

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

October 11, 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 No. 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Gonzalez-George, Goerwitz, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

2. Land Acknowledgement Statement

Today is Indigenous Peoples Day. In June 2021 the school board adopted Policy 950 that formalized a statement from the Northfield School District that recognizes and respects Indigenous peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous peoples and their traditional territories. Northfield High School Senior Amelia Arnold, who was instrumental in leading student involvement in drafting this statement, read the land acknowledgement statement: “The Northfield School District recognizes that we reside on the homeland of the Wahpekute Tribe of the Dakota Nation. We acknowledge the wrongdoings, previous and ongoing, and strive to repair and strengthen our relations with Indigenous peoples.”

3. Agenda Approval/Table File

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

4. Public Comment

There was public comment from Carol Myint, Kristi Pursell, James Demas, Rachel Trnka, and Amy GernonEdwards regarding masking in school and COVID-19.

5. Announcements and Recognitions

- Nancy Antoine, Principal at Bridgewater Elementary School, was named Minnesota’s National Distinguished Principal. This program honors outstanding elementary and middle-level principals who ensure that America’s children acquire a sound foundation for lifelong learning and achievement. Ms. Antoine received her award last week at a ceremony held in Washington D.C.
- Steve Taggart, Technology & Engineering Teacher at NHS, recently started participating in the Ford Automotive Career Exploration (ACE) program. He is working on connecting with and getting sponsored by a dealership. The sponsoring dealership is required to come into the classroom two times a year, be a member of the advisory group, offer job shadowing for students and support any career fairs. Mr. Taggart is excited to implement this program and for the opportunities it may bring to students who wish to pursue a career in the automotive industry.
- Rice County has officially been accepted as an implementation community for the Healthy Ways program developed by the Harlem Children's Zone. We will be the first replication communities of this evidence-based program through the community schools at Jefferson Elementary in Faribault and Greenvale Park in Northfield.
- Through funding that Rice County Public Health received from the State of Minnesota and support from Allina, HCI was able to hire Diego Calvario Bravo as a Healthy Ways Coordinator. Bilingual in English and Spanish, Diego grew up in Northfield, graduated from Northfield High School and St. Olaf College where he double majored in kinesiology and Latin American Studies. Diego will be working in our communities and at Jefferson and Greenvale Park.
- Northfield Chamber of Commerce hosted board members and Dr. Hillmann for the State of the District address to the community.

6. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Five-Year Strategic Plan. Superintendent Hillmann provided a high-level overview of the progress for updating the district's strategic plan and highlighted the next steps in the process. We held strategic planning sessions with community members last spring and this fall. The vision of the district was shared and we asked for feedback regarding the five strategic district commitments: people, learner outcomes, stewardship, partnerships, and equity. We will also use pulse survey results, and a variety of other sources and data to produce a draft of the five-year strategic plan. The board will review the first draft on November 8, and we will schedule a work session in November to delve deeper into the strategic plan. The draft will be reviewed on November 22, and the board will be asked to approve the five-year strategic plan at the December 13 school board meeting. The approved plan will be instrumental in formulating the priority based budgeting process starting in January 2022.
- b. Superintendent Operations and COVID-19 Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update about district operations and COVID-19. COVID cases continue to increase in the county but have begun to flatten. We have added the total accumulated number of COVID cases, the ILI rate, and the quarantine rate to the district dashboard. Testing for COVID has become less available to families and the district, in conjunction with MDH and MDE, is planning to begin offering the CUE rapid molecular test to district staff and students. We are also looking at BinaxNOW OTC at home testing as a 'test to stay' option for staff and students, and we continue to offer the VAULT saliva tests. The district does plan to continue e-Learning in the event of severe winter weather during the 2021-22 school year and we are finalizing the e-Learning plan.

7. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

8. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes
 - Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on September 27, 2021
- b. Gifts Agreement
 - \$1,000.00 from Northfield Booster Club, Inc. for 2020 scholarships
- c. Northfield Swim Club

The school board was asked to approve the agreement with the Northfield Swim Club. This agreement is for the time period November 10, 2021 to November 8, 2022 and contains no significant updates from last year's agreement.
- d. Personnel Items
 - i. Appointments
 1. Correction: Josten Coleman, 1.0 FTE STEM Teacher at the Middle School, beginning 9/27/2021; MA, Step 9
 2. Jodi DiMaggio, ECSE Due Process Clerical (Class II) for 4 hours/day at the NCEC, beginning 10/12/2021-6/9/2022; Class II Step 3-\$20.35/hr.
 3. Tyler Lexvold, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Second Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, beginning 10/4/2021-1/28/2022; Daily Sub Rate
 4. Ryan Oden, Long Term Substitute EL Educational Assistant for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, beginning 10/12/2021-11/19/2021; Gen Ed Step 3-\$16.29/hr.
 5. Alexis Sanburn, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 10/19/2021; Spec Ed Step 4-\$17.52/hr.
 - ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 1. Kristin Basinger, Special Ed EA PCA at the Middle School, Special Ed EA PCA Bus for an additional .50 hrs/day with the District, effective 9/20/2021-6/10/2022.
 2. Adriana Bermudez, ECFE EA/Health Aide for 16.5 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE EA for 14 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 9/27/2021.
 3. Adriana Bermudez, Health Aide/ECFE EA for 23.50 hours/week at the NCEC, change to Health Aide for 26 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 9/30/2021-6/10/2022.

4. Kevin Dahle, National Honor Society Advisor at the High School for the 2020-2021 school year, change to National Honor Society Advisor-on going at the High School, effective 8/30/2021; Stipend \$4,480
 5. Claire Edwards, KidVentures Site Assistant for 26 hours/week at Spring Creek, change to KidVentures Site Assistant for 28.5 hours/week at Spring Creek, effective 10/4/2021.
 6. Anna Kelly, LTS Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 8 hours/week at Greenvale Park, effective 11/1/2021-5/5/2022; Yr. 4-\$27.73/hr.
 7. Jenny Link, Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services MSYC Teacher for up to 8 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/11/2021-5/12/2022; Yr. 5-\$27.73/hr.
 8. Brent Lothert, Technology Specialist with the District, change to Assistant Network Manager with the District, effective 9/28/2021. \$71,959 prorated.
 9. Catherine Lovrien, Will Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services MSYC Teacher for up to 8 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/11/2021-5/12/2022; Yr. 1-\$27.11/hr.
 10. Ashly Polzin, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 8 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at Bridgewater, effective 10/25/2021-4/29/2022; Yr. 3-\$27.11/hr.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Ashley Benhart, Teacher at Spring Creek, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 3/21/2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 2. Kimbra Dimick, Teacher at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 3/13/2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 3. Ada Leaphart, Teacher at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 4/4/2022 through the end of the 2021-2022 school year.
 4. Amber Soderlund, Teacher at Spring Creek, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 12/26/2021-4/1/2022.
 5. Carrie Zupfer-Rice, Teacher at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on 11/2/2021 and continuing on an intermittent basis through 11/30/2021.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Ray Coudret, Portage Tutor with the District, resignation effective 9/13/2021.
 2. Matthew Crase, Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, resignation effective 9/30/2021.
 3. Julie Ochs, School Nurse at Greenvale Park, retirement effective 12/31/2021.
 4. Laurie Rupp, LTS Teacher at Bridgewater, resignation effective 9/29/2021.
- iv. Other Items
- Correction: On September 27, 2021 the board approved the request to hire 1.0 FTE licensed special education resource teacher for the Portage online program and Greenvale Park Elementary at a total projected cost of salary and benefits of \$95,627. Approximately 55% of this salary is reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$32,355. This position is not federally funded at 100%.

9. Items for Individual Action

- a. Policy Approval. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Quinnell, the board approved policies 102, 406 and 413 as presented at the September 27, 2021 school board meeting with a modification to link procedures for policy 413 in the policy document.
- b. Minnesota State High School League Addendum COVID-19 Protocol Update. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board approved one update to the district's COVID-19 protocols governing high school activities governing the Northfield High School fall play. Similar to high school athletes, play performers will be allowed to remove their masks while performing on stage during tech week rehearsals and public performances.

10. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the October 2021 enrollment report which reflects a full time district enrollment of 3,810.
- b. School Lunch Week is October 11-15, 2021. The National School Lunch Program serves nearly 30 million children every school day. President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside of the classroom. We are grateful for our child nutrition director and staff who serve our district students each and every day.
- c. School Bus Safety Week is October 18-22, 2021. National School Bus Safety Week is an active and evolving public education program and an excellent way for parents, students, teachers, motorists, school bus

operators, school administrators, and other interested parties, to join forces and address the importance of school bus safety. Designed to promote school bus safety, school districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week.

11. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, October 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, November 8, 2021, 6:15 p.m., World's Best Workforce Presentation, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, November 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the board adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk