

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

May 24, 2021

District Office Boardroom

1. 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. Present at this meeting was Dr. Matt Hillmann, Superintendent; Val Mertesdorf, Director of Finance and Anita Aase, Executive Administrative Assistant. Present via video conference was Erin Bailey, Director of Community Education; Sara Pratt, Assistant Director of Special Services; Simon Tyler, Director of PrairieCreek Community School; Joel Leer, Northfield High School Principal and Joel Olson, Director of Student Activities. 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 Goerwitz, the board approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

To accommodate the public comment portion of our meeting members of the public were invited to submit comments either in person or via the school district website email by 5:00 p.m. on May 24, 2021. All submissions that followed the district policy regarding public comment were read by Chair Pritchard. There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Nancy Antoine, principal at Bridgewater Elementary, was selected as the 2021 National Association of Elementary School Principals' National Distinguished Principal in Minnesota.
- The Minnesota Department of Education granted final approval of our Portage application on Friday, May 21, making Northfield Public School a state-approved online provider serving grades K-12 beginning with the 2021-22 school year.
- The Campaign for Grade-Level Reading has named Northfield a 2021 Bright Spot community for its responses to the COVID crisis last year. Northfield was one of 54 communities across the country, and the only one in Minnesota, to receive this recognition.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Policy Committee Recommendations. Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommendation to the board to adopt new Policy 950 Land Acknowledgement, a land acknowledgement statement that was presented to the policy committee by the District Youth Council. He also presented the policy committee's recommendations and edits to the ALC, Elementary, Middle School, High School, Co-Curricular, Early Ventures, Kid Ventures handbooks and the child nutrition appendix for school year 2021-22. These will be items for individual action at the next board meeting.
- b. Revised 2021-2022 School Year Calendar and Proposed 2022-23 School Year Calendar. Superintendent Hillmann presented a revision to the 2021-22 school year calendar as well as the proposed 2022-23 school year calendar as recommended by the Meet and Confer committee. Both calendars include two family conference days to be held at the beginning of the school year. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.
- c. Semi-Annual Fundraising Report. In compliance with Policy 713 Student Activity Accounting, Director Mertesdorf presented the semiannual fundraising report to be reviewed by the school board.
- d. Pay Equity Report. In January the board approved the submission of the pay equity report. Superintendent Hillmann updated the board on the results of the report and an action plan. The superintendent will request

approval of the action plan and proposed salary increases as an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

- e. COVID-19 Response and Operations Update. Superintendent Hillmann shared that Rice County has experienced a decrease in the number of COVID-19 cases over the past month and vaccination rates in Rice County continue to improve. In collaboration with two local physicians, the district hosted an informational webinar for parents on COVID-19 vaccinations for 12-17-year olds. COVID-19 protocols for graduation have been updated and we are reviewing that guidance. The Class of 2020 graduation/reunion is scheduled Friday, June 11 and approximately 50 people are planning to attend.
- f. Request to Hire Additional Licensed Special Education Occupational Therapist. In early February the school board approved the temporary addition of a 1.0 FTE Occupational Therapist (OT) to meet the special education services at the Northfield Community Education Center during the pandemic. Assistant Director Pratt requested to continue with the additional OT position at a .5 FTE for the 2021-22 school year. The total projected cost of salary is \$35,544 and benefits is \$15,544 for a total of \$66,636 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$31,538. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Butler, this item was moved to an item for individual action at this meeting.

6. Committee Reports

Board member Butler shared a Legislative Action Committee report.

7. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Barniak, seconded Butler, the board approved the consent agenda.

a. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on May 10, 2021

b. Gift Agreements

- \$1,000.00 from Charles Pillsbury for Nancy Pillsbury Memorial TORCH Scholarship
- \$1,500.00 from Cardinal CG Company for Cardinal CG Scholarships
- \$1,000.00 from Northfield Area Family YMCA for Northfield Area YMCA Scholarships
- \$1,000.00 from Northfield Raider Touchdown Club for Northfield Touchdown Club Scholarship

c. District Youth Council Members 2021-22. The following students were recommended to serve on the District Youth Council during the 2021-2022 school year:

Rising Seniors: *Amelia Arnold, *Moriah Bamonte Grebis, Christian Cardenas, *Sylvi Hanson, Mimi Keita, *Simon McDonald, *Julia Peterson, *David Rhoades

Rising Juniors: *Ananda Myint, *Grace Ryden, Chloe Xiao

Rising Sophomores: Sebastian Brunelle, Madeline Bussmann, McKenna Carlson, Mari Hanson, Connor Percy

*Denotes current District Youth Council Member

d. Personnel

i. Appointments

1. Nahal AfsharJavan, 1.0 FTE Band Teacher at the High School, beginning 8/30/2021; BA, Step 2
2. Delia Benson, Summer Recreation Position with Community Education, beginning 5/26/2021-8/31/2021; General Rec \$10.25/hr. Program Supervisor \$10.64/hr.
3. Nicholas Connor, 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at the High School, beginning 8/30/2021; MA, Step 9
4. Julene Johnson, Targeted Services Summer BLAST Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, beginning 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
5. Michelle Martinez, Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; BA, Step 2
6. Danielle Olson, .5 FTE Licensed Social Worker at the NCEC, beginning 8/30/2021; BA+20, Step 7
7. Matti Prayfrock, Targeted Services Summer BLAST Site Leader for up to 6.5 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, beginning 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$16.85/hr.
8. Brynn Puppe, Targeted Services Summer BLAST Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, beginning 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 3-\$14.85/hr.

9. Hannah Ringlien, Summer Aquatics Position with Community Education, beginning 5/26/2021-8/31/2021; Lifeguard \$10.64/hr.
 10. Kristin Schlim, 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, beginning 8/30/2021; BA, Step 5
 11. Ryan Schnaith, 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at the High School, beginning 8/30/2021; BA, Step 4
 12. Kari Selchow, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute First Grade Companeros Spanish Immersion Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning 6/1/2021-6/10/2021; BA, Step 5
 13. Sarah Snider, Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 4-\$15.48/hr.
 14. Winston Vermilyea, Summer Aquatics Position with Community Education, beginning 5/26/2021-8/31/2021; Lifeguard \$13.39/hr.
 15. Claire Anderson, 1.0 FTE MTSS Reading Teacher at the Middle School, beginning 8/30/2021; MA, Step 7
 16. Danielle Collins, 1.0 FTE Elementary Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning 8/30/2021-6/8/2022; MA, Step 6
 17. Marissa Gallardo, Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/19/2021; Step 4-\$15.48/hr.
 18. Magdalena Higgins, Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/19/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 19. Shari McCabe, 1.0 FTE Physical Education Teacher at Bridgewater, beginning 8/25/2021; BA, Step 3
 20. Martha Meyer, Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/19/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 21. Betsy Schuerman, Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/19/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 22. Isaiah Schwab, Summer Seasonal Grounds/Custodial Worker with the District, beginning 6/1/2021-approximately 10/31/2021; Year 1-\$15.00/hr.
 23. Paul Stanton, 1.0 FTE Licensed School Counselor at the ALC, beginning 8/19/2021-6/8/2022; MA, Step 1
- ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Zane Anway, Teacher with Portage, add Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021.
 2. Nives Bakic, EA at the Middle School, add Targeted Services Summer BLAST Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th at the Middle School, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 3-\$14.85/hr.
 3. Ana Bravo Gatton, EA at the Middle School, add Targeted Services Summer BLAST Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th at the Middle School, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 4. Peggy Christensen, CNA I at Bridgewater, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. with the District, effective 6/14/2021-8/27/2021; 20-21 \$18.81/hr., 21-22 \$19.28/hr.
 5. Lindsey Dietiker, CNA III at Sibley, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. with the District, effective 6/14/2021-8/27/2021; 20-21 \$18.81/hr., 21-22 \$19.28/hr.
 6. Jan Ensrud, Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021. Lane/step
 7. Debbie Foley, EV Assistant Teacher at the NCEC, add CNA I for up to 1 hour/day M-F at the NCEC, effective 5/14/2021-Ongoing.
 8. Inger Hanson, Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. at the ALC, effective 6/11/2021-7/29/2021. Lane/step
 9. Kelly Hebzynski, Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021. Lane/step
 10. Mara Hessian, Special Ed EA PCA at Bridgewater, add Special Ed EA PCA ESY for up to 4 hours/day with the District, effective 6/22/2021-8/5/2021.
 11. Heather Keuhl, MS Youth Center Teacher, extending end date to 5/27/2021, effective 5/14/2021.
 12. Kristi Kortuem, Math Teacher at the High School, change to Grade 6 Math Teacher at the Middle School, effective 8/30/2021.
 13. Shelly Kruger, Special Ed EA PCA at the High School, add Special Ed EA PCA/BUS EA ESY for up to 4 hours/day with the District, effective 6/22/2021-8/5/2021.
 14. Marie Kylo, CNA II at the Middle School, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. with the District, effective 6/14/2021-8/27/2021; 20-21 \$18.81/hr., 21-22 \$19.28/hr.
 15. Jennifer Link, MS Youth Center Teacher, extending end date to 5/27/2021, effective 5/14/2021.
 16. Laura Little, CNA I at the Middle School, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. with the District, effective 6/14/2021-8/27/2021; 20-21 \$18.81/hr., 21-22 \$19.28/hr.
 17. Rebecca Meyer, EA at the High School, add Targeted Services Summer BLAST Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th at the Middle School, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 18. McKenzie Mikulski, Special Ed Teacher at Greenvale Park, will continue position for the 2021-2022 school year, effective 5/18/2021-6/10/2022.

19. Ellen Mucha, Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. at the ALC, effective 6/11/2021-7/29/2021. Lane/step
 20. Natalie Ponciano Bartolo, EA at Bridgewater, add Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th at Greenvale Park, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 21. Hannah Ringlien, Lifeguard with Community Education Recreation, add General Rec Assistant and Program Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, effective 5/26/2021-8/31/2021; Asst.-\$10.50/hr. Supervisor-\$11.14/hr.
 22. Rachel Rolling, Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5.5 hours/day M-Th. at the ALC, effective 7/9/2021-7/29/2021. Lane/step
 23. Ann Schmidt, CNA II and CNA III at the High School, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 5 hours/day M-Th. with the District, effective 6/14/2021-8/27/2021; 20-21 \$18.81/hr., 21-22 \$19.28/hr.
 24. Deborah Seitz, Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021. Lane/step
 25. Karleen Sherman, Teacher at Sibley, add Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at the Middle School, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021. Lane/step
 26. Janet Smith, Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer School Teacher for up to 5.5 hours/day M-Th. at the ALC, effective 6/11/2021-7/29/2021. Lane/step
 27. Cynthia Thomas, EA at the Middle School, add Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th at Greenvale Park, effective 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 28. Winston Vermilyea, Lifeguard with Community Education Recreation, add General Rec Assistant and Program Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, effective 5/26/2021-8/31/2021; Asst.-\$13.25/hr. Supervisor-\$13.89/hr.
 29. Natalie Amy, WILL Program Teacher at the Middle School, change to School Counselor at the Middle School, effective 8/30/2021-6/8/2022.
 30. Sebastian Bursset, Long Term Substitute Cultural Liaison with the District, change to Cultural Liaison-on going with the District, effective 5/20/2021.
 31. Matthew Crase, Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Special Education EBD Teacher at the High School, effective 8/30/2021.
 32. Leah Grisim, Special Ed EA PCA at Sibley, change to 1.0 FTE Special Education ASD Teacher at Sibley, effective 8/30/2021.
 33. Denise Halvorson, Teacher at the High School, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/step
 34. Gretchen Heil, Teacher at Sibley, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/step
 35. Jake Kromschroeder, Custodian at the High School, change to Night Lead Engineer W/O License at the High School, effective 5/24/2021; Step 4 Custodian Engineer w/o license
 36. Eustacio Lazaro Chavez, Custodian Tues-Sat. at the High School, change to Custodian M-F at the High School, effective 5/24/2021.
 37. Peter Maus, .6 FTE Math Teacher at the Middle School, change to .4 FTE Math Teacher at the Middle School, effective 8/30/2021.
 38. Ulrika Peterson, Special Ed EA PCA at Sibley, add Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/19/2021; Step 4-\$15.48/hr.
 39. Nicole Rasmussen, Special Ed EA PCA at Bridgewater, add Targeted Services Summer PLUS Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, beginning 7/12/2021-8/20/2021; Step 1-\$14.11/hr.
 40. Angel Rivera, Full Time Teacher Substitute for the 2020-2021 school year with the District, change to Full Time Teacher Substitute-ongoing with the District, effective 5/21/2021.
 41. Jodie Rud, Teacher at Sibley, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/step
 42. Michelle Sickler, Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 6 hours/day M-Th. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/1/2021-8/20/2021; Lane/step.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Linda Kovach, Teacher at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, beginning 5/24/2021 through the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Collette Carras, EA at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
 2. Jennifer Hildahl, Early Ventures Teacher, resignation effective 5/25/2021.
 3. Joan Lizaola, Cultural Liaison with the District, resignation effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.
 4. Rafael Silva, 1.0 FTE Band Teacher at the High School, withdrew application for position, effective 5/12/2021.
 5. Leah Grisim, Special Ed EA PCA at Sibley, resignation to accept a different position with the District, effective at the end of the 2020-2021 school year.

- 6. Lori Gunderson, CNA I at the High School, resignation effective 6/10/2021.
- 7. Mary Huberg, Administrative Assistant at the ALC, retirement effective 6/10/2021.
- 8. Rebecca Stoufis, Full Time Teacher Substitute with the District, resignation effective 5/21/2021.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. Contract Between Northfield Public Schools and Prairie Creek Community School. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the new five year contract between Northfield Public Schools and Prairie Creek Community School for the time frame July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2026.
- b. High School Raider Mascot. Chair Pritchard provided a recap and her reflections of the Raider mascot refresh process. This included the events which initiated the process to retire the current Raider mascot and approve a new mascot design, the parameters set forth by the board for the new mascot design, the history of the Raider and the Raider name, and the consensus that the new mascot depicts an outlaw and not a townspeople. The Raider name has transcended its historical context and there is a sense of pride, energy and strong school connectivity to the Raider name. Prior to 1956, Northfield Public Schools did not have a mascot and the ubiquitous Northfield “N” is a strong identifiable logo for our school. The work of the committee, the community, and ensuing board discussions, provided information we could not have acquired without going through this process. We began this process with the goal of achieving a change. If we retire the current mascot and do not replace it at this time, we are achieving both a change and potentially an even more positive outcome. The board discussed Chair Pritchard’s comments.

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved retiring the existing Raider mascot and prohibiting it from further school district use. Existing athletic team uniforms and other district displays of the retired mascot will be phased out as soon as practicable.

Chair Pritchard recommended a modified motion: Motion to not approve the refreshed Raider mascot as presented. Direct administration to not proceed with any further action to develop a new mascot design at this time, and to continue to use the standard Northfield “N” as the school logo. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Baraniak, this motion passed.

- c. Handbook Approvals. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Butler, the board approved the MSYC/BLAST, PLUS, and Hand in Hand handbooks for school year 2021-22.
- d. Proposed 2021-22 Budgets - All Funds. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board approved the proposed 2021-22 budgets as presented for all funds as listed below.

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
General Fund	\$57,741,045	\$59,892,883
Child Nutrition	\$ 2,208,619	\$ 2,416,599
Community Education	\$ 3,073,145	\$ 3,275,708
Debt Service	\$ 6,089,977	\$ 5,842,017
Internal Service	\$ 7,547,782	\$ 8,857,880

- e. Request to Hire Additional Licensed Special Education Occupational Therapist. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the addition of a .5 FTE special education occupational therapist position at the Northfield Community Education Center for the 2021-22 school year. The total projected cost of salary is \$35,544 and benefits is \$15,544 for a total of \$66,636 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$31,538.

9. Items for Information

- a. Area Learning Center Graduation. ALC graduation is scheduled Thursday, June 3, and has been moved to 6:00 p.m. at the Northfield High School auditorium.

10. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, June 14, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, July 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Baraniak, the board adjourned at 9:11p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk