

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

November 25, 2019

Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order
Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Goerwitz, Hardy, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Baraniak, Iverson and Pritchard.
- II. Approval of Agenda/Table File
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the Board approved the Agenda.
- III. Public Comment
 - Public comment was given by Kristin Nesselth, 5765 1115th Street East, regarding later school start time for secondary students.
 - Public comment was given by Shelly Cole, 3301 Culver Trail, Faribault, regarding later school start time for secondary students.
- IV. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Dr. Hillmann shared a copy of *The Periscope*, a Northfield High School magazine published by Art Teacher Terry Rydberg and her students.
- V. Items for Discussion and Reports
 - A. FY2019 Audit Results and Presentation
Craig Popenhagen, Principal with CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP, presented the results of the 2018-19 fiscal year audit. His comments focused on the executive audit summary. The auditors issued a clean opinion on financial statements with no comments, and issued what is known as a “clean” audit report. Val Mertesdorf, Director of Finance, provided comments on the projected versus audited general fund budget results. The Board of Education commended Director Mertesdorf and the finance office staff for their excellent work.
 - B. Bridgewater Elementary School Update
Principal Nancy Antoine provided an update about progress towards School Improvement Plan goals, and shared activities, accomplishments and challenges occurring at Bridgewater Elementary School. Ms. Antoine reported enrichment groups and the second year of CCC are going well, and they are looking forward to moving into their new secure office space this weekend, and the new special education suite scheduled for completion over winter break . Concerns include children’s mental health and how it affects learning, and Everyday Math curriculum versus a mastery curriculum. Bridgewater has approximately 600 students; these large numbers tax building space and the staff.
 - C. Later School Start Time Update
Dr. Hillmann provided an update on the later school start time planning process and feedback. He provided a summary of the feedback sessions held at Bridgewater, Greenvale Park, Sibley, Northfield Middle School and Northfield High School. Additionally, feedback was solicited from the District Youth Council and from parents at two public sessions held last week. He also reviewed busing information received from Benjamin Bus. A feedback session is scheduled at the ALC and an online feedback form is available to parents and will remain open through December 6. The Board has scheduled a work session on Monday, December 16 to further discuss this issue and the concept plan. Joel Olson, Director of Activities, and representatives from Benjamin Bus will participate in the work session.
 - D. Policy Committee Recommendations

Dr. Hillmann presented the Policy Committee's recommendations on policies 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 and 310. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

E. Start Time for School Board Meetings

The Board continued discussion about the potential of starting regular school board meetings earlier than the existing 7:00 p.m. start time. After consideration the Board concluded the start time for school board meetings should remain at 7:00 p.m.

VI. Committee Reports

Julie Pritchard provided a recap of the November 2019 Schools for Equity in Education general membership meeting. Julie Pritchard provided a recap of the November 2019 Northfield Forward meeting.

VII. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda items:

A. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on November 12, 2019.

B. Gift Agreement

- \$1,000 Give To The Max donation to Sibley Elementary from The Rodgers Family Foundation
- \$2,000 to offset costs of free/reduced, sports/activity fees from The Rodgers Family Foundation
- Two audio systems with flex microphones valued at \$1,370.00/each from Lightspeed Technologies
- \$1,000.00 Give to the Max donation to ALC from The Rodgers Family Foundation

C. Personnel Items

a) Appointments

1. Josephine Beacom, KidVentures Student Site Assistant for up to 17 hours/week at Greenvale Park, beginning 11/25/2019; \$9.86/hr.
2. Abby Hedquist, Special Ed EA PCA for 5.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 12/2/2019-6/8/2020; Step 4-\$17.10/hr.
3. Anna Hershberger, Long Term Substitute General Ed EA Media for 5.5 hours/day at Greenvale Park, beginning 12/2/2019-12/20/2019; Step 1-\$15.34/hr.
4. Nicole Rasmussen, Supervisory EA Cafeteria for 2 hours/day Bridgewater, beginning 11/19/2019-6/5/2020; Step 1-\$15.34/hr.
5. William Seeberg, Special Education Teacher Homebound Instruction for up to 10 hours/week with the District, beginning 11/22/2019-6/5/2020; BA+60, Step 15.

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Correction: Holly Olmscheid, 1.0 FTE Mathematics Teacher at BA, Step 5 at the High School, change to BA+15, Step 5, effective 08/26/2019.
2. Charlie Alvarez, Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 1.25 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 12/2/2019-6/5/2020; Yr. 5-\$27.73/hr.
3. Julia Kallestad, KidVentures Student Site Assistant at Greenvale Park, change to KidVentures Substitute Student Site Assistant with Community Services, effective 11/18/2019.
4. Adam Karsko, 1.0 FTE Night Lead Custodian with Engineer License at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Head Custodian at Greenvale Park/New GVP, effective 12/16/2019. Step 1-Head Custodian.
5. Ellen Mucha, .5 Assistant Speech Coach at the High School, change to 1.0 Assistant Speech Coach at the High School, effective 11/18/2019.
6. Nives Bakic, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day and Bus duty for 1.75 hours/day at the Middle School, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School, effective 11/25/2019.
7. Jose Gonzalez Ramirez, General Recreation with Community Services, change to Program Supervisor with Community Services, effective 11/22/2019-5/31/2020; \$10.50/hr.
8. Erica Hubers, Special Ed EA PCA for 18 hours/week at Longfellow, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 7 hours/week at Longfellow, effective 11/22/2019-6/10/2020.

9. Adam Karsko, 1.0 FTE Night Lead/Engineer with License at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Head Custodian at Greenvale Park/New GVP, effective 12/16/2019; Step 3-Head Custodian.
 10. Lesly Martinez Reyes, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.5 hours/day, Supervisory for .50 hours/day, and Bus duty for .33 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA PCA for 6.5 hours/day and Supervisory for .50 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 11/19/2019.
 11. Arlene Tuma, ECFE/Sib Care for 13.5 hours/week at the NCRC, change to ECFE/Sib Care for 15.25 hours/week at the NCRC, effective 11/14/2019-12/5/2019.
- c) Leave of Absence
1. Update: Erica Hubers, Special Ed EA at Longfellow, Leave of Absence, effective 10/21/2019-12/2/2019.
 2. Kim Tousignant, Office Specialist at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 11/18/2019 on an intermittent basis for up to 60 workdays.
- d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Gloria Sterud, Educational Assistant at the Middle School, resignation effective 12/20/2019.
 2. Melanie Roy, School Psychologist at the High School, resignation effective 11/25/2019.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. FY2019 Audit.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board approved the 2018-19 audit report as presented.

2. Non-Substantive Policy Changes

On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the Board authorized the Superintendent's Office to update MSBA model policies used by the District for non-substantive changes without further Board approval.

IX. Items for Information

- A. Construction Update #17. Dr. Hillmann provided an update on the District's construction projects.
- B. Fundraiser Report. Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf reviewed the Fundraising Report as required by Policy 713 Student Activity Accounting.
- C. MSBA Board Member Recognition Luncheon, January 16, 2020. Board Clerk Noel Stratmoen will be honored for his 40 years of service on the Northfield School District Board of Education at the Minnesota School Boards Association Conference on Thursday, January 16, 2020, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Board members are invited to attend this celebration of Noel's years of service. Noel is the fourth most tenured school board member in the State of Minnesota.

X. Future Meetings

- A. Monday, December 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center
- B. Monday, December 16, 2019, 5:00 p.m., Board Work Session, NHS Media Center
- C. Monday, January 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Organizational Board Meeting followed by the Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk