

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

October 14, 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, Miller, and Quinnell. Absent: Nelson. 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 Goerwitz, seconded by Quinnell, the board approved the agenda.

3. The Land Acknowledgment Statement was read by Vice Chair Corey Butler in accordance with Policy 950.

4. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

5. Announcements and Recognitions

- Board members were provided a copy of the Community School report. The report details the results of the eleventh year of Community School programming and includes data from all four sites - Greenvale Park Elementary, Spring Creek Elementary, Bridgewater Elementary, and Northfield Middle School. The report has been shared with all elementary and middle school families and community partners. Thanks to everyone who assisted with the report's compilation.
- The Greenvale Park PTO Fundraiser was a huge success, raising over \$34,500. Thanks to everyone who donated, participated and helped make the event special.
- Congratulations to the Girls Tennis Team for advancing to the Class AA State Tournament for the first time in Raider history. This year's tournament will begin on Tuesday, October 21 at Life Time Bloomington South.
- Congratulations to the FFA Dairy Evaluation Team, who took first place out of 46 teams at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls Falcon Ag Challenge, a state qualifying event. A special shoutout to Tavis Ballstadt, who was first overall individually out of 111 competitors.
- Congratulations to Josie Kuenen for being selected as a 2025-2026 FFA in the USA Reporter. Josie is one of 250 FFA members from across the U.S. and one of five in Minnesota to be chosen for this honor.

6. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Bridgewater Elementary School Improvement Showcase. Bridgewater Interim Principal Hope Langston provided the board with an overview of the school's successes and highlights in 2024-2025 and the focus areas for the 2025-2026 school year.
- b. Northfield Middle School Improvement Showcase. Middle School Principal Greg Gelineau provided the board with an overview of the middle school's successes and highlights in 2024-2025 and the focus areas for the 2025-2026 school year.
- c. Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation Recommendation. Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George presented the board with a revised mid-year superintendent check-in form.
- d. Special Services FTE Request. Director of Special Services Sara Pratt requested to add a Special Educational Assistant/Personal Care Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary for 6.75 hours per day due to new students entering the district with significant needs for safety and intensive services as required by their Individual Education Program (IEP) plans. The total projected cost of salary and benefits is \$52,529, with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue, for a net cost of \$23,656.

On a motion by Miller, seconded by Quinnell, the request to add a Special Education Assistant/Personal Care

Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary was added as an item for individual action.

- e. Policy Committee Recommendations. Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommended updates to policies 448, 504, 508, 510, and 511. This will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

7. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on September 22, 2025.

- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.

- c. Personnel Items.

- i. Appointments

- 1. Shane Baier, Interim Principal at Bridgewater, beginning 10/20/2025-11/15/2025. Step 4, \$92.01/hour.
 - 2. Cindy Keogh, Kindergarten General Education EA at Bridgewater for 4 hours/day, beginning 10/13/2025-6/10/2026. Step 4, \$21.44/hour.
 - 3. Yun Guan Seo, Water Safety Instructor for Community Education/Recreation as needed, beginning 10/1/2025-5/31/2026. Step 4, \$17.97/hour.
 - 4. Erik Sun, Instructor and Swim Assistant for Community Education/Recreation for up to 3 hours/week, beginning 10/1/2025-5/31/2026. Step 3, \$15.56/hour.
 - 5. Julia Bengtson, Community School Site Assistant at Greenvale Park up to 6 hours/week effective 10/21/2025. Step 1, \$18.71/hour.
 - 6. Jacob Gonnerman, Community School Site Leader at the Middle School up to 20 hours/week, effective 10/23/2025. Step 1, \$24.05/hour.
 - 7. Alix Nath, Assistant Speech Coach at the High School effective 12/8/2025. \$4,990 stipend.
 - 8. William Sonnega, Head Alpine Ski Coach at the High School, effective 11/10/2025. \$7,207 stipend + Step 10, subject to change upon the settlement of the 2025-27 NEA agreement.
 - 9. Tabitha Tschann, Assistant Gymnastics Coach at the High School, effective 11/10/2025. \$2,495 stipend.
 - 10. Madison Warner, 1.0 FTE Long-Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Bridgewater, effective 10/6/2025-11/12/2025. BA, Step 1.

- ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

- 1. Janet Amundson, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, change to 7.0 hours/day, effective 9/15/2025.
 - 2. Wren Becker, Cafeteria Supervision, Kid Ventures for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, add Resource Special Education for 1.5 hours/day, effective 9/29/2025-6/10/2026.
 - 3. Lynnsey Carlsen, Special Education EA - RISE program for 6.4 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Education EA - RISE program for 3.2 hours/day and Special Education EA - Resource Program for 3.2 hours/day, effective 10/6/2025-6/10/2026.
 - 4. Robert Coleman, General Education EA for 5 hours/day at Spring Creek, add Community School Site Assistant up to 10 hours/week effective 10/13/2025-5/14/2026. Step 4, \$20.72/hour.
 - 5. Robert Coleman, General Education EA for 5 hours/day at Spring Creek, add Special Education EA - PCA - Resource for 0.58 hours/day, effective 10/13/2025.
 - 6. Evelyn Douville, Special Education EA - Resource for 6.75 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Education - EA Rise Program for 6.75 hours/day, effective 10/6/2025-6/10/2026.
 - 7. Brent Dunkelberger, 1.0 FTE Teacher at the Middle School, add Community School Licensed Teacher up to 8 hours/week. \$40/hour, effective 10/1/2025-5/14/2026.
 - 8. Joseph Greenwood, 1.0 FTE Custodian Day Engineer at the High School from 9:00am-5:30pm, change to 6:00am-2:30pm, effective 5/20/2025.
 - 9. Mara Hessian, Special Education EA - RISE program for 6.75 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Education EA - RISE program for 3.375 hours/day and Special Education EA - Resource program for 3.375 hours/day, effective 9/29/2025-6/10/2026.
 - 10. Julene Johnson, Media Assistant for 7 hours/day at the High School, add Assistant Speech Coach, \$4,990 stipend.
 - 11. Jennifer Jones, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, add Community School Licensed Teacher up to 10 hours/week, effective 10/13/2025-5/14/2026. \$40/hour.
 - 12. Cindy Keogh, Kindergarten General Education EA at Bridgewater for 4 hours/day, add General Education EA - Safety Patrols for 0.5 hours/day.
 - 13. Beth Kuyper, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, change to 7.0 hours/day, effective 9/15/2025.
 - 14. Emily Makitalo, Occupational Therapist at Greenvale Park and Spring Creek, change start date of employment to 11/3/2025.

15. Stefany Perez, Special Education EA for 6.75 hours/day at Spring Creek, change to 6.17 hours/day, effective 10/6/2025.
 16. Scott Pitts, Special Education EA - Resource for 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Education EA - RISE program for 6.75 hours/day, effective 10/6/2025-6/10/2026.
 17. Elga Reyes de Broughton, Educational Assistant for 7 hours/day at Spring Creek, add Community School Site Assistant up to 8 hours/week effective 10/23/2025-5/14/2026. Step 4, \$20.72/hour.
 18. Yun Guan Seo, Water Safety Instructor for Community Education/Recreation as needed, add Lifeguard as needed, beginning 10/1/2025. Step 4, \$15.83/hour.
 19. Jessica Rushton, Special Education EA/PCA at Spring Creek for 6.75 hours/day, add Special Education EA/PCA Extracurricular/Nonacademic support as needed, effective 9/25/2025-6/30/2026.
 20. Michele Warden, General Education EA for 2 hours/day, Kindergarten EA for 4 hours/day, and Special Education Resource EA for 1.5 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Media EA for 5.5 hours/day and General Education EA for 2 hours/day, effective 10/13/2025-6/10/2026.
 21. Katrina Warner, EA at Bridgewater for 7.25 hours/day, add Community School Club Leader for up to 8 hours/week, effective 10/6/2025-5/14/2026.
 22. Sarah Wolfe, ECFE EA at the NCEC for 7.25 hours/week, change to 9.0 hours/week, effective 10/2/2025.
 23. Susan Aldrich, EA at the High School, add Event Worker as needed. \$45/77/event.
 24. Kay Goodrich, Special Education EA/PCA - RISE for 6.5 hours/day and Gen Ed Flex Supervision EA for 0.5 hours/day at the High School, change to Special Education EA/PCA - RISE program for 7.0 hours/day, effective 9/3/2025.
 25. Shelly Kruger, Special Education EA/PCA - RISE for 3.25 hours/day, Gen Ed Flex Supervision EA for 0.5 hours/day, Job Coach - WBL for 3.0 hours/day and Special Ed Bus Route EA for 0.5 hours/day, change to 3.0 hours/day Job Coach - WBL for 3.0 hours/day, RISE EA PCA for 3.75 hours/day, and Special Ed EA/PCA bus route for .50 hours/day beginning 9/3/2025,
 26. David Pennock, EA for 6.5 hours/day at the Middle School, add KidVentures Site Assistant as needed up to 7.5 hours/week effective 10/13/2025. Step 4, \$20.72/hour.
 27. Beth Winter, Special Education EA/PCA for 3.25 hours/day, Gen Ed Supervision EA for 2.25 hours/day, and Gen Ed Kindergarten EA for 1.0 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change Gen Ed Supervision EA to 2.30 hours/day, effective 9/2/2025.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Nancy Antoine, Principal at Bridgewater, extending FMLA leave through 11/10/2025.
 2. Meghan Karsky, Teacher at the NCEC, FMLA leave of absence beginning 9/17/2025 and continuing on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 3. Linda Kovach, Teacher at the Middle School, FMLA leave of absence beginning 10/20/2025 and continuing on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 4. Katherine Norrie, Teacher at the High School, FMLA leave of absence beginning on 9/24/2025 and continuing on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 5. Rebekah Patterson, Special Education Teacher at Bridgewater, medical leave extended through approximately 11/12/2025.
 6. Molly Andrews, Special Education EA/PCA at the Middle School, leave of absence beginning 11/24/2025 through 1/4/2026.
 7. Bailey Krueger, Speech/Language Pathologist at Greenvale Park, FMLA leave of absence beginning approximately 3/8/2026 and continuing through the end of the 2025-26 school year.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Mary Boyum, Educational Assistant at Spring Creek, retirement effective 1/22/2026.
 2. Noemi De Rosas, ABE Office Generalist at the NCEC, resignation effective 9/25/2025.
 3. Ashley Douglas, Community School Club Leader at Bridgewater, resignation effective 9/8/2025.
 4. Leanne Fricke, Assistant Girls Gymnastics Coach, resignation effective 9/26/2025.
 5. Tim Hoernke, Assistant Softball Coach, resignation effective 9/26/2025.
 6. Heather Tousignant, Special Education EA/PCA at the Middle School, termination effective 9/25/2025.
 7. Sarah Wolter, 0.3 FTE Assistant Girls Golf Coach, resignation effective 9/22/2025.
 8. Summer Alsaker, Child Nutrition Associate I at Spring Creek, resignation effective 10/24/2025.
 9. Rose Taylor, EA at Spring Creek, resignation effective 10/9/2025. Rose will continue with the District as an EA Substitute.
 10. ReNae Trebelhorn, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective 11/3/2025.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. Special Services FTE Request. On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Butler, the board approved the request to add a Special Educational Assistant/Personal Care Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary for 6.75 hours per day as requested.

9. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann reviewed the October 2025 enrollment report.
- b. Construction Update No. 16. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update on the NHS construction project.
- c. Retired Educators Luncheon. Board members were invited to attend the district's annual retired educators luncheon on Friday, Oct. 24. The luncheon will be held at Ruth's on Stafford beginning at 11:30 a.m. If you plan to attend please RSVP to Kelly Spillman-Kramer no later than Oct. 15.
- d. Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Presentation and Public Hearing. ALC Director Daryl Kehler will summarize the 2025-2026 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Plan at the public hearing scheduled at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 10. This public hearing will precede the regular school board meeting.
- e. National School Lunch Week. National School Lunch Week was celebrated Oct. 13-17, 2025. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves nearly 30 million children every school day. President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week (NSLW) 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 appreciate and thank all child nutrition staff in our district.
- f. National School Bus Safety Week. National School Bus Safety Week was Oct. 20-24, 2025. School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. Their design is meant to be safer than any passenger vehicle in avoiding crashes and preventing injuries. Teaching children to follow safety rules on the bus is important, as is informing drivers about the laws regarding school buses. We appreciate and thank Benjamin Bus and their drivers for their continued support and partnership with Northfield Public Schools.

10. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, October 27, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, November 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, November 24, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Closed Session: Labor Negotiations Strategy

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Epstein, the board moved to close the meeting as permitted by Minnesota Statute 13D.03 to discuss labor negotiations.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the closed session at 9:15 p.m.

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 9:15 pm.



Amy Goerwitz
School Board Clerk