

# **NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **School Board Minutes**

June 9, 2025

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, Nelson, and Quinnell. Absent: Miller. 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 Nelson, the board approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was one public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Congratulations to Karina Johnson and Annika Johnson for qualifying for the girls' state golf tournament, and to Will Cashin, Griffin Kennelly, Miles Poole, Darren Steward, Max Munoz and Elias Ekern for qualifying for the boys' state golf tournament. Both tournaments will be held June 10 and 11 at Bunker Hills Golf Club.
- Congratulations to the 26 NHS track and field state qualifiers, who will participate in the state tournament at St. Michael Albertville High School on June 11 and 12.
- Tiffany Kortbein, a teacher at Greenvale Park, has been chosen as one of 25 teachers from across the state to receive a scholarship to attend this year's National Agriculture in the Classroom conference June 23-26 in Minneapolis. Teachers were chosen for their commitment to connecting students with agriculture through everyday learning.
- Congratulations to Northfield High School's yearbook program, who has received the Jostens National Yearbook Program of Excellence 2025 award at the Gold Level. The award recognizes engaging yearbooks that reflect a broad representation of the student body, while helping to develop skills such as communication, collaboration and information and communications technology (ICT) literacy.
- Congratulations to Northfield High School's Bleacher Captains program for earning a Minnesota Promising Practice Award. Northfield High School was one of 10 honorees celebrated at the Synergy and Leadership Exchange Character Recognition Awards on May 6 at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Bleacher Captains is a student leadership program that fosters positive school spirit at athletic events. Students undergo training to guide their peers in modeling positive enthusiasm and to avoid disparaging players, fans, or event officials. Students and community fans are encouraged to cheer positively for NHS. The program fosters pride and unity among students while setting a standard for respectful behavior and serves as a model for other students and districts.
- The Northfield School District will host a Juneteenth event on Thursday, June 19 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Northfield High School. Minnesota Department of Agriculture Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey will be the guest speaker, and lunch will be catered by Rose's Jamaican Kitchen and be available to the first 100 attendees. This event was made possible by grants and private donations.
- Thanks to Sony Pictures, Carleton College, and Board Member Amy Goerwitz who made it possible for a special showing of *Karate Kid: Legends* with movie lead and 2016 Northfield High School and theater alumni Ben Wang present to answer questions and talk about his experiences.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Superintendent Focus Areas End of Year Report. Superintendent Hillmann presented the end of year report on the superintendent's 2024-25 focus areas.
- b. Legislative Update. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the 2025 legislative session.
- c. Policy Committee Recommendations. Superintendent Hillmann presented proposed changes to the attendance sections of the online building handbooks as recommended by the district attendance teams and the proposed changes for the 2025-26 Student Citizenship Handbook.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Epstein, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved the consent agenda.

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on May 27, 2025, and the special closed school board meeting held on May 29, 2025.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Financial Report - November 2024 Revised. Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf requested the board approve paid bills for November 2024 totaling \$1,921,802.69, payroll checks totaling \$3,968,638.82, a wire transfer totaling \$350,000 from Frandsen General to Frandsen Sweep, a wire transfer totaling \$200,000 from Frandsen Sweep to Frandsen General, and the financial reports for November 2024. No bond payments were paid in November 2024. At the end of November 2024 total cash and investments amounted to \$27,990,170.32.
- d. Overnight Field Trip Request.
  - i. The High School Boys and Girls Track and Field coaches, Tyler Balow, Kyle Korynta and Janet Smith, requested board approval to take 26 students to the state tournament June 10-12, 2025 in St. Michael, MN.
  - ii. Northfield High School Volleyball Coach Elizabeth Larson requested board approval to take 12 students to team camp at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in Madison, WI July 11-13, 2025.
  - iii. Northfield High School Volleyball Coach Elizabeth Larson requested board approval to take 15 students to the Marshall Invitational in Marshall, MN September 5-6, 2025.
- e. Personnel Items.
  - i. Appointments
    1. William Brethauer, American Sign Language Interpreter with Kid Ventures, beginning 6/9/2025-8/22/2025. District Interpreter Level B - \$26.45/hr. Through 6/30/2025. \$27.77/hr. Beginning 7/1/2025.
    2. Christopher Dibble, 1.0 FTE Principal at the High School, beginning 7/1/2025. \$173,049 plus step 4 - \$6,500.
    3. Nicole Drexler, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Fifth Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, beginning 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. BA, Step 1 - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    4. Anne Fossum, Assistant Girls Hockey Coach at the High School, beginning 10/27/2025. \$5,544 plus step 3 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    5. Lydia Guthridge, Special Education Resource Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning 8/19/2025. MA, Step 7 - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    6. Madalyn Heinz, Targeted Services Summer Teacher for up to 30 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, beginning 6/18/2025-8/8/2025. \$40/hr.
    7. Rebecca Knight, Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, beginning 10/20/2025. \$4,990 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    8. Erik Miller, .80 FTE EL Social Studies Teacher at the High School, beginning 8/25/2025. BA, Step 2 - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    9. Cambria Monson, Assistant Girls Hockey Coach at the High School, beginning 10/27/2025. \$5,544 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    10. Stephanie Ennis, Targeted Services Summer BLAST Teacher for up to 30 hours/week at the Middle School, beginning 6/16/2025-8/8/2025. \$40/hr.
    11. Richard Lacombe, Assistant Football Coach at the Middle School, beginning 8/25/2025. \$2,772 stipend plus step 2 - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
    12. Joan Odell, Summer Special Ed ESY EA for 5.50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, beginning 6/26/2025-7/18/2025. Step 1-\$18.33/hr.
    13. Andrea Robbins, Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator for 225/contract days at the NCEC, beginning 7/1/2025. \$100,539 Step 1, plus Master's Stipend \$1,500
    14. Oliver Waters, Summer Instructor or Swim Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 6/10/2025 - 8/31/2025. Step 2-\$14.76/hr.
  - ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
    1. Hannah Ames, .50 FTE English Teacher and .40 FTE French Teacher at the High School, change to .60 FTE English Teacher and .40 FTE French Teacher at the High School, effective 8/25/2025.
    2. Correction: Shari Bradley, Special Ed EA PCA Hand in Hand program for 6.10 hours/day at the NCEC, change to Special Ed EA PCA Hand in Hand program for 6.80 hours/day at the NCEC, effective 8/25/2025.
    3. Diana Camargo Rojas, Special Ed EA PCA for 3.20 hours/day at the NCEC, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 3.20 hours/day at Head Start, effective 8/25/2025.
    4. Pamela Charlton, ADSIS Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Elementary Literacy Lead for 25 hours/year at Greenvale Park, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend.

5. Stephanie Cress, Special Ed EA at the High School, add Targeted Services Summer Site Assistant for up to 30 hours/week at Greenvale Park, effective 6/9/2025-8/10/2025. Step 1-\$17.80/hr.
6. Sara DeVries, 5th Grade Companeros Teacher at Bridgewater, will continue the job share arrangement with Anna Rubin for the 2025-26 school year. Sara will work .80 FTE and Anna will work .20 FTE.
7. Lindsey Downs, ADSIS Teacher at Spring Creek, add Elementary Literacy Lead for 25 hours/year at Spring Creek, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
8. Sarah DuChene, ADSIS Teacher at Bridgewater, add Elementary Literacy Lead for 25 hours/year at Bridgewater, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
9. Tyler Faust, Special Education Teacher at Greenvale Park, change to Special Education Teacher - Elementary Behavior Support with the District, effective 8/25/2025.
10. Noah Gagnon, Science Teacher at the High School, add 9th Grade Assistant Football Coach at the High School, effective 8/11/2025. \$4,435 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
11. Robert Garcia, Fourth Grade Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Elementary Math Lead for 25 hours/year at Greenvale Park, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
12. Kristi Korteum, .60 FTE ADSIS/.40 FTE Math Teacher at the High School, change to Math Teacher at .60 FTE High School/.40 FTE Middle School, effective 8/25/2025.
13. Suzanne Lanza, First Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, add Elementary Math Lead for 25 hours/year at Bridgewater, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
14. Becky Malecha, Fifth Grade Teacher at Spring Creek, add Elementary Math Lead for 25 hours/year at Spring Creek, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
15. Correction: Beth Momberg, Special Ed EA PCA NB program for 6.10 hours/day at the NCEC, change to Special Ed EA PCA NB program for 6.05 hours/day at the NCEC, effective 8/25/2025.
16. Xochitl Oaxaca, Special Ed EA PCA Hand in Hand program for 7.0 hours/day and .80 hours/day extended day at the NCEC, change to Special Ed EA PCA Hand in Hand program for 6.80 hours/day at the NCEC, effective 8/25/2025.
17. Theresa Olson, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.50 hours/day, and Flex Supervision for .50 hours/day at the High School, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 5.75 hours/day, and Lunchroom Supervision for 1.50 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 8/25/2025.
18. Lizbeth Ramirez, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day and General Education EA for .50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 3.38 hours/day and General Education EA for 2.25 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 8/25/2025.
19. Anna Rubin, 5th Grade Companeros Teacher at Bridgewater, will continue the job share arrangement with Sara DeVries for the 2025-26 school year. Anna will work .20 FTE and Sara will work .80 FTE.
20. Deborah Rasmussen, 1.0 FTE Guidance Counselor at the High School, add AP Coordinator at the High School, effective 8/25/2025. \$3,200 stipend.
21. Andrea Stowe, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, change to Special Education Teacher at Greenvale Park, effective 8/25/2025.
22. Lori Taylor Libbey, .40 FTE ADSIS/.10 FTE Spanish/.20 FTE MTSS at the High School and .20 FTE St. Dominic EL Teacher, change to .10 FTE MTSS/.50 FTE ADSIS Teacher at the High School, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026.
23. Charlie Cloud, Assistant Boys Hockey Coach at the High School, change to Head Boys Hockey Coach at the High School, effective 11/10/2025. \$7,762 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
24. Noreen Cooney, Social Worker at Spring Creek, add MTSS Building Facilitator for 25 hours/year at Spring Creek, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
25. Moly Ericksen, School Psychologist at Bridgewater, add MTSS Building Facilitator for 25 hours/year at Bridgewater, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
26. Teresa Findlay, Special Ed EA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA PCA ESY for up to 5.50 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 6/26/2025-7/18/2025.
27. Leah Grisim, Special Ed Teacher at Spring Creek, add Building Mentor Teacher at Spring Creek, effective 8/22/2024-6/6/2025. \$1,000-Stipend.
28. Marcy Korynta, School Psychologist at the Middle School, add MTSS Building Facilitator for 25 hours/year at the Middle School, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
29. Heather Kuehl, Teacher at the Middle School, add English/Language Arts Lead for 25 hours/year at the Middle School, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
30. Hope Langston, Director of Instructional Services, add Transition Days for 10 days with the District, effective 7/1/2025-12/31/2025. Final Daily Rate.
31. Melissa Larsen, Social Worker at Greenvale Park, add MTSS Building Facilitator for 25 hours/year at Greenvale Park, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
32. Ellen Mucha, Teacher at the High School, add MTSS Building Facilitator for 25 hours/year at the High School, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
33. Molly Otte, Teacher at the Middle School, add Yearbook Advisor at the Middle School, effective 8/25/2025. \$2,218 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.

34. Stefany Perez Dorantes, Special Ed EA/PCA at Spring Creek, add Special Ed EA PCA ESY for up to 5.50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 6/26/2025-7/18/2025.
  35. Lizbeth Ramirez, Special Ed EA/PCA at Greenvale Park, add Special Ed EA PCA ESY for up to 5.50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 6/26/2025-7/18/2025.
  36. Angela Schock, Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services Summer BLAST Teacher for up to 30 hours/week at the Middle School, effective 6/16/2025-8/10/2025. \$40/hr.
  37. Rachael Thompson, School Psychologist at the NCEC, add MTSS Building Facilitator for 25 hours/year at the NCEC, effective 8/25/2025-6/10/2026. \$1,000 stipend
  38. Robert Scott Thompson, Assistant Track and Field Coach at the Middle School, add Assistant Football Coach at the Middle School, effective 8/25/2025. \$3,122 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
  39. Heather Tousignant, Special Ed EA/PCA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA PCA ESY for up to 5.50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 6/26/2025-7/18/2025.
  40. Deb Wagner, Special Ed EA/PCA at Bridgewater, add .50 Head Volleyball Coach/.50 Assistant Volleyball Coach at the Middle School, effective 8/25/2025. \$3,299 stipend - Subject to change upon the settlement of the 25-27 NEA Agreement.
  41. Lori Warner, Occupational Therapist with the District, add ESY OT/AT for up to 5.75 hours/day with the District, effective 6/26/2025-7/18/2025.
  42. Beth Winter, Special Ed EA/PCA at Greenvale Park, add Special Ed EA PCA ESY for up to 5.50 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 6/26/2025-7/18/2025.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Mackenzie Ludwig, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, FMLA Leave of Absence, beginning on or about 10/26/2025-2/27/2026.
  2. Laura Vind, Educational Assistant at the High School, FMLA Leave of Absence, beginning 5/21/2025-6/4/2025.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Elaine Boda, Speech Language Pathologist at Greenvale Park, retirement effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.
  2. Ashley Douglas, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, resignation effective 6/6/2025.
  3. Lexi Halvorson, Head Girls Lacrosse Coach, end of coaching contract effective 6/6/2025.
  4. Kristin Johnson, Special Education Teacher at Greenvale Park, resignation effective 6/6/2025.
  5. Karen Murphy, Custodian Engineer at the Middle School, termination effective 5/30/2025.
  6. Paul Stanaway, Fitness Center Supervisor at the Middle School, resignation effective 6/4/2025.
  7. Nancy Veverka, ABE Teacher with Community Education, resignation effective 5/29/2025.
  8. Johanna Villa, Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, resignation effective 5/30/2025.
  9. Lynn Ziegler, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, termination effective 6/2/2025.
  10. Kay Goodrich, Special Ed EA ESY at the Middle School, declined position, but will stay on as a substitute EA for ESY, effective 6/6/2025.
  11. Heather Kuehl, Assistant Soccer Coach at the Middle School, resignation effective 6/7/2025.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Proposed 2024-25 Construction Budget. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Nelson, the board approved the proposed 2024-25 construction budget. This budget was presented at the May 27, 2025 regular board meeting. The construction fund is a separate fund used to record all operations of a district's building construction funded by the sale of bonds. The total income sources for the 2024-25 school year were \$41,080,609, and project expenditures were \$1,750,000.
- b. Proposed 2025-26 Budgets - All Funds. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Epstein, the board approved the 2025-26 budgets. The individual funds were 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	\$ 69,163,802	\$ 67,854,324
Child Nutrition	\$ 2,840,324	\$ 3,325,982
Community Education	\$ 4,123,775	\$ 4,392,456
Construction Fund	\$ 1,625,000	\$ 13,550,463
Debt Service	\$ 9,948,034	\$ 8,891,604
Internal Service	\$ 11,654,567	\$ 11,289,063

- c. Sale of District Property Contract Extension. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved a one-year extension for the purchase of district property parcel #17.11.3.75.021, located in Dundas.
- d. Benjamin Bus Contract One-Year Extension. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Epstein, the board approved a one-year contract extension with Benjamin Bus for the 2025-26 school year. The extension includes a 2% cost increase.

8. Items for Information

- a. Construction Update No. 11. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the NHS construction project.
- b. End of Year Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann reviewed the June 2025 end of year enrollment report.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, July 14, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, August 11, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, August 25, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved to adjourn at 7:27 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz  
School Board Clerk