

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

April 26, 2021

District Office Boardroom

### I. Call to Order

Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: None. In accordance with Governor Walz's Stay Safe Plan, this meeting was set up in accordance with the plan's social distancing guidelines. In addition, all those present wore face coverings the duration of the meeting. Present at this meeting was Dr. Matt Hillmann, Superintendent and Anita Aase, Executive Administrative Assistant. Also in attendance were senior members of the District Youth Council (DYC) and Meleah Follen, DYC Advisor. Present via video conference was Erin Bailey, Director of Community Education, and Joel Leer, High School Principal. This meeting was live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

### II. Agenda Approval/Table File

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

### III. Public Comment

To accommodate the public comment portion of our meeting, members of the public were invited via the school district website to submit feedback to the board via email by 5:00 p.m. on April 26, 2021. All submissions that followed the district policy regarding public comment were read by Chair Pritchard. There were no public comments.

### IV. Announcements and Recognitions

- The school board recognized senior members of the DYC and presented each with a certificate of appreciation: Wendy Bolum, Dylan Dietz, Erica Loe, Nick Lopez, Michael Malecha, Browyn McDermott, Anders Ripley and Chloe Rozga.
- Carrie Duba has been recognized as the 2021 UW-River Falls Douglas K. Smith Outstanding School Psychology Alum. Ms. Duba has frequently contributed her time for the field-based supervision of new professionals, teaching graduate courses at UWRF, advocacy for her community and schools, support for colleague growth, and thoughtful and measured leadership to so many. She is also a champion of social justice, advocating tirelessly for BIPOC's and LGBTQ+ persons.
- Congratulations to the State Champion Knowledge Bowl team members: Collin Thomas Green, Saxon Egge, Andrew Ryden, Wyatt Barber, Max Casson, Grace Casson, Piper Mohring, Julian Brunelle, Owen Riley, James Shuffleton, and coaches Michelle Sonnega and Ellen Mucha.

### V. Items for Discussion and Reports

- A. High School Raider Mascot Options. Principal Leer presented three final Raider mascot options to the board for review. Participant stakeholders in the process included students, staff, parents and community members. All designs were required to follow these parameters:

1. Will not be a specific person, but an embodiment of the townspeople who defended against the James/Younger gang.
2. Cannot include any weapon or weapons.
3. Must be relatively simple to recreate.
4. Needs to appropriately represent both male and female students.
5. May include a background.

The board asked to see the first option mascot, the Raider face, adjusted to add clarity around the "N" logo and add slight facial features. The board will review options of this mascot and logo at the next board meeting.

- B. Dissolution of Boys Swim/Dive Cooperative Sponsorship. Director of Student Activities Joel Olson recommended the dissolution of the boys swim/dive cooperative sponsorship with Randolph Independent School District No. 195 beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The governing boards of each participating school must jointly make an application for dissolution of cooperative sponsorship to the Minnesota State High School League. Approval of this dissolution will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.
- C. Proposed 2021-2022 General Fund Budget. Dr. Hillmann presented the Proposed 2021-2022 General Fund Budget. Included in the board materials were the assumptions and parameters for revenues and expenditures used to develop the budget. The budget reflects revenues of \$57,741,045, expenditures of \$59,892,883, and a decrease in the unassigned fund balance of nearly \$2.6 million dollars. We are projecting to end fiscal year 2021-22 with 14.44% unassigned fund balance which is below the board's recommended goal of 16%. The board will be asked to adopt the budget at the May 10, 2021 board meeting
- D. COVID-19 Response and Operations Update. The district continues to look at COVID-19 cases daily and has added the influenza-like illness average and quarantine average data to the COVID dashboard on the website. While the county infection rate per 10,000 residents is no longer a central data point, the district pays close attention to the rate of infection in Rice County. Beginning April 27, Northfield Hospital+Clinics will offer vaccinations to 16- and 17-year-olds. Rice County Public Health will provide a vaccination clinic at Northfield Community Education Center on April 29, and we are providing families with contact information to CUB Foods to assist with scheduling vaccinations. Northfield Public Schools' teachers continue to use professional learning community time to increase their understanding of racial equity.
- E. Area Learning Center and Adult Basic Education Agreement. Superintendent Hillmann will review the updated agreement between the Area Learning Center (ALC) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) regarding over twenty-one (adult credit recovery) high school diploma students, and general educational development students. If approved, this agreement provides students over 21 years old who are interested in credit recovery for a high school diploma, the opportunity to complete the credit recovery coursework needed through ABE. This agreement will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

## VI. Committee Reports

Board members Claudia Gonzalez-George and Chair Pritchard provided updates on TORCH and Schools for Equity in Education (SEE), respectively. Chair Pritchard also provided a brief legislative update.

## VII. Consent Agenda

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

### A. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on April 12, 2021

### B. Gift Agreements

- \$1,000.00 from Lois & Noel Stratmoen for Stratmoen Family Scholarships
- \$1,000.00 from Jan Burry for TORCH Scholarship
- \$1,000.00 from Evelyn Burry for TORCH Scholarship
- \$2,500.00 from VFW Post #4393 for VFW Post #4393 Scholarships

### C. Personnel

#### a) Appointments

1. Nicholas Albright, Spring Recreation Position for 2 hours/day Monday-Thursday with Community Education, beginning 4/19/2021-5/31/2021; \$10.89/hr.
2. Eugene Benhart, Special Ed EA-PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, beginning 4/26/2021; Step 3-\$16.75/hr.
3. MaryKatherine Deschamp, Spring Recreation Position for 2 hours/day Monday-Thursday with Community Education, beginning 4/19/2021-5/31/2021; Supervisor \$12.89/hr., General Hire \$12.00/hr.

4. MaryKatherine Deschamp, Recreation Programming Summer Intern for 25 hours/week Monday-Friday with Community Education, beginning 5/26/2021-8/31/2021; \$14.38/hr.
  5. Sam Healy, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-5 Teacher at Sibley, beginning 8/30/2021; MA+40, Step 10.
  6. Sydney Heil, 1.0 FTE Elementary K-5 Teacher at Sibley, beginning 8/30/2021; BA, Step 1.
  7. Megan Kremin, 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, beginning 7/1/2021; MA, Step 5.
  8. Lauren Moravchik, Summer Aquatics Instructor with Community Education, beginning 6/14/2021-8/31/2021; General \$11.25/hr. Supervisor \$11.89/hr., LG \$11.39/hr., WSI \$12.39/hr.
  9. Bailey Sauve, Spring Recreation Position with Community Education, beginning 4/19/2021-5/31/2021; \$10.08/hr.
  10. Mackenzie Schewe, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute General Education EA and Early Ventures Assistant Teacher at GVP/NCEC, beginning 5/10/2021-5/28/2021; Gen Ed EA-Step 1-\$15.45/hr. and EV Asst. Teacher-Step 1-\$15.52/hr.
  11. Tallie Berkvam-Peter, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher Grade Level TBD at Sibley, beginning 8/30/2021-6/8/2022; MA, Step 7
  12. Sam Pratt, Special Ed EA-PCA for 3.5 hours/day M-F at the NCEC, beginning 5/3/2021-6/10/2021; Step 1-\$16.05/hr.
- b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment (note: #9 corrected for typo that was in board packet)
1. Samantha Becker, Gen Ed EA for 33 hours/week at the Middle School, change to Gen Ed EA for 37.5 hours/week at the Middle School, effective 3/29/2021.
  2. Flavia Berg, ECFE Teacher Screener at the NCEC, add LTS Early Childhood Teacher for 4 hours/day at the NCEC, effective 6/1/2021-6/10/2021.
  3. Camila Donoso, 1.0 FTE School Psychologist at the High School; MA+30 Step 5, change to 1.0 FTE Psychometrist at the High School, effective 4/14/2021, \$39.73/hr.
  4. Janet Gannon, Gen Ed EA for 33 hours/week at the Middle School, change to Gen Ed EA for 33.75 hours/week at the Middle School, effective 3/29/2021.
  5. Melanie Klein, Special Education Teacher, NB at Sibley, change to Special Education Teacher, LI at Sibley, effective 8/30/2021.
  6. Chris O'Neill, 1.0 FTE Grade 6 Social Studies Teacher at the Middle School, change to 1.0 FTE Grade 7 Social Studies Teacher at the Middle School, effective 8/30/2021.
  7. Heidi Peterson, Special Ed EA for 2.25 hours/day and Gen Ed EA for 3.75 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Ed EA for 2.75 hours/day and Gen Ed EA for 3.25 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 4/19/2021-6/10/2021.
  8. Deborah Wagner, MS Volleyball Coach/Substitute, add Gen Ed EA-Move 5 for 6.5 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 4/12/2021-6/10/2021.
  9. Kristin Basinger, EA at the Middle School, add Summer PLUS Site Leader for up to 6.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 4-\$18.52/hr.
  10. Kristin Hummel, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  11. Elisabeth Hurlbert, 1.0 Assistant Girls Tennis Coach at the High School, change to .5 Head Girls Tennis Coach and .5 Assistant Girls Tennis Coach at the High School, effective 8/16/2021. Assistant Level H, Step 6; Head Level D, Step 1
  12. Tammy Iszler-Johnson, Occupational Therapist at the NCEC, overload at the NCEC, effective 4/16/2021-4/26/2021.
  13. Kristin Johnson, Instructional Coach at Greenvale Park, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  14. Anna Kelly, Gen Ed EA-Media at the High School, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  15. Melanie Klein, Teacher at Sibley, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  16. Beth LaCanne, 1.0 Assistant Girls Tennis Coach at the High School, change to .5 Head Girls Tennis Coach and .5 Assistant Girls Tennis Coach at the High School, effective 8/16/2021. Assistant Level H, Step 4; Head Level D, Step 1
  17. Stephanie Mahal, Occupational Therapist with the District, add overload at the NCEC, effective 4/16/2021-4/28/2021.
  18. Cheryl Mathison, Teacher at the ALC, add Boundary Waters Teacher for up to 8 hours/day for 5 days with the ALC, effective 6/14/2021-6/18/2021; Lane/step
  19. Kim Medin, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step

20. Ashly Polzin, 1.0 FTE Fifth Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, change to 1.0 FTE Third Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, effective 8/30/2021.
  21. Erik Swenson, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  22. Gina Swenson, Teacher at Sibley, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  23. Diane Torbenson, Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Summer PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/Step
  24. Lori Warner, Occupational Therapist with the District, add overload at the NCEC, effective 4/16/2021-4/28/2021.
- c) Leave of Absence
1. Updated-Pam Moening, Occupational Therapist at the NCEC, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, beginning on 4/6/2021-4/23/2021.
  2. Anna Rubin, Grade 2 Companeros Teacher at Bridgewater, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective on or about 9/21/2021-1/28/2022.
- d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Kari Engle, EA at Greenvale Park, resignation effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year but will continue as a substitute.
  2. Mary Hansen, Administrative Assistant with Community Education, retirement effective 6/30/2021.
  3. Jim Kulseth, Director of Building and Grounds, retirement effective 7/31/2021.
  4. Heidi Melnychuk, EA at the High School, resignation effective 4/29/2021.
  5. Lee Murray, EA at Bridgewater, retirement effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
  6. Johan Ponciano Conde, EA at the High School, resignation effective 4/30/2021.
  7. Rose Turnacliiff, Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
  8. Laura Berdahl, Greenvale Park Community School Coordinator, retirement effective 6/30/2021.
  9. Kathy Budig, Child Nutrition Associate II at the High School, retirement effective 6/10/2021.
- e) Advancement of Probationary Licensed Staff
- Advancement of Licensed Staff to Tenure Status for 2021-2022  
 Bloom, Sarah; Dickerson, Thomas; Dunkelberger, Brent; Gross, Lydia; Haley, Paige; Johnson, Erin; Johnson, Kristin; Lynch, Angela; Medin, Kimberly; Mikulski, McKenzie; Miller Gordinier, Leslie; Rolling, Rachel; Rose, Heather; Roth, Melissa; Rudebusch, Lee; Russell, Deborah; Mollie Schwartz; Thompson, Jon (.40 FTE)
- Advancement of Licensed Staff to Third Year Probationary Status for 2021-2022  
 Holland, Cara; Leaphart, Ada; Mathews, Makenzie; Musicant, Elizabeth; Sherman, Michael; Toure-Keita, Maimouna
- Advancement of Licensed Staff to Second Year Probationary Status for 2021-2022  
 Legros, Marckeliene; Richardson, Andrew; Robertson, Caitlin; Selwan, Bernard

## VIII. Superintendent's Report

### A. Items for Individual Action

1. Policy Approval. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board approved policies 430 and 436, and to accept the policy committee's recommendation to sunset policy 439 as presented.

## VIII. Items for Information

- A. National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2 - 8, 2021. Teacher Appreciation Week is celebrated in the first full week of May and is our chance to say thank you to those that play or have played such a huge role in our lives. Teacher Appreciation Day is Tuesday, May 5, and we recognize the dedicated educators across the country, in our state, and in our district, and the lasting contributions they make to our lives.
- B. Board Packet Format. We will begin the transition to online board packets with the May 10, 2021 board meeting.
- C. Graduation Update. ALC graduation is scheduled at 3:30 p.m., Thursday, June 3, in the green space on the east side of the Northfield School District Office and Area Learning Center. Northfield High School's graduation is scheduled at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 6, at Memorial Field. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be Monday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m.
- D. Senior Ceremony. The senior ceremony will be on May 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. It will be a combination of all senior awards including academic awards, national merit recognition, scholarships and the maroon & gold sports awards. Attendance is restricted to seniors and award presenters only.

IX. Future Meetings

- A. Monday, May 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- B. Monday, May 24, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the board adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk