

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

June 8, 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 Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Congratulations to our newest Northfield High School alumni, who graduated on Sunday, June 7. A total of 315 students graduated from the high school, and 25 students graduated from the Area Learning Center on Thursday, June 4. Thanks to Buildings and Grounds Director Justin Raabolle, District Grounds Coordinator Tracy Closson, High School Head Custodian Roger Helgeson, High School Administrative Assistant Lori Christopherson, Tech Specialist Tim Drake, the grounds crew and custodians for helping to prepare for the ceremony.
- Congratulations to Claire Forbord, who earned third place in her individual event at the National Business Professionals of America (BPA) competition - the highest national finish ever achieved by a Northfield BPA student.
- Congratulations to the Northfield High School Baseball team on qualifying for the state tournament. The Raiders defeated Kasson-Mantorville 13-8 in the Section 1AAA championship game on Wednesday, June 3. They will play their first game in the state tournament on June 11 versus Mankato West at 12:30 p.m. at Chaska Athletic Park.
- Congratulations to Makayah Petricka, who received the state championship title at the state track and field meet in the 800m with a time of 2:11.25. This is a new school and Class AA record.
- Congratulations to Northfield High School students Quetzali Pellico Romero, Odin Bowen, and Kalie Ford on earning their ServSafe Food Protection Manager Certification through the culinary arts department.
- Farm Day events were held at each elementary school in May. Tiffany Kortbein led the efforts to organize the event, and T.J. Austin and students from Northfield High School supported the Farm Day events.
- Fourth and Fifth Grade Track and Field Day was a huge success. Thank you to Shari McCabe, Paul Bernhard, Andy Jaynes, Ryan Pietsch, John Scheil and Jillian Specht for organizing.
- Thank you to all of our music staff, including orchestra, band, and choir, for the successful completion of their concerts this season.
- A shoutout to the fifth grade students and staff at Spring Creek who performed and helped organize "Science Rocks!"
- The board recognized Superintendent Matt Hillmann for his 17 years of service to the Northfield School District, ten as the superintendent. Dr. Hillmann's last day with the Northfield School District is June 30, 2026, after which he will serve as the Executive Director for the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA).

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Superintendent Focus Areas Final Report. Superintendent Hillmann presented the end-of-year report on the superintendent's 2025-26 focus areas.
- b. Legislative Wrap-Up. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the 2026 legislative session.

- c. 2026-27 Student Citizenship Handbook. Superintendent Hillmann presented the proposed changes to the 2026-27 Student Citizenship Handbook.

6. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on May 26, 2026.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Overnight Field Trip Requests.
 - i. Northfield FFA Advisor T.J. Austin requested board approval to take eight students to Minneiska, MN June 21-22, 2026 for the Northfield FFA Officer Retreat.
 - ii. Northfield FFA Advisor T.J. Austin requested board approval to take four students to Washington, D.C. June 23-27, 2026 for the FFA Leadership Conference.
 - iii. Northfield Wrestling Coach Geoff Staab requested board approval to take 17 students to Wisconsin Dells, WI June 22-25, 2026 for team wrestling camp.
- d. Personnel Items.
 - i. Appointments
 - 1. Alisa Anderson, 1.0 FTE Assistant Director of Special Services for the District beginning 7/1/2026. \$140,360/year + Step 2.
 - 2. Nicholas Bornhauser, Summer Seasonal Grounds Worker for 40 hrs/week for the District beginning 6/1/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$18.75/hr.
 - 3. Kyle Bulfer, Summer Seasonal Grounds Worker for 40 hrs/week for the District beginning 6/4/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$17.25/hr.
 - 4. Kyla Clauer, 1.0 FTE Human Resources Generalist at the District Office beginning 6/8/2026. Class IV, Step 4 - \$26.90/hr.
 - 5. Melina Collins, Special Education ESY EA for up to 5.5 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 6/25/2026-7/17/2026. Step 4, \$23.51/hr.
 - 6. Melina Collins, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 8/31/2026. Step 4, \$23.98/hr.
 - 7. Marcos Gallardo, Summer Maintenance Technician for 40 hrs/week at the District Shop beginning 6/4/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$17.25/hr.
 - 8. Guadalupe Gallego, Summer Plus Student Site Assistant for up to 7 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 3, \$17.32/hr.
 - 9. Zibby Hanifl, .5 FTE Assistant Girls Swim & Dive Coach at the High School beginning 8/17/2026. \$2,545 stipend.
 - 10. Trenton Herbig, Summer Plus Site Assistant for up to 7 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 1, \$18.71/hr.
 - 11. Shelby Miller, Summer Camp Director for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/16/2026-7/30/2026. \$20/hr.
 - 12. Kian Morsching, Summer Seasonal Grounds Worker for 40 hrs/week for the District beginning 6/4/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$17.25/hr.
 - 13. Nolan Nagy, Summer Seasonal Grounds Worker for 40 hrs/week for the District beginning 6/8/2026-8/31/2026. Step 3, \$18.75/hr.
 - 14. Star Nesseth, Summer Plus Site Assistant for up to 7 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 3, \$20.03/hr.
 - 15. Jennifer Reichel, 1.0 FTE Director of Instructional Services for the District beginning 7/1/2026. \$184,256/year + Step 4, + \$5,000 doctoral stipend.
 - 16. Andrew Richardson, Summer Blast Teacher for 8 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 - 17. Alicia Sullivan, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$15.02/hr.
 - 18. Gretchen Bygd, 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist at Bridgewater beginning 8/27/2026. MA, Step 3.
 - 19. Abby Johnson, Long-Term Substitute EL EA for 7.25 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 8/31/2026-12/22/2026. Step 1, \$22.30/hr.
 - 20. Correction: Molly Knutelski, 1.0 FTE Grade 6 Launch Teacher at the Middle School beginning 8/27/2026. MA, Step 6.
 - 21. Noella O'Rourke, 1.0 FTE Director of Human Resources for the District beginning 7/1/2026. \$184,256/year + Step 4.

22. Elizabeth Ostertag, 1.0 FTE Long-Term Substitute Office Specialist at Greenvale Park beginning 9/15/2026-2/3/2027. Class III, Step 4 - \$25.04/hr.
 23. Rhonda Pownell, Summer Plus Special Education EA/PCA for 6 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 4, \$23.51/hr.
- ii. Increase/Decrease/Changes in Assignment
1. Susie Aldrich, Special Education EA/PCA at the High School, add Summer Plus EA/PCA at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. Step 4, \$23.51/hr.
 2. Natalie Barsness, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead and Summer Instructor Assistant effective 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Summer Lead, \$16.10/hr. Summer Assistant, \$15.02/hr.
 3. Mae Bowers, Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Assistant effective 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. \$15.02/hr.
 4. Josh Craft, KidVentures Site Assistant on call, as needed at Spring Creek, change to Summer KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 40 hours/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026. \$19.37/hr.
 5. Matt Detjen, 1.0 FTE Assistant Girls Swim & Dive Coach at the High School, change to .5 FTE effective 8/17/2026.
 6. Lindsey Downs, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Plus Substitute Teacher at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 7. Antonia Duresky, CNA I from 9:30am-2:30pm at the High School, change hours to 9:00am-2:00pm effective 8/20/2026.
 8. Jake Fox, Summer KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 40 hours/week at Spring Creek, change to on call, as needed effective 6/11/2026.
 9. Nancy Fox, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Plus Substitute Teacher at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 10. Shelly Kruger, Special Education EA/PCA at the High School, add Summer Plus/Blast Substitute Teacher at Greenvale Park and the Middle School effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 11. Briana Lanham, KidVentures Summer Site Assistant for up to 40 hours/week at Spring Creek, change to 15 hours/week effective 6/11/2026-8/26/2026.
 12. Darren Lofquist, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer Plus Substitute Teacher at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 13. Hildeliza Lopez, CNA II at the Middle School, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 5 hours/day at the Middle School effective 6/22/2026-7/30/2026. \$23.06/hr.
 14. Isaac Rich, KidVentures Student Site Assistant on call, as needed at Bridgewater and Spring Creek, change to Summer KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 40 hours/week at Spring Creek effective 6/11/2026-8/28/2026.
 15. Faith Torgeson, Special Education EA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, add General Education EA for .25 hours/day effective 9/1/2026.
 16. Molly Viesselman, Director of Human Resources for the District, change to Human Resources Transition Support on an as needed basis, effective 7/1/2026-6/30/2027. \$89.81/hr.
 17. Janet Amundson, Special Education EA/PCA for 7 hours/day at the Middle School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School effective 8/27/2026.
 18. Michelle Anderson, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.5 hours/day plus .25 hours/day supervisory at Greenvale Park, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day plus .50 hours/day supervisory at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026.
 19. Brynn Bahler, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead effective 6/3/2026-8/31/2026. Step 2, \$16.37/hr.
 20. Kay Goodrich, Special Education EA/PCA for 7 hours/day at the Middle School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School effective 8/27/2026.
 21. Madalyn Heinz, Early Childhood Teacher at the NCEC, add Summer Plus Teacher for 6.5 hours/day at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.
 22. Beth Kuyper, Special Education EA/PCA for 7 hours/day at the Middle School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School effective 8/27/2026.
 23. Bridget Luckman, General Education EA for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to ongoing General Education EA for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater effective 6/10/2026.
 24. Sarah Marohl, Special Education EA/PCA for 1 hour/day, Kindergarten EA for 1 hour/day, Supervisory EA for 1.5 hours/day, and Nurse Lunch Coverage for .50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 1 hour/day, Supervisory EA for 1.5 hours/day, and Nurse Lunch Coverage for .50 hours/day at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026.
 25. Kim Norton, Hand-in-Hand Special Education EA/PCA for 6.10 hours/day at the NCEC, change to Special Education EA/PCA - RISE program for 6.75 hours/day at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026.
 26. Jade Olson, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day and Supervisory EA for .50 hours/day effective 8/27/2026.

27. Teri Quamme, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.25 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.5 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School effective 8/27/2026.
28. Lizbeth Ramirez, Supervisory EA for 2.25 hours/day and Special Education EA/PCA for 3.375 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to Supervisory EA for .50 hours/day and Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026.
29. Amanda Rezac, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 7 hours/day at the High School effective 8/27/2026.
30. Andrea Robbins, Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator at the NCEC, change to 1.0 FTE Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at the NCEC effective 8/27/2026. MA+40, Step 10.
31. Lauren Salmon, Special Education EA/PCA for 7 hours/day plus .25 hours/day supervisory at Greenvale Park, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School effective 8/27/2026.
32. Ann Shannon, Special Education EA/PCA - Resource program for 3.25 hours/day and Special Education EA/PCA - BEST program for 3.38 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School, change to Special Education EA/PCA - BEST program for 6.75 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School effective 8/27/2026.
33. Lindsay Svien, Special Education EA/PCA for 3.38 hours/day and Kindergarten EA for 1 hour/day at Greenvale Park, change to Kindergarten EA for 1 hour/day at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026.
34. Donna Torgeson, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.5 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 7 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School effective 8/27/2026.
35. Laura Vind, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 6.5 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at the High School effective 8/27/2026.
36. Beth Winter, Special Education EA/PCA for 3.25 hours/day, Kindergarten EA for 1 hour/day, and Supervisory EA for 2.30 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Education EA/PCA for 3.38 hours/day, Kindergarten EA for 1 hour/day, and Supervisory EA for 2.25 hours/day at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026.
- iii. Leave of Absences
 1. N/A
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
 1. Jordan Defries, KidVentures Student Site Assistant at Greenvale Park and Summer KidVentures Site Assistant at Spring Creek, resignation effective 6/3/2026.
 2. Scott Pitts, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, resignation effective 6/10/2026.
 3. Sophia Ranslow, Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park, resignation effective 6/2/2026. Sophia will continue as a substitute.
 4. Maria Acasio Carrizo, Administrative Assistant at Bridgewater, resignation effective 6/30/2026.
 5. Updated: Joseph Greenwood, Custodian Engineer at the High School, retirement effective 6/26/2026.
 6. Andrea Peterson, Assistant Gymnastics Coach at the High School, resignation effective 6/4/2026.
 7. Karl Viesselman, Assistant Track & Field Coach at the High School, resignation effective 6/10/2026.
- v. District Administration recommends approval of the following employment agreements/contracts covering the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028:
 1. Head Custodians
 2. District Interpreters
 3. COTA/Speech Language Assistants
 4. Custodians
 5. Community Education and Other Coordinators
 6. Community Education Staff

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Resolution Certifying the Population Estimate for the 2026 Payable 2027 Levy. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board adopted by roll call the Resolution Certifying the Population Estimate for the 2026 Payable 2027 Levy. Voting “yes” were: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. No one voted “no”. The current population census figure of 30,888, as determined by the Minnesota State Demographer, will be used in the 2026 payable 2027 revenue calculations. This figure is an increase from the 2020 census figure of 29,235.
- b. FY 2026 Audit Engagement Letter. On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously approved the FY 2026 Audit Engagement Letter from CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP for the audit of the 2025-2026 school year. The engagement letter establishes the parameters and fees associated with the annual audit required by statute.

- c. Ice Rental Agreement. On a motion by Epstein, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the agreement between the City of Northfield and Northfield Public Schools for the lease of the city's ice arena. At the May 13, 2024 meeting, the board approved a letter affirming the district's commitment to leasing the ice arena up to a maximum of \$250,000 annually (including ice time) for an estimated 20 years. The district will use its lease/levy authority to fund the annual payment.
- d. Policy Committee Recommendations. A motion was made by Butler and seconded by Miller to approve the policy committee's recommended changes to policies 203, 209, 410, 442, 503, 509, 530, 532, 533, 535, 540, 560, 655, and 701. A motion was made by Quinnell and seconded by Nelson to amend the motion to remove policies 203 and 209 and vote on the rest of the policies. The amendment failed 1-6 by roll call vote. Voting "yes" was Epstein. Voting "no" were Butler, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. A motion was made by Epstein and seconded by Quinnell to amend the original motion to remove policies 203 and 209 for separate consideration. The amendment passed 5-2 by roll call vote. Voting "yes" were Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Nelson, and Quinnell. Voting "no" were Miller and Gonzalez-George. The motion to approve the policy committee's recommended changes to policies 410, 442, 503, 509, 530, 532, 533, 535, 540, 560, 655, and 701, and to consider policies 203 and 209 separately passed unanimously by roll call vote. Voting "yes" were Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. No one voted "no".

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by Butler to approve the policy committee's recommended changes to policies 203 and 209. The motion failed 3-4 on a roll call vote. Voting "yes" were Butler, Miller, and Gonzalez-George. Voting "no" were Epstein, Goerwitz, Nelson, and Quinnell. The board agreed that policies 203 and 209 will go back to the policy committee for further review.

8. Items for Information

- a. Construction Update No. 27. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the NHS construction project.
- b. Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy. The dates for filing for school board are July 14-28, 2026 in the District Office. An affidavit of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the \$2 filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. The next school board election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Wednesday, June 24, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Special School Board Meeting, Approve bids for the NHS Reimagine project, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, July 13, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, August 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m.



Maggie Epstein
School Board Clerk