

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

November 12, 2024  
District Office Boardroom

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, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Hardy and Quinnell. Absent: Miller and Nelson. 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 unanimously approved the agenda.
3. Public Comment  
There were no public comments.
4. Announcements and Recognitions
  - Kari Gorr, Minnesota Community Education Association Board Member for Region 5, presented the 2024 Most Supportive Administrator of the Year Award to Superintendent Dr. Matt Hillmann. This distinguished award recognizes administrators who champion community education programs and demonstrate exceptional support for community-driven educational initiatives.
  - Ms. Gorr presented a Minnesota Community Education Association Project Award for The Grove (the indoor place space at the NCEC). ECFE Teacher Libby Stanton, Hand in Hand Special Education Teacher Kyle Roth, and Director of Community Education Erin Bailey were present to accept the award. The MCEA Project Awards highlight the innovative and impactful initiatives undertaken by dedicated community educators. These projects serve as examples of excellence and inspire others to continue pushing the boundaries of what can be achieved through community education.
  - The Minnesota School Board Association has released its MSBA Honor Roll for the 2025 Leadership Conference scheduled in January 2025:
    - Congratulations to Claudia Gonzalez-George and Amy Goerwitz, who will receive Directors' Awards. This award is presented to members who have attained 100 or more points of attendance at MSBA training programs within the past four years of their term(s).
    - Congratulations to Amy Goerwitz, Ben Miller, and Jenny Nelson who will receive Leadership Development Certificates for completing the Phase I, Phase II, Phase III and Phase IV workshops.
    - MSBA will recognize Claudia Gonzalez-George with the Rising Star Award for her involvement with the school board, the district, and the community during her first term as a school board member.
  - The Sesquicentennial Minute: The superintendent highlighted an excerpt from Bruce Colwell's "City of Schools" book about the history of the school district.
5. Items for Discussion and Reports
  - a. School Resource Officer Agreement. Superintendent Hillmann presented the school resource officer contract with the City of Northfield for the 2025-2027 calendar years. This will be an item in the consent agenda at the next board meeting.
  - b. Policy Committee Recommendations. Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommended updates to policies 521, 524.2, 532, 535, 608, 614 and 708. This will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.
  - c. Bond Referendum Wrap Up and Next Steps. Superintendent Hillmann shared an overview of the bond referendum election and the next steps associated with the projects. The district will establish a project oversight committee, followed by a core planning team, and later in the school year, user groups.

Board member Nelson arrived at 6:36 p.m.

6. Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes

Minutes of the World's Best Workforce public hearing held on October 28, 2024

Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on October 28, 2024.

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

c. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Joseph Oliver, Targeted Services Club Leader for up to 2 hours/day M-Th at the Middle School, beginning 11/11/2024-5/15/2025. \$25.53/hr.
2. Danielle Reynoso, Building Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, beginning 11/3/2024. \$19.32/hr.
3. Tony Rezac, .40 Head Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, beginning 11/15/2024. \$1,330.40 stipend.
4. Kyle Schmidt, Hand in Hand General Ed EA for 25 hours/week at the NCEC, beginning 11/7/2024. Step 4-\$18.05/hr. - subject to change upon settlement of 2024-26 agreement.
5. Kelly Spillman-Kramer, 1.0 FTE Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and School Board at the District Office, beginning 11/14/2024. \$86,511 Step 1 - prorated for days worked in 2024-2025.
6. Northfield Community Education Winter/Spring 2025 Brochure Instructors.
7. Odin Bowen, Instructor Assistant with Community Education Recreation, beginning 11/10/2024 - 5/31/2025. Step 1-\$14.50/hr.
8. Seth Buckmeier, Instructor Assistant with Community Education Recreation, beginning 11/17/2024 - 5/31/2025. Step 2-\$14.76/hr.
9. Jeffrey Eckhoff, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute Science Teacher at the High School, beginning 11/25/2024 - 1/22/2025. Sub rate
10. Anna Edwards, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at Spring Creek, beginning 11/13/2024 - 6/6/2025. Step 4-\$18.05/hr. + prorated sped stipend, subject to change upon settlement of 24-26 agreement.
11. Jamie Stanley, Special Ed EA PCA for 7 hours/day at the High School, beginning 11/18/2024. Step 1-\$16.66/hr. + prorated sped stipend, subject to change upon settlement of 24-26 agreement.
12. Veronica Thomas, Long Term Substitute Special Ed EA PCA for 31.5 hours/week at the NCEC, beginning 11/14/2024 - 2/14/2025. Step 4-\$18.05/hr. + prorated sped stipend, subject to change upon settlement of 24-26 agreement.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Jennifer Bowens, Special Ed EA for 6.5 hours/day and Supervisory for .50 hours/day at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Special Ed Teacher at Spring Creek, effective 12/1/2024-6/6/2024. MA+40, Step 7
2. Thomas Dickerson, Assistant Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, change to .50 Head Wrestling Coach and .50 Assistant Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, effective 11/15/2024. \$3,049 stipend.
3. Kelly Erickson, Building Custodian at Spring Creek, add Substitute Child Nutrition with the District, effective 10/31/2024.
4. Alexa Hotz Zenk, FACS Teacher at the High School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 2 hours/day M-TH at the Middle School, effective 10/28/2024-5/15/2025. \$40/hr.
5. Mackenzie Ludwig, Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, add Building Mentor at the NCEC, effective 9/6/2024-6/6/2025. \$1,000 stipend.
6. Betsy McLaughlin, Building Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, add Instructor Lead with Community Education Recreation, effective 11/6/2024-5/31/2025. Step 6-\$16.84/hr.
7. Jacob Odell, Work Based Learning Teacher at the High School, add a ½ overload in lieu of prep for 132 student days at the High School, effective 11/5/2024-6/6/2025.
8. Christine Peterson, Special Education Teacher at the High School, add a ½ overload in lieu of prep for 132 student days at the High School, effective 11/5/2024-6/6/2025.
9. Danielle Reynoso, Building Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, add Site Supervisor with Community Education Recreation, effective 11/6/2024-5/31/2025. Step 4-\$17.35/hr.
10. Tony Rezac, .40 Head Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, add .40 Assistant Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, effective 11/15/2024. \$1,108.80 Stipend.
11. Rebecca Stoufis, Special Education Teacher at the High School, add a ½ overload in lieu of prep for 132 student days at the High School, effective 11/5/2024-6/6/2025.
12. Zehou Zhao, Instructor Lead with Community Education Recreation, add Softball/Basketball Official with Community Education Recreation, effective 11/10/2024-5/31/2025. \$30/game.

13. Tracy Closson, District Grounds Coordinator, add .50 Ski Club Chaperone and Summit Ski Instructor with Community Education Recreation, effective 1/6/2025 - 5/31/2025. Ski Club .50 - \$250 stipend, Ski Instructor \$100/participant.
  14. McKenzie Foley, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Private Lessons with Community Ed Recreation, effective 11/1/2024 - 5/31/2025. Group up to 5 per group \$36/individual/hour. \$45/individual/hour.
  15. Lilliana Quiroga, Special Ed EA PCA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA Extracurricular and Nonacademic Support as needed at the Middle School, effective 11/8/2024 - 6/6/2025.
  16. Lindsay Svien, Special Ed EA for 10 hours/week and Gen Ed EA for 5 hours/week at Greenvale Park, change to Special Ed EA for 7 hours/week and Gen Ed EA for 5 hours/week at Greenvale Park, effective 11/11/2024.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Sheryl Docken, Administrative Assistant at the High School, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 12/5/2024-12/13/2024 full time and part time leave from 12/16/2024 through 12/19/2024.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Richelle Audiss, Child Nutrition Associate at the Middle School, resignation effective 8/7/2024. Will continue as a substitute.
- d. Financial Report. Director of Finance Mertesdorf requests the board approve paid bills totaling \$2,551,737.80, payroll checks totaling \$3,485,799.17, a wire transfer totaling \$600,000 from Frandsen General to Frandsen Sweep, a wire transfer totaling \$450,000.00 from Frandsen Sweep to Frandsen General, and the financial reports for August 2024. At the end of August 2024 total cash and investments amounted to \$26,037,364.43.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Resolution Canvassing the Results of the November 5, 2024 School Board Election. On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved by roll call the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of the November 5, 2024 School District's General Election.

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 5, 2024, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of (the school district election officer will input the total votes cast when received from the county) voters of the 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:

Corey Butler	8,589 of votes
Claudia Gonzalez-George	8,462 of votes
Maggie Epstein	8,106 of votes
Amy Goerwitz	7,529 of votes

Corey Butler, Claudia Gonzalez-George, Maggie Epstein, and Amy Goerwitz, having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four-year terms beginning the first Monday in January, 2025.

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' by roll call was Butler, Goerwitz, Hardy, Nelson, Quinnell and Gonzalez-George. No one voted 'no'. Absent: Miller.

- b. Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election and Directing School District Clerk to Perform Other Election Duties. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Nelson, the board unanimously authorized by roll call, the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Certificates of Election and Directing School District Clerk to Perform Other Election Duties.

WHEREAS, the board has canvassed the general election for school board members held on November 12, 2024,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 659, State of Minnesota, 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 to the following candidates: Corey Butler, Claudia Gonzalez-George, Maggie Epstein, and Amy Goerwitz who have received a sufficiently large number of votes to be elected to fill vacancies on the 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' by roll call was Butler, Goerwitz, Hardy, Nelson, Quinnell and Gonzalez-George. No one voted 'no'. Absent: Miller.

- c. Resolution Relating to Canvassing Returns of the November 5, 2024 Special Election. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously adopted the Resolution Relating to Canvassing Returns of the November 5, 2024 Special Election.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 (Northfield Public Schools), Minnesota that the special election held in and for the School District on November 5, 2024, was in all respects duly and legally called and held, the returns thereof have been duly canvassed, and the votes cast at the special election for and against the questions submitted to the electors were as follows:

On the question of shall the board of Independent School District No. 659 (Northfield Public Schools), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount to to exceed \$95,380,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, replacing a portion of the high school building with new construction, renovations, improvements, and upgrades to the high school building, facilities, site, and systems, and purchasing equipment and furnishings be approved (question 1) of which 10,067 voted in favor, 6,855 voted against the same. Said proposition, having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have carried.

On the question if School District Question 1 above is approved, shall the board of Independent School District No. 659 (Northfield Public Schools), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to excess \$18,725,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, the construction of an expanded gymnasium at the high school (question 2) of which 8,991 voted in favor, 7,767 voted against the same. Said proposition, having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have carried.

On the question if School District Question 1 and School District Question 2 above are approved, shall the board of Independent School District No. 659 (Northfield Public Schools), Minnesota be authorized to issue general obligation school building bonds in an amount not to exceed \$6,975,000 for acquisition and betterment of school sites and facilities including, but not limited to, the construction and installation of a geothermal heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system at the high school (question 3) of which 9,445 voted in favor, 7,290 voted against the same. Said proposition, having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have carried.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.07, Subdivision 3a, the Clerk is hereby instructed to notify the Commissioner of Education of the results of the special election and to provide the certified vote totals for each ballot question in written form within 15 days after the results have been certified by the Board.

Upon vote being taken thereon, the following voted in favor thereof: Butler, Goerwitz, Hardy, Nelson, Quinnell and Gonzalez-George  
and the following voted against the same: None  
whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted and was signed by the Chairperson and attested by the Clerk.

8. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Options and History Report. Student Information Systems Specialist Christine Neset and Director Mertesdorf provided the 2024-25 Enrollment Options and History Report. Director Mertesdorf reviewed this report with the board.
- b. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the November 2024 enrollment report.
- c. American Education Week. American Education Week is November 18-22, 2024. 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.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, November 25, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, December 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, January 13, 2025, 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 Hardy, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 6:52 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz  
School Board Clerk