

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

October 25, 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. Agenda Approval/Table File

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

3. Public Comment

There was public comment from Dr. Felicity Enders, Rachel Trnka, Loretta Fossum and Jessica Leibrock.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- For the first time in 20 years, we congratulate the girls cross country team who are the 2021 Big 9 Champions! We also congratulate Caley Graber (8th grader) 1st place BIG 9 Individual Champion and All Conference; Clara Lippert (12th grader) 6th place and All Conference; Addison Enfield (9th grader) 10th place and All Conference; Adriana Fleming (12th grader) 20th place and Honorable Mention All Conference; Peyton Quaas (7th grader) 24th place and Honorable Mention All Conference; Claire Casson (9th grader) 26th place; Clara Messen (10th grader) 34th place.
- The boys cross country team placed 6th with a great showing in a competitive field. Congratulations to Nathan Amundson for placing 6th individually and earning All Conference.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Principal Antoine, Minnesota's National Distinguished Principal Presentation. 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 at a ceremony held in Washington D.C. and she shared her experience with the board.
- b. Request to Hire an Additional Non-Licensed Special Education Staff. Cheryl Hall, Director of Special Services, requested to hire one child specific Special Educational Assistant/Personal Care Assistant (EA/PCA) 6.75 hours per day due to new students entering the district with significant needs for safety and intensive services as required in the Individual Education Program (IEP) plan. The total projected cost of salary and benefits is \$31,000 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$22,606.00.

On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board approved to move this to an item for individual action. Motion carried.

- c. Superintendent Operations and COVID-19 Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update about district operations and COVID-19 preparations. The Rice County data indicates a decline in the number of weekly COVID-19 cases. Current COVID-19 cases in the district are 23 and total cases since August 31 is 70. The district will begin a drive-up rapid, molecular COVID testing program using the CUE test. Our initial testing will focus on symptomatic students. The BinaxNow tests are on backorder and we will begin our test-to-stay program when tests arrive and this program can be implemented.

We are finalizing the e-Learning plans for this school year. We intend to begin e-Learning days with the second weather related school day closure. The board is asked to approve this change as an item for individual action at this meeting. To address the traffic congestion at Bridgewater Elementary School the traffic flow was reversed beginning today. We are cautiously optimistic that this will address concerns regarding increased traffic congestion. We are working with the city on solutions to the traffic congestion at Greenvale Park and NCEC. Immediately the city will implement the use of dynamic speed signs, and they are looking at additional solutions such as traffic delineators and pedestrian activated beacons to promote safe driving and crossings.

The Community Action Center has opened a food shelf at the NCEC for those experiencing food insecurity.

6. Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes

Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on October 11, 2021

b. Girls Alpine Skiing Cooperative Agreement with Goodhue Public Schools

Northfield High School Activities Director Joel Olson, with approval from the Minnesota State High School League, recommends the addition of Goodhue Public Schools to the Girls Alpine Skiing cooperatives for the 2021-2022 school year.

c. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Stephen Fox, Building Supervisor with Community Education, beginning 10/20/2021; \$17.41/hr.
2. Debra Gottfried, Health Aide EA PCA for up to 7 hours/day on student contact days at the District Office, beginning 10/25/2021-6/9/2022; Step 4-\$17.52/hr.
3. Isabela Hernandez-Perez, Special Education EA-PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Greenvale Park, beginning 10/25/2021; Step 1-\$16.17/hr.
4. Marcia Simon, Event Worker at the High School, beginning 11/1/2021.
5. Danette Reistad, .5 Assistant Dance Team Coach for 2 hours/day for 3 days/week at the High School, beginning 10/25/2021; Level 2 \$2,240
6. Katiana Trout, Child Nutrition Associate I for 3.75 hours/day at the Middle School, beginning 11/1/2021; \$19.28/hr.
7. Johanna Villa, Assistant Dance Team Coach for 2 hours/day for 3 days/week at the High School, beginning 10/25/2021; Level 2 \$4,480, Step 5
8. John Watkins, Site Supervisor/Scheduler with Community Education Recreation, beginning 10/20/2021-5/31/2021; \$14.39/hr.
9. Margaret Witt, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at Spring Creek, beginning 11/30/2021-12/22/2021; MA, Step 10.
10. Jocelyn Giefer, Assistant Dance Team Coach for 2 hours/day at the High School, beginning 10/26/2021; Level 2 \$4,480
11. Winston Vermilyea, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Spring Creek, beginning 10/27/2021; Step 1-\$16.17/hr.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Kristin Basinger, Special Ed EA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for an additional .50 hours/day with the District, effective 9/21/2021-6/10/2022.
2. Adriana Bermudez, ECFE EA for 14 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE EA for 16.25 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 10/18/2021.
3. Allyson Bernstorff, Nurse Aide and Instructional/Supervisory EA at Spring Creek, change to Nurse Aide and Instructional/Supervisory EA for 5 hours/day and Administrative Assistant class II for 2 hours/day at Spring Creek, effective 10/18/2021-6/9/2022; Class II Office Step 2-\$19.95/hr.
4. Natalie Deane, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 8 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at Bridgewater, effective 11/1/2021-4/29/2022; Yr. 5-\$27.73/hr.
5. Ryan Driscoll, Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Building Supervisor with Community Education, effective 10/15/2021. \$17.41/hr.
6. DeEtte Harris, Administrative Assistant at Spring Creek, change to Administrative Assistant for 6 hours/day and Instructional EA for 2 hours/day at Spring Creek, effective 10/18/2021-6/9/2022; Gen Ed EA Step 4-\$16.92/hr.

7. Leslie Hayden Jr. Middle School Football Coach, add Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day and Gen Ed EA Crossing Guard for .25 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 10/25/2021- 6/9/2022; Gen Ed Step 4-\$16.92/hr. Special Ed Step 4-\$17.52/hr.
 8. Isabela Hernandez-Perez, Special Ed EA PCA at Greenvale Park, add .50 hours/day Supervision at Greenvale Park, effective 10/26/2021; Gen Ed Step 1-\$15.57/hr.
 9. Jenni Roney, Enrichment Coordinator for 20 hours/week with Community Education, change to Enrichment Coordinator for 30 hours/week with Community Education, effective 10/18/2021.
 10. Bailey Shimota, Special Ed EA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA PCA Extra-curricular/non-academic activities with the District, effective 10/1/2021-6/10/2022.
 11. Dee Tomczik, Gen Ed EA for 3 hours/day and Health Aide for 4 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Gen Ed EA for 4.50 hours/day and Health Aide for 2.50 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 9/9/2021.
 12. Mark Johnson, Grounds Worker with the District, add Event worker at the High School, effective 10/25/2021.
 13. Ruth Morgan-Malecha, Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for .92 hours/day with the District, change to Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for 1.05 hours/day with the District, effective 10/29/2021-6/10/2022.
 14. Debra Pack, Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for 1.67 hours/day with the District, change to Special Ed EA PCA BUS EA for 1.54 hours/day with the District, effective 10/29/2021-6/10/2022.
 15. Rebekah Patterson, .55 FTE Reading Intervention Teacher at Bridgewater, change to .80 FTE Reading Intervention Teacher at Bridgewater, Effective 10/25/2021-6/9/2022.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Katie Bauer, Administrative Assistant at the ALC, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 1/3/2022-3/25/2022.
 2. Tom Dickerson, Teacher at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on 11/24/2021-1/3/2022.
 3. Cece Green, CN Manager II at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on 11/24/2021-12/31/2021.
 4. Rich Kleeberger, Custodian at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on 10/5/2021 and continuing on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Jennifer Eggum, Child Nutrition at the Middle School, termination effective 10/13/2021.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Pay Equity Implementation Report. On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Butler, the board approved the submission of the Pay Equity Implementation Report.
- b. Adjustment of e-Learning Day Starting Point. On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved the adjustment of e-Learning day starting point from the third full-day closure to the second full-day closure.
- c. Request to Hire an Additional Non-Licensed Special Education Staff. On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved to hire one child specific Special Educational Assistant/Personal Care Assistant (EA/PCA) for 6.75 hours per day at a total projected cost of salary and benefits of \$31,000.00 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$22,606.00.

8. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Options and History Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the enrollment options and history report with the board.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, November 8, 2021, 6:15 p.m., World's Best Workforce Presentation, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, November 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Thursday, November 18, 2021, 5:00 p.m., Board Work Session, DO Conference Room 105
- d. Monday, November 22, 2021, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the board adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk