning 8/25/2022.
22. Jennifer Streefland, 1.0 FTE School Counselor at the Middle School, add in lieu of prep a ½ overload for 47 days at the Middle School, effective 4/5/2022-6/9/2022.
23. Cori Yamry, 1.0 FTE School Counselor at the Middle School, add in lieu of prep a ½ overload for 47 days at the Middle School, effective 4/5/2022-6/9/2022..

iii. Leave of Absence

1. Andrea Nelson-Walker, Benefits/Payroll Specialist, FMLA leave of absence beginning on 5/5/2022 through 5/18/2022.
2. Mohamed Nur, District Technology Specialist, FMLA leave of absence beginning on or about 4/13/2022 for 15 work days.
3. Sarah DuChene, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Bridgewater, .20 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-2023 school year.
4. JoAnn Gilbert, CNA at the High School, Updated Leave of Absence, effective 2/16/2022-5/6/2022.
5. Rebecca Lorang, 1.0 FTE EL Teacher at the Middle School, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
6. Rhea Mehrkens, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
7. Lisa Nelson, 1.0 FTE Title I Teacher at Greenvale Park, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
8. Briane Stevens, .80 FTE High School Social Studies Teacher, .20 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
9. Linda Temple, Elementary Teacher at Bridgewater, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
10. Mark Thornton, 1.0 FTE High School Social Studies Teacher, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.

11. Jamie Wiebe, 1.0 FTE School Social Worker at Bridgewater, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
 12. Mary Beth Youngblut, 1.0 Elementary Teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2022-23 school year.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Karen Lane, Bridgewater Elementary Teacher, retirement effective 6/9/2022.
 2. Jodi DiMaggio, Administrative Assistant at the NCEC, resignation effective 4/22/2022.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Security Camera Bids for Procurement. On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Stratmoen, the board approved to solicit bids for the District-Wide Security Camera Upgrade Project. This project includes a full replacement of the district camera management system along with the replacement of the analog cameras throughout the district. The project is scheduled to take place this summer. Director of Buildings and Grounds Cole Nelson reviewed the project manual and answered questions related to the project. The board will be asked to approve the winning bid at the May 9, 2022 board meeting.

8. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann reviewed the April 2022 enrollment report.
- b. School Board Work Sessions. The board will determine a date in early June to discuss the high school master plan recommendations, and the recommendations will be finalized at a work session on June 13, 4:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, April 25, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, May 9, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, May 23, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the board adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk