NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

November 9, 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 6:03 p.m. Present: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, and Quinnell. Absent: None. 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 Quinnell, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment
   There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions
   - The Raider Girls Cross Country team took first place at the state meet on Saturday, and we couldn't be prouder of our student-athletes and coaches. Congratulations on a remarkable season.
   - Congratulations to the Raider Football team for qualifying for the state tournament. They defeated Rochester Century on Friday, 38-0, and will compete on Saturday, November 14 at 1:00 p.m. at Woodbury High School against Cretin-Derham Hall.
   - Superintendent Anderson provided an activities update from the past week: The Raider Girls Volleyball team lost to Stewartville, 3-0, in the section finals, completing their season. The Girls Swim and Dive team will compete in the section swim preliminaries on Wednesday, the section diving competition on Thursday, and the section swim finals on Friday. The Raider Girls Hockey team begins their season this Friday, hosting Mound-Westonka at the new Hasse Ryt-Way Arena.
   - The Northfield High School Theater Department will be performing their fall musical, "Mean Girls," November 13-15 and November 20-22. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday shows begin at 2:00 p.m. at the NHS Auditorium.
   - Greenvale Park Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Tiffany Kortbein has been recognized by Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom as their November 2026 Featured Teacher.
   - Northfield Middle School will host their annual Veteran's Day program on Tuesday, November 10 in the NMS Auditorium. Families of performers, community members, and area veterans are invited to attend. Seating will begin at 2:00 p.m., with the program beginning at 2:10 p.m. This year's program will also be streamed on NorthfieldLive. All other buildings also have plans to commemorate Veteran's Day.
   - American Education Week is November 16-20, 2026. American Education Week presents all Americans with an opportunity to celebrate public education and honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. Northfield Public Schools recognizes and appreciates the team of people who work each day to prepare every student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society during this weeklong celebration of public education.
   - Thursday, November 12 is National Community Education Day. In honor of the day, here are some statistics about the Northfield Community Education department from this past year (July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026): 160,056 hours of facility usage was scheduled through community education; the number of individuals who participated in a community education program increased by 9%; 42,796 pounds of food was distributed by the foodshelf located in the Northfield Community Education Center (NCEC); and community education programs take place in every school district building and throughout the Northfield community.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

   a. Summary of Public Hearing Regarding the 2025-26 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness and Achievement and Integration Results. Director of Instructional Services Jenn Reichel summarized the 2025-26 Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) and Achievement and Integration results,

and any community feedback received at the public hearing that preceded the regular school board meeting.

b. Policy Committee Recommendations. Superintendent Anderson presented the policy committee's recommended updates to policies 610, 610.1, 611, 612, 614, and 722. This will be an item for individual action at the November 23 board meeting.

c. Review of Proposed Start Times Work Session. Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George provided a recap of the board's October 26, 2026 work session on the topic of proposed school start times.

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

a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on October 26, 2026.

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

c. Overnight Field Trip Request. Northfield Girls Hockey Head Coach Jeff LaPanta requested board approval to take 29 students to St. Cloud, MN December 18-19, 2026 to compete against the St. Cloud Crush.

d. Northfield Swim Club Agreement. The school board was requested to approve the enclosed agreement with the Northfield Swim Club. This agreement is for the time period November 22, 2026 - November 21, 2027. Updates to the agreement include changes to dates and fees for custodial services. Both the final agreement and a copy of the agreement outlining this year's changes were included in the board packet.

e. Personnel Items.
   i. Appointments
      1. Kimberly Seaberg, Special Ed EA/PCA at the High School, beginning 11/4/2026, Step 2, $22.75/hr.
      2. Amy Allin, Community School Licensed Teacher at All Schools, 2hrs/day M-TH beginning 11/2/2026-5/13/2027, $40/hr.
      3. John McDonough, Assistant Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, 2 hours/day, beginning 11/16/2026, stipend $3,009.
      4. Claire Berhow, Special Ed EA/PCA at Bridgewater, 6.75 FTE, beginning 11/2/2026, EA Step 4, $23.98/hr.
      5. Nicholas Gerhardt, Recreation and Aquatics Assistant at the NCEC, 4 hrs/week, beginning 11/8/2026, $16.70/hr.
      6. Sarah Arvan, Substitute Building Nurse, District Wide, beginning 11/9/2026, ADN/RN Step 1, $38.53/hr.
      7. Niki Anderson, Softball/Basketball Official for Community Education/Recreation, beginning 11/1/2026-5/31/2027, $32/game.
      8. Reed Hagberg, Softball/Basketball Official for Community Education/Recreation, beginning 11/1/2026-5/31/2027, $32/game.
      9. Ann Jerdee, ABE Teacher - Conversation Class at the NCEC, 3 hours/week, beginning 10/30/2026, MA40 - Step 10.
      10. Rhea Mehrkens, Special Ed EA/PCA at the NCEC, 2.75 hrs/week, beginning 11/11/2026, EA Step 4, $23.98/hr.
      11. Luz Elena Santos Ruiz, Community School Site Assistant, Community School and Greenvale Park, up to 10 hours/week, beginning 11/9/2026-5/13/2027, $16.95/hr.
      12. Susana Chonay, Custodian at the High School, beginning 11/9/2026, Step 4, $23.84/hr.
      13. Zoe Frank, Special Ed Educational Assistant-PCA at Bridgewater and Spring Creek, 6.75 FTE, beginning 11/16/2026, Step 1, $22.30/hr.
      14. Mario Mjelleli, Assistant Girls Hockey Coach at the High School, beginning 11/10/2026, stipend $1,200.
      15. Osiris Perez, Community School Site Assistant, District Wide, up to 12 hours/week, beginning 12/1/2026, Step 1, $19.27/hr.
      16. Shaisly Ortega, Community School Site Assistant, District Wide, up to 12 hours/week, beginning 11/16/2026, Step 1, $19.27/hr.
   ii. Increase/Decrease/Changes in Assignment
      1. Updated: Emileana Graupmann, Teacher at the High School, Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, stipend $5,768, change to stipend $6,118, effective 11/16/2026.
      2. Updated: Susanne Schroll, Community School Site Leader for up to 30 hrs/week at Bridgewater beginning 9/3/2026, Step 2, $26.22/hr.
      3. Mary Czech, Retired Payroll Lead, add Payroll Lead, District Office, up to 40 hours, 10/1/2026-6/30/2027, Step 1 $37.06/hr.

4. Marcy Korynta, School Psychologist at the Middle School, add Fitness Center Coach at the Middle School, add quarter 4, 1.5 hours/day, beginning 11/9/2026, total stipend increase to $4,153.20
5. Erica Trebelhorn, Art Teacher at the Middle School, add Fitness Center Coach at the Middle School, 1.5 hours/day, stipend $2,768.80.

iii. Leave of Absences
1. N/A

iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Brenda Lau Toilolo, Child Nutrition Associate at the High School, retirement effective 11/9/2026.
2. Janet Amundson, Special Ed EA/PCA at the Middle School, Termination effective 10/30/2026.
3. Fabiola Valbuena, Custodian at the High School, resignation effective 10/19/2026.
4. Elisabeth Hurlbert, Girls Tennis Co-Head Coach, High School, resignation effective 11/3/2026.

7. Items for Individual Action

a. Resolution Canvassing the Results of the November 3, 2026 School Board Election. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Epstein, the board adopted by roll call vote the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of the School District's General Election, held on November 3, 2026.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 659, as follows:
It is hereby found, determined and declared that the general election of the voters of the district held on November 3, 2026, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

As specified in the Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, voters of the school district voted at said election on the election of three school board members for four-year term vacancies on the board caused by expiration of term on the first Monday in January next following the general election as follows:

Ben Miller	8,866 of votes
Jeff Quinnell	8,598 of votes
Alyssa Melby	3,342 of votes

Ben Miller, Jeff Quinnell, and Alyssa Melby, having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four-year terms beginning the first Monday in January, 2027.

The school district clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part.

Voting "yes" were: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. No one voted "no."

b. Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election and Directing School District Clerk to Perform Other Election Duties. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Epstein, the school board adopted by roll call vote the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election and Directing the School District Clerk to Perform Other Election Related Duties.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.10 provides, "After the time for contesting elections has passed, the school district clerk shall issue a certificate of election to each successful candidate. If there is a contest, the certificate of election to that office must not be issued until the outcome of the contest has been determined by the proper court. If there is a tie vote, the school board shall determine the result by lot. The clerk shall deliver the certificate of election to the successful candidate by personal service or certified mail. The successful candidate shall file an acceptance and oath of office in writing with the clerk within 30 days of the date of mailing or personal service," and

WHEREAS, the school board of Independent School District No. 659, Northfield Public Schools, has canvassed the general election for school board members held on November 3, 2026.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the school board of Independent School District No. 659 as follows:

The chair and clerk are hereby authorized to execute certificates of election on behalf of the school board of Independent School District No. 659 for the following candidates:

Ben Miller, Jeff Quinnell, and Alyssa Melby

who have received a sufficient number of votes to be elected to fill vacancies on the school board caused by expiration of term on the first Monday in January next following the election, based on the results of the canvass.

The certificate of election shall be in substantially the form attached hereto.

After the time for contesting the election has passed and the candidate has filed all campaign financial reports required by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 211A, the clerk of the school board is hereby directed to deliver the certificates to the persons entitled thereto personally or by certified mail.

The clerk is hereby directed to enclose with the certificate a form of acceptance of office and oath of office in substantially the form attached hereto.

Voting "yes" were: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. No one voted "no."

8. Items for Information

    a. Enrollment Options and History Report. Student Information Systems Specialist Christine Neset and Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf have provided the 2026-27 Enrollment Options and History Report. Director Mertesdorf reviewed this report with the board.

    b. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Anderson reviewed the November 2026 enrollment report.

    c. Construction Update No. 35. Superintendent Anderson provided an update on the NHS construction project.

9. Future Meetings

    a. Monday, November 23, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
    b. Monday, December 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
    c. Monday, January 11, 2027, 6:00 p.m., Organizational Board Meeting followed by the 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 6:57 p.m.



Maggie Epstein
School Board Clerk