

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

December 9, 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. Agenda Approval/Table File  
On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Quinnell, the Board approved the Agenda.
- III. Public Comment  
There was no public comment.
- IV. Announcements and Recognitions  
The Youth Data Summit is December 10 at the Weitz Center on the Carleton College campus. Youth from Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, Tri-City, Faribault, and Northfield will attend with funding from the Achievement and Integration program. The purpose of the summit is to hear the voice of the students and generate new ideas how we begin to improve the achievement gap.
- V. Items for Discussion and Reports
  - A. Truth in Taxation Presentation for the Payable 2020 Property Tax Levy Followed by Public Comment  
The amount of the proposed levy for 2020 is \$19,985,995.93 and represents a 0.20% decrease from the prior year. Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf reviewed the levy and the current year's revised general fund budget. The public was invited to speak following the presentation. No residents spoke at the meeting.
  - B. Northfield High School Update  
Interim Principal Dr. Laura Kay Allen provided an update about progress towards School Improvement Plan goals, and shared activities, accomplishments and challenges occurring at Northfield High School. Dr. Allen reported the Raider Nation themes of academics, activities, athletics and acceptance are embraced and reinforced each day. The Flex hour, college readiness preparation and the new parent-teacher conference model have received positive feedback. Although the Flex hour is going well, it is a program that requires intense supervision and administrators continue to look at our English Language services as we have had an increase in our English Language enrollment this year.
  - C. Fall Activities Recap  
Director of Student Activities Joel Olson provided a recap of Fall 2019 activities and athletics. Approximately 613 (48%) of students participated in MSHSL or other competitive/performance activity during the Fall season. There were several section and conference championships, individual state meet participants, team academic awards, fine arts participants, and three post secondary athletic commitments.
  - D. Request to Hire Additional Non-Licensed Special Education EA/PCA  
Assistant Director of Special Services Sara Pratt proposed an increase of 6.75 hours/day for a non-licensed special education assistant PCA at Greenvale Park Elementary required to provide special education services to support individual student needs as determined by the Individual Education Program Plan (IEP) until the end of the school year. These additions are requested due to the increased needs to provide care, safety and support across all school environments. The total projected cost of salary and benefits is \$22,600 with approximately 55% of the salary reimbursed through special education revenue for a net cost of \$17,155. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the Board moved the Request to Hire Additional

Non-Licensed Special Education EA/PCA at Greenvale Park Elementary to an Item for Individual Action.  
Motion carried.

E. Policy Committee Recommendations

Dr. Hillmann presented the Policy Committee's recommendations on policies 510, 524.2, 532, 534, 535, 603 and 611. The revisions and recommendations reflect statutory requirements that the Minnesota legislature enacted through the 2019 legislative session and other federal and state requirements. This will be an item for individual action at the next Board meeting.

VI. Consent Agenda

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

A. Minutes

Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on November 25, 2019

B. Gift Agreements

- \$1,000.00 to the Northfield Middle School from The Rodgers Family Foundation
- \$1,926.00 B.A.S.S. Fishing donation from Cannon River Sportsmen's Club
- \$1,000.00 for media center furniture at Bridgewater Elementary from The Rodgers Family Foundation
- \$1,000.00 to be used as needed at Greenvale Park Elementary from the Rodgers Family Foundation

C. Personnel Items

a) Appointments

1. Miriam Rogers, 1.0 FTE Long Term Substitute English/Language Arts Teacher at the High School, beginning on or about 1/15/2020-3/27/2020; MA+45, Step 8.
2. Kari Black, Early Childhood Screener, beginning January 1, 2020, \$20.00/hour.
3. Michael Garlitz, Event Worker, Speech Judge at the High School, beginning 12/10/2019.
4. Jonathan Pownell, Program Supervisor and General Rec Position with Community Services, beginning 12/7/2019-5/31/2020; Supervisor \$10.75/hr. and Gen Rec \$10.11/hr.
5. Ella Stromme, Community School Site Assistant for up to 3 hours/day 2 days/week at Greenvale Park, beginning 12/10/2019-5/14/2020; Step 2 -\$13.56/hr.
6. Ella Stromme, Greenvale Park Community School Club Leader, beginning December 10, 2019, \$21.55/hour.
7. Deborah Wagner, Gen Ed Instructional EA for 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 12/6/2019-6/5/2020; Gen Ed, Step 4-\$16.52/hr.

b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Nives Bakic, Educational Assistant at the Middle School, add Targeted Services PLUS Site Leader for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Sibley, effective 12/2/2019-3/19/2020; Step 1-\$16.30/hr.
2. Zoe Ingersoll, General Recreation Position with Community Services, add Program Supervisor with Community Services, effective 12/2/2019-5/31/2020; \$11.00/hr.
3. Rita Latimore, Custodian at the Middle School, change to Night Lead Engineer w/o license at the Middle School, effective 12/5/2019-approximately 01/30/2020; Step 5, \$19.46/hr.
4. Matthew Meyer, Community School Site Assistant at Greenvale Park, change to Community School Club Leader for 3 hours/day Tuesdays and Thursdays at Greenvale Park, effective 12/1/2019-1/1/2020; \$21.55/hr.
5. Rebecca Meyer, Special Ed EA at the High School, add Special Ed EA PCA Bus for 1.33 hours/day with the District, effective 11/26/2019-6/5/2020.
6. Ken Engen, 1.0 FTE Custodian at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Lead Custodian Engineer at the High School, effective 12/16/2019; Step 4-Custodian Engineer w/o license.
7. Matthew Meyer, Community School Lead at Greenvale Park, add Targeted Services PLUS Club Leader for up to 1.5 hours/day Mon. and Thurs. at Sibley, effective 12/9/2019-3/19/20; \$21.55/hr.
8. Beth Momberg, Special Ed EA PCA at Longfellow, add Special Ed EA Bus for .75 hours/day with the district, effective 9/3/2019-6/5/2020.

c) Leave of Absence

1. Jessie Huebsch, Office Employee at Bridgewater, Medical Leave of Absence, effective 12/12/2019 and extending through 01/03/2020.

2. Mary Boyum, Educational Assistant at Sibley, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 12/4/2019-12/20/2019.
  3. Lydia Ditlevson, Special Ed Teacher at Sibley, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 11/11/2019 for up to 60 work days.
  4. Mitzi Holden, Child Nutrition Manager at Greenvale Park, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 12/2/2019-12/13/2019.
  5. Jim Kulseth, Director of Buildings and Grounds, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 12/31/2019 for approximately three work weeks.
- d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Josh Spitzack, Targeted Services PLUS Teacher at Greenvale Park, resignation effective 11/6/2019.
  2. Nicole Rasmussen, EA at Bridgewater, resignation effective 12/2/2019.
- e) Seniority Lists
- The Board approved the 2019-2020 Principal/Assistant Principals Seniority List and the 2019-2020 Teacher Seniority List.

## VII. Superintendent's Report

### A. Items for Individual Action.

1. Certify Final 2019 Payable 2020 Tax Levy.  
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board certified to County Auditors the 2019 Payable 2020 Final Certified Levy Limitation and Certification Report in the amount of \$19,985,995.93.
2. Fiscal Year 2019-2020 General Fund Budget Revision.  
On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board approved revised 2019-2020 general fund budget of revenues of \$56,972,099 and expenditures of \$57,580,443.
3. Approval of Policies (300 series).  
On a motion by Baraniak, seconded by Hardy, the Board approved policies 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 and 310 as presented at the November 25, 2019, Board meeting and recommended by the Policy Committee. These changes are effective immediately.
4. Request to Hire Additional Non-Licensed Special Education EA/PCA  
On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the Board approved the Request to Hire An Additional 6.75 hour/day Non-Licensed Special Education EA/PCA at Greenvale Park Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year at a cost not to exceed \$17,155 as presented.

## VIII. Items for Information

- A. Construction Update #18. Dr. Hillmann updated the Board on the District's construction projects which included drone footage of Bridgewater, Sibley, and the New Greenvale Park schools provided by Knutson Construction.
- B. Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann reviewed the December 2019 enrollment report.
- C. Late Start Update. Superintendent Hillmann provided an update about the later school start time discussions for secondary students.
- D. 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 will attend this celebration of Noel's years of service. Noel is the fourth most tenured school board member in the State of Minnesota.
- E. Special School Board Meeting. There will be a special school board meeting on Monday, March 30, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. The purpose of this meeting will be to award the bids for the Longfellow renovation.

## IX. Future Meetings

- A. Monday, December 16, 2019, 5:00 p.m., Board Work Session, NHS Media Center

B. Monday, January 13, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Organizational Board Meeting followed by the Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center

C. Monday, January 27, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the Board adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk