

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

November 25, 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, Miller, Nelson and Quinnell. 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 Miller, the board unanimously approved the agenda.
3. Public Comment
There were no public comments.
4. Announcements and Recognitions
 - The board congratulated Anita Aase, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and the School Board, on her retirement.
 - Spring Creek student Grant Zimmerman had an extra special Thanksgiving experience this year. Grant traveled to Washington, D.C. and helped his dad, John, present turkeys, Peach and Blossom, to President Biden for the presidential turkey pardoning. Congratulations to Grant and John (and Peach and Blossom)!
 - 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. Employee Engagement Overview. Superintendent Hillmann presented an overview of some of the tools that the district uses to provide staff members a voice in their workplace and to measure employee engagement.
 - b. Construction Update #1. Dr. Hillmann provided the first update on the NHS construction project.
6. Committee Reports
There were no committee reports.
7. Consent Agenda
On a motion by Miller, seconded by Hardy, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.
 - a. Minutes.
Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on November 12, 2024.
 - b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements attached.
 - c. School Resource Officer Agreement. The school board approved the school resource officer agreement with the City of Northfield for the 2025-2027 calendar years.
 - d. Grant Application. Director of Instructional Services Hope Langston requested school board approval for a Ciresi Walburn Foundation Grant for \$100,000 from the Ciresi Walburn Foundation for the time period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. This grant will provide funding to continue our partnership with TNTP to improve Tier I (Core Instruction) for all students.
 - e. Northfield Swim Club Agreement. The school board approved the enclosed agreement with the Northfield Swim Club. This agreement is for the time period Nov. 25, 2024 - Nov. 24, 2025. Updates to the agreement include who will be issued keys and an increase in custodial fees related to use of the premises outside the normal hours of building operation.

f. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. William Hoff, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute English/Language Arts Teacher at the High School, beginning 1/2/2025-2/5/2025. BA, Step 6
2. Nica Patterson, Long Term Substitute Building Nurse at the NCEC, beginning on or about 12/10/2024-3/4/2025. BSN/RN Step 4-\$41.50/hr.
3. Jon Rieber Paulson, Ski Club Chaperone with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 1/6/2025-3/31/2025. \$500 Stipend
4. Miles Poole, Instructor Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 12/8/2024-5/31/2025. Step 1-\$14.50/hr.
5. Ryland Updike, Instructor Lead with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 11/23/2024-5/31/2025. Step 2-\$15.80/hr.
6. Gregory Ennis, Ski Club Chaperone with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 1/6/2025-5/31/2025. \$500 Stipend
7. Fynn Hammer, Community School Club Leader for up to 15 hours/week at Greenvale Park, beginning 11/25/2024-5/15/2025. \$25.53/hr.
8. Elizabeth Johnson, Community School Club Leader for up to 15 hours/week at Greenvale Park, beginning 11/25/2024-5/15/2025. \$25.53/hr.
9. Carson Rheaume, Softball/Basketball Official with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 1/1/2025-5/31/2025. \$30/game
10. Jessica Tietz, Long Term Substitute Special Ed EA PCA for 28 hours/week at the NCEC, beginning 12/9/2024-6/6/2025. Step 4, \$18.05/hour + prorated PCA stipend. Salary subject to change upon settlement of the 2024-26 EA contract.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Anna Edwards, Special Ed EA for 6.75 hours/day at Spring Creek, add Gen Ed Supervisory for .25 hours/day at Spring Creek, effective 11/18/2024.
2. Melvin Miller, Building Supervisor with Community Education, add Site Supervisor with Community Ed Recreation, effective 11/17/2024-5/31/2025. Step 6-\$17.87/hr.
3. Erica Trebelhorn, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Building Supervisor with Community Ed Recreation, effective 12/1/2024. \$19.32/hr.
4. Ryland Updike, Instructor Lead with Community Ed Recreation, add Instructor Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, effective 11/23/2024-5/31/2025. Step 2-\$14.76/hr.
5. Connor Nagy, Summer Building and Grounds Maintenance with the District, extend end date to 11/24/2024, and add Substitute Custodian with Building and Grounds, effective 11/25/2024. \$20.67/hr.

iii. Leave of Absence

1. Claire Gardner, Teacher at the Middle School, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning on or about 5/30/2025 for 8 work weeks.
2. John Scheil, Teacher at Greenvale Park, Leave of Absence beginning 2/24/2025-3/21/2025.
3. Michele Knutson, Guidance Office Administrative Assistant at the High School, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 12/3/2024-1/14/2025.
4. Jenny Streefland, Guidance Counselor at the Middle School, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 11/27/2024-12/6/2024.

iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Halea Picha, Soccer Coach at the High School, resignation effective 11/19/2024.
2. Katie Schuman, Early Ventures Teacher at the NCEC, resignation effective 12/25/2024.
3. Franz Boelter, Assistant Volleyball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 11/22/2024.

v. Community Education Recreation Wages Rate Tables

Administration recommended approval of the Community Education Recreation Wages rate tables for the period September 1, 2024 through August 31, 2026.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. Policy Committee Recommendations. On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Butler, the board approved the policy committee's recommended updates to policies 521, 524.2, 532, 535, 608, 614 and 708.

9. Items for Information

There were no items for information.

10. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, December 9, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, January 13, 2025, 6:00 p.m., Organizational Board Meeting followed by the Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

c. Monday, January 27, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Closed Session: Labor Negotiations Strategy (Minnesota Statute 13D.03)

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously moved to close the meeting as permitted by Minnesota Statute 13D.03 to discuss labor negotiations.

12. Adjournment

On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Quinnell, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the closed meeting at 8:26 p.m.

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:26 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz
School Board Clerk