

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

May 11, 2026

District Office Board Room

1. Call to Order

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

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

On a motion by Miller, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Ella Welp, a sophomore at Northfield High School, recently submitted her “Self Portrait” acrylic painting to the 2026 Congressional Art Competition. Congresswoman Angie Craig called Ella directly to tell her that she won first place. Ella’s painting will be on display at the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C. for the next 11 months, and she will fly to D.C. this coming summer for the celebration honoring her and other winners from across the United States.
- Congratulations to Northfield High School Wrestlers Caley Graber, Caden Staab, and Zane Engels, who earned first-team Academic All State from the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association.
- Northfield High School freshman Audrey Brien earned the rare honor of performing on a violin from the Violins of Hope collection at the Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies Spring Concert on May 10, 2026 at Orchestra Hall. The instrument she played belonged to Sandor Fisher, a Romanian-born musician who brought his violin with him when he was interned at a Nazi forced labor camp during the Holocaust. Selected through an essay competition, Audrey extended her commitment beyond the concert hall by bringing the historic violin to Northfield, sharing its story with her orchestra classmates.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Teamworks Demographic Study Report. Sheri Allen with Teamworks presented the demographic study of the Northfield School District, which was completed in January 2026.
- b. Prairie Creek Community School Contract Renewal. Daryl Kehler, the district’s charter school authorizer, reviewed the process to renew Prairie Creek Community School’s contract. The district’s authorizer contract with Prairie Creek Community School expires on June 30, 2026. This will be an item for individual action at the May 26, 2026 meeting.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on April 27, 2026, the special school board meeting held April 29, 2026, and the special school board meeting held May 4, 2026.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Policy Revisions. The updates to policies 211, 401, 405, 406, 418, 420, 427, 520, 616, 619, and 620 quote directly from new Minnesota laws and other legal sources and create non substantive changes to existing policies or are clerical updates that do not affect the substance of a policy. These updates are recommended by the Minnesota School Boards Association. Because the district endeavors to have policy align with state and federal law, it is recommended that the board adopt the revisions presented. These policies will continue to be evaluated as scheduled in the board’s policy review cycle.

d. Personnel Items.

i. Appointments

1. Madeline Aman, Summer Plus Site Assistant for 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
2. Caroline Ash, Summer Plus Club Leader for 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 2, \$20.73/hr.
3. Eli Cullen McLeod, 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at the High School beginning 8/27/2026. MA, Step 7.
4. Stephanie Ennis, Summer Plus Teacher for 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
5. Mackenzie Glassing, .7 FTE Art Teacher at Spring Creek beginning 8/27/2026. BA, Step 4.
6. Bridget Luckman, General Education Lunchroom Supervisor EA for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater beginning 5/6/2026-6/10/2026. General Education - Step 1, \$19.79/hr.
7. Alvaro Martinez Jr., Summer Plus Site Assistant for 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 1, \$18.78/hr.
8. Brekken Modory, .5 FTE English/Language Arts Teacher at the High School beginning 8/27/2026. BA, Step 1.
9. Shawna Molloy, .75 FTE Long-Term Substitute Special Education Resource Room Teacher at Spring Creek beginning 5/14/2026-6/10/2026. MA, Step 6.
10. Hennessy Momberg, Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation beginning 5/5/2026-5/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.
11. Mary Roseen, 1.0 FTE School Psychologist at Spring Creek/District-Wide beginning 8/27/2026. MA+40, Step 6.
12. Elaine Sanchez, Summer Blast Site Assistant for 6 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 3, \$20.03/hr.
13. Madeline Steinhoff, Summer Plus Teacher for 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
14. Kelsey Walock, Summer Blast Club Leader for 6 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 4, \$22.33/hr.
15. Natalie Barsness, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$15.02/hr.
16. Toni Berghoff, Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-9/4/2026. Step 4, \$20.72/hr.
17. Carter Borovsky, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$16.37/hr.
18. Mae Bowers, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$16.10/hr.
19. Lexi Canedy, Special Education SOAR Teacher at Greenvale Park beginning 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. BA, Step 1.
20. Elise Eichers, Summer KidVentures ASL Interpreter for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-8/26/2026. Level B, Step 2 - \$27.77/hr.
21. Miriel Ennis, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.
22. Claire Forbord, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$15.02/hr.
23. Ani Gottfried, Summer Intern for Community Education/Recreation beginning 5/26/2026-8/31/2026. \$17.18/hr.
24. Maria Hegland, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$16.64/hr.
25. Lydia Hershberger, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$16.64/hr.
26. Hollis Holden, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$16.37/hr.
27. Katherine LaCanne, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$16.64/hr.
28. Kasie Larsen, Summer Water Safety Instructor for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$17.45/hr.
29. Edythe Malecha, Summer KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$16.88/hr.
30. Makena Malecha, Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 5/18/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
31. Atticus Mayer, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.

32. Eleanor Otting, Summer Water Safety Instructor for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$17.45/hr.
 33. Graham Peterson, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.
 34. Lydia Rosenhamer, Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
 35. Raine Scheuble, Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
 36. Samuel Stier, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$15.02/hr.
 37. Ryland Updike, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$16.64/hr.
 38. Annaliese Walker, Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-9/4/2026. Step 1, \$18.71/hr.
 39. Aidan Wallig, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.
 40. Clara Wilson, Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek beginning 6/3/2026-9/4/2026. Step 1, \$18.71/hr.
- ii. Increase/Decrease/Changes in Assignment
1. Kari Adelman, Long-Term Substitute Special Education EA/PCA at Spring Creek, add ESY EA/PCA for up to 3.5 hrs/day at the NCEC beginning 6/25/2026-7/24/2026.
 2. Shane Baier, .75 FTE MTSS Instructional Coach for the District, change to 1.0 FTE High School Interim Principal for 192 work days effective 7/1/2026-6/11/2027. Step 4.
 3. Jennifer Bowens, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at the Middle School, change to 6.91 hrs/day effective 5/4/2026-6/10/2026.
 4. Katie Casson, Assistant Knowledge Bowl Advisor at the High School, change to Knowledge Bowl Advisor effective 9/8/2026. \$5,090 stipend.
 5. Robert Coleman, General Ed EA for 5 hrs/day and Special Ed EA for 0.5 hrs/day at Spring Creek, change to General Ed EA for 7 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
 6. Correction: Thomas Dickerson, Special Education Teacher at the High School, add ESY Special Education Teacher for up to 5.75 hrs/day at Greenvale Park effective 6/25/2026-7/17/2026. Lane/step.
 7. Sean DuBe, 1.0 FTE Dean of Students at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Interim High School Assistant Principal for 192 work days effective 7/1/2026-6/11/2027. Step 1.
 8. Rebekka Flickinger, Special Education SOAR Teacher at Spring Creek, change to Grade 5 Teacher effective 8/27/2026.
 9. Becky Gaaney, Substitute Teacher for the District, add Spring Screening Proctor for up to 40 hours for the District effective 5/11/2026-5/29/2026. Licensed substitute rate of pay.
 10. Ana Gallego, Special Education EA/PCA at Greenvale Park, add Summer Plus Club Leader for 6 hrs/day at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 4, \$22.33/hr.
 11. Mary Hotz Zenk, 1.0 FTE FACS Teacher at the High School, add ABE Teacher for up to 4 hrs/week at the NCEC effective 8/24/2026. Lane/step.
 12. Kristin Johnson, Long-Term Substitute EL Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Summer Plus Teacher for 6 hrs/day at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 13. Gail Kohl, Substitute Teacher for the District, add Spring Screening Proctor for up to 40 hours for the District effective 5/11/2026-5/29/2026. Licensed substitute rate of pay.
 14. Hope Langston, .25 FTE Instructional Systems Data Coach for the District, add Spring Screening Proctor for up to 40 hours for the District effective 5/11/2026-5/29/2026.
 15. Catherine Lovrien, Teacher at the Middle School, add Summer Blast Teacher for 6 hrs/day at the Middle School effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 16. Angie Lynch, Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Boundary Waters Teacher for up to 32 hours effective 6/15/2026-6/18/2026. Lane/step.
 17. Nicole Papke, .5 FTE Title I Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Spring Screening Proctor for up to 40 hours for the District effective 5/11/2026-5/29/2026.
 18. Christine Peterson, Teacher at the High School, add Summer Blast Teacher for 6 hrs/day at the Middle School effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 19. Andrea Robbins, 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator at the NCEC, position reduced/eliminated effective 6/30/2026.
 20. Anita Sasse, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Plus Teacher/Substitute for 3 hrs/day at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 21. John Scheil, .6 FTE Gen Ed Physical Education and .15 DAPE Teacher at Greenvale Park, change to .65 FTE Gen Ed Physical Education and .15 DAPE Teacher for a total of .80 FTE effective 8/27/2026.
 22. Eric Swan-McDonald, Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Boundary Waters Teacher for up to 40 hours effective 6/12/2026-6/18/2026. Lane/step.

23. Sarah Swan-McDonald, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, change to MTSS Building Lead Interventionist effective 8/27/2026.
 24. Alicia Veltri, Special Education Instruction & Inclusion Coach for 194 work days/year, change to 187 work days/year effective 8/27/2026.
 25. Wendy Apitz, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 10 hrs/week at Greenvale Park, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant on call, as needed at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026.
 26. Lily Becker, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 28.5 hrs/week at Bridgewater, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026.
 27. Lucy Bell, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 12 hrs/week at Spring Creek, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant on call, as needed at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026.
 28. Dylan Besch, KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 15 hrs/week at Greenvale Park, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026.
 29. Isabella Bisel, KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 15 hrs/week at Bridgewater, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-9/4/2026. Step 3, \$20.03/hr.
 30. Amy Boecker, EA at the NCEC and Substitute KidVentures Site Assistant, add Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026.
 31. Carter Borovsky, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Assistant effective 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.
 32. Amelia Brandt, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 28.5 hrs/week at Bridgewater, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-9/4/2026.
 33. Owen Brownlee, KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 15 hrs/week at Spring Creek, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
 34. Seth Buckmeier, KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 15 hrs/week at Bridgewater, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
 35. Taylor Choudek, .594 FTE Early Childhood Teacher at the NCEC, change to .619 FTE effective 9/14/2026.
 36. Jordan Defries, KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 15 hrs/week at Greenvale Park, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hrs/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-9/4/2026. Step 2, \$19.37/hr.
 37. Lydia Hershberger, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Assistant effective 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$15.56/hr.
 38. Juley Jenkinson, Media EA for 5.5 hrs/day plus .25 hrs/day supervisory at Spring Creek, change to Media EA for 5.5 hrs/day plus .5 hrs/day supervisory and 1.0 hrs/day literacy support for a total of 7.0 hrs/day at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026.
 39. Karen Lane, Substitute Teacher for the District, add Spring Screening Proctor for up to 40 hours for the District effective 5/11/2026-5/29/2026. Licensed substitute rate of pay.
 40. Scott Stanina, Teacher at the High School, add .5 FTE Assistant Knowledge Bowl Advisor effective 9/8/2026. \$1,131 stipend.
 41. Aidan Wallig, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Assistant effective 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$15.29/hr.
- iii. Leave of Absences
1. Taylor Choudek, Teacher at the NCEC, leave of absence beginning approximately 9/14/2026 and continuing through 1/1/2027.
 2. Stacey Garry, Special Education EA at Spring Creek, extend leave of absence through 6/10/2026.
 3. Leslie Miller Gordinier, Special Education Teacher at Bridgewater, FMLA leave of absence beginning 5/12/2026 and continuing on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Camila Donoso Pena, School Psychologist at Spring Creek, resignation effective 6/10/2026.
 2. Lori Malecha, Child Nutrition Manager I at Spring Creek, retirement effective 6/30/2026.
 3. David Pennock, Special Education EA/PCA at the Middle School, resignation effective 5/7/2026.
 4. Mason Zick, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 5/8/2026.
- v. Advancement of Probationary Licensed Staff
- Advancement of Licensed Staff to Tenure Status for 2025-2026 - tenure status at 1.0 FTE unless otherwise noted
1. Claudia Dreyer - .49 FTE
 2. Rebekka Flickenger
 3. Lydia Guthridge
 4. Monica Irwin
 5. Ann Kruse
 6. Rachael Langer
 7. Thomas Lichty
 8. Thomas O'Keefe
 9. Courtney Olukiran
 10. Allyson Rock
 11. Kasey Storandt
 12. Rachael Thompson
 13. Stephanie Trembl

14. Hayden Wahlstrom

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Third Year Probationary Status for 2026-2027

1. Madison Anderson
2. Kaitlin Bell
3. Brooke Bevans
4. Andria Cornell*
5. Natalie Jaeger*
6. Meghan Karsky
7. Andrea Lang
8. Nancy Veverka

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Second Year Probationary Status for 2026-2027

1. Emily Makitalo

* MOU with the Northfield Education Association (NEA) is in place.

vi. District Administration recommends approval of the following employment agreements covering the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028:

1. Confidential Employees
2. District Administrators
3. Office Employees

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Revised 2025-26 Community Education Fund Budget. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously approved the revised 2025-26 Community Education Fund budget with revenues of \$4,197,580 and expenditures of \$4,377,321. This budget revision was presented at the April 13, 2026 board meeting.
- b. Proposed 2026-27 Budgets - All Funds. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the proposed 2026-27 budgets as presented. The individual funds have been presented and reviewed in detail at school board meetings over the past few months. A summary of revenue and expenditure amounts are listed below.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
General Fund	\$ 71,316,201	\$ 71,246,532
Child Nutrition	\$ 2,997,889	\$ 3,311,079
Community Education	\$ 4,525,330	\$ 4,504,427
Construction Fund	\$ 2,625,000	\$ 13,550,463
Debt Service	\$ 9,884,522	\$ 9,049,209
Internal Service	\$ 12,103,783	\$ 12,077,211

- c. Resolution for Termination and Non-Renewal of Probationary Licensed Staff. On a motion by Epstein, seconded by Butler, the board adopted by roll call the resolution related to the termination and non-renewal of the teaching contract of the following probationary licensed teachers effective at the close of the 2025-2026 school year. Voting “yes” were Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. No one voted “no.”

<u>Name</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>Position</u>
Miller, Erik	0.80 FTE	Social Studies - High School

8. Items for Information

- a. Construction Update No. 26. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the NHS construction project.
- b. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the May 2026 enrollment report.
- c. Superintendent Search Update. Board Clerk Maggie Epstein gave a final update on the superintendent search.
- d. Later School Start Times Update. At the April 27, 2026 meeting, the board decided to extend the later school start times discussion timeline. A board work session will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in the Northfield DO Boardroom. The work session will be open to the public, livestreamed, and recorded.

- e. Graduation Dates. The ALC graduation is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 4 in the Middle School Auditorium. Northfield High School's graduation is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 7 at Memorial Field.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Thursday, May 14, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Work Session, Later School Start Times, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. *Tuesday, May 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
*Note that Monday, May 25, 2026 is Memorial Day
- c. Thursday, June 4, 2026, 6:00 p.m., ALC Graduation, Northfield Middle School Auditorium
- d. Sunday, June 7, 2026, 2:00 p.m., High School Graduation, Memorial Field
- e. Monday, June 8, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Nelson, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.



Maggie Epstein
School Board Clerk