# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
# School Board Minutes

October 26, 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: Epstein, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, and Quinnell. Absent: Butler. 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 Nelson, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment
   There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions
   - Congratulations to Maia Richardson for advancing to the individual state tennis tournament, and to the Raiders Girls Tennis team, who will compete in the state team tournament on Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. against Rock Ridge. Maia will compete in singles play in the individual tournament on Thursday. Maia is the first Raider girls singles player in over 20 years to make it to the state tournament as an individual.
   - Superintendent Anderson provided activities highlights from the past week: The Raider Volleyball team are Big 9 champions for the fifth year in a row, after defeating Owatonna 3-0 last Tuesday, October 20. They will host the section quarterfinals against Faribault/Shattuck-St. Mary on Wednesday. The No. 1 ranked girls cross country team finished first at the Big 9 Conference meet on Tuesday, and the boys cross country team finished sixth. They will both compete in the section meet in Faribault on Thursday. The football team defeated Two Rivers 29-7 on Wednesday and will host the section semifinal on Saturday, October 31. The girls soccer team lost to Byron on Tuesday in the section finals, completing their season. The girls swim and dive team defeated Owatonna 93-88, and will compete in the Big 9 Conference swim and dive meet this weekend. They will host on Friday evening, and compete in Rochester on Saturday.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

   a. Activities Department Improvement Showcase. Activities Director John Mahal provided the board with an overview of the activities department successes and highlights in 2025-2026 and the focus areas for the 2026-2027 school year.

   b. District Youth Council (DYC) Update. DYC Co-Chair Mae Bowers updated the board about the DYC's plans for the 2026-2027 school year.

6. Consent Agenda
   On a motion by Epstein, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

   a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on October 13, 2026.

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

   c. Overnight Field Trip Request. Northfield High School Alpine Ski Coach Bill Sonnega requested board approval to take approximately 22 athletes to the Trollhaugen Ski Area in Dresser, WI December 18-19, 2026 for an early season alpine ski training camp.

   d. Personnel Items.
      i. Appointments
         1. Kristy Dueffert, Special Ed EA/PCA at Spring Creek beginning 10/26/2026, Step 1, $22.30/hr.
         2. Maria Espina, Custodian at Greenvale Park, beginning 10/13/2026, Step 3, $23.33/hr.

3. Kerry Duban, Child Nutrition Associate I at Spring Creek, beginning 10/19/2026, CNA 1, $23.52/hr.
4. Betsy Peterson, Long-Term Substitute Grade 5 at Greenvale Park, beginning 11/16/2026-12/22/2026, MA40 Step 10.
5. Ruby Turna, Substitute Child Nutrition at all schools, beginning 10/21/2026, CNA Sub rate $11.41/hr.
6. Brandon Blaisdell, Human Resources Generalist Long Term Substitute at District Office, beginning 10/8/2026, Clerical IV Step 4.
7. Cooper Magnuson, Event Worker at High School, beginning 11/9/2026, $45/77 events.
8. Jaimie Moreno, Long-Term Substitute Special Ed Educational Assistant-PCA at Greenvale Park, 6.75 hrs/day, beginning 11/17/2026-12/22/2026, EA Sub Step 1.
9. Samantha Heyda, Special Ed Educational Assistant-PCA at Middle School, 6.75 hrs/day, beginning 10/26/2026, SPED EA/PCA Step 4.
10. Updated: Susanne Schroll, Community School Site Leader for up to 30 hrs/week at Bridgewater beginning 10/26/2026. Step 2, $26.22/hr.
11. Joseph Cina, Assistant Nordic Ski Coach at the High School, beginning 11/9/2026, stipend $4,614.
12. Caitlyn Laite, Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, beginning 10/26/2026, stipend $2,595.50.
13. Grant Hemmingsen, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at the High School, beginning 11/23/2026, stipend $5,768.
14. Jonathan Anderson, .5 FTE Assistant Track Coach/Pole Vault at the High School, beginning 3/15/2027, stipend $2,884.
15. Corrected: Maria Espina Custodian at Bridgewater, beginning 10/13/2026.
16. Corrected: Ruby Turna, Substitute Child Nutrition at all schools, beginning 10/21/2026, CNA Sub rate $23.52/hr.

ii. <u>Increase/Decrease/Changes in Assignment</u>

1. Debbie Foley, Retired Early Ventures Assistant Teacher, add Early Ventures Teacher Substitute at NCEC, On-call as needed, effective 10/19/2026.
2. Claire Koenig, Teacher at High School. Add Event Worker at High School, effective 10/26/2026, $45/77 event(s).
3. Tami Wunderlich, Custodian at Bridgewater, change to Greenvale Park, M-F 3-11p, effective 10/26/2026.
4. Kim Norton. EA at Middle School, M-F 7:35a-2:50p, change to EA at NCEC. M-F 8:45a-4:00p (Wed 9:45a-4:00p), effective 10/19/2026.
5. Andrea Stowe, Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten at Greenvale Park change to Long-Term Substitute Grade 1 at Greenvale Park, effective 1/27/2027-6/11/2027.
6. Ana Guerrero, Community School Club Leader at Spring Creek, change to Community School LTS - Site Lead at Greenvale Park, up to 20 hrs/week, effective 11/1/2026.
7. Brekken Modory, Teacher at the High School, add Event Worker at the High School,$45/77 event(s), effective 10/26/2026.
8. Emileana Graupmann, Teacher at the High School, add Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, stipend $5,768, effective 11/16/2026.
9. Kyle Korynta, Co-Head Boys Track and Field Coach, change to Head Boys Track and Field Coach, stipend $8,075, effective 10/26/2026.
10. Faith Torgeson, Substitute EA, change to EA at Middle School. Effective 10/19/2026.
11. Josh Paulson, EA at the Middle School, 6.75 hrs/day change to 4hrs/day, effective 10/29/2026.
12. Corrected: Kim Norton. EA at Middle School, 6.75 FTE, change to EA at NCEC, 6.75 FTE, effective 10/19/2026.
13. Corrected: Andrea Stowe, Long-Term Substitute Kindergarten at Greenvale Park change to Long-Term Substitute Grade 1 at Greenvale Park, effective 2/5/2027-6/11/2027.

iii. <u>Leaves of Absence</u>

1. Kelly Erickson, Custodian at Bridgewater, continuing leave 11/2/2026-12/4/2026.
2. Brittany Braucher, Child Nutrition Associate I, intermittent FMLA beginning 9/18/2026 on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
3. Doug Davis, PE Teacher at the High School, FMLA beginning 10/12/2026 - 10/23/2026.
4. Michelle Lepper, Companeros Teacher at Bridgewater, leave of absence beginning 10/5/2026 - 12/27/2026.
5. Erik Swenson, Grade 2 Companeros Teacher at Bridgewater, FMLA beginning 10/19/2026 - 10/26/2026.
6. Tamara Wunderlich, Custodian at Greenvale Park, FMLA beginning 10/8/2026 - 10/23/2026.

iv. <u>Retirements/Resignations/Terminations</u>

1. Joshua Bisel, .5 FTE Assistant Nordic Ski Coach at High School, resignation effective 10/20/2026.
2. Natalia Trevino-Avila, Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at High School, resignation effective 10/14/2026.
3. Alix Nath, Assistant Speech Coach, High School, resignation effective 10/22/2026.

7. Items for Individual Action

a. <u>Total Special Education System (TSES) Plan</u>. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the district's revision of its Total Special Education System (TSES) plan, which was

presented by Director of Special Services Caleb Davidson at the October 13 board meeting. The TSES plan outlines how Northfield Public Schools identifies, evaluates, and serves students with disabilities.

b. Policy Committee Recommendations. On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the policy committee's recommended updates to policies 602, 603, 605, 607, 608, 609, 613, and 709.

8. Items for Information

a. Construction Update No. 34. Superintendent Anderson provided an update on the NHS construction project.

b. Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Presentation and Public Hearing. Instructional Services Director Jenn Reichel will summarize the 2026-2027 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Plan at a public hearing scheduled for 5:15 p.m. on Monday, November 9. This public hearing will precede the regular school board meeting.

9. Future Meetings

a. Monday, November 2, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Board Work Session, MSBA New Superintendent Workshop, Northfield DO Boardroom
b. Monday, November 9, 2026, 5:15 p.m., Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Presentation and Public Hearing, Northfield DO Boardroom
c. Monday, November 9, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
d. Monday, November 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Epstein, the board approved to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:53 p.m.

11. Work Session: Proposed School Start Times

Maggie Epstein
School Board Clerk