

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659
REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 10, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ Regular Board Meeting
Northfield District Office Boardroom
[Meeting Link](#)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval/Table File
3. Public Comment
4. Announcements and Recognitions
5. Items for Discussion and Reports
 - a. Leadership Introductions
 - b. Area Learning Center (ALC) School Improvement Showcase
 - c. Permanent School Fund
6. Consent Agenda
 - a. Minutes
 - b. Gift Agreements
 - c. Overnight Field Trip Request
 - d. Personnel Items
7. Items for Individual Action
 - a. Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School Board Election
8. Items for Information
 - a. Construction Update No. 29
 - b. Annual Fundraising Report
 - c. Staff Breakfast and Program
 - d. 2026-2027 E-Learning Day Plan
9. Future Meetings
 - a. Monday, August 24, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
 - b. Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
 - c. Monday, September 28, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
10. Adjournment

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MEMORANDUM

Monday, August 10, 2026 ~ 6:00 p.m. ~ Regular Board Meeting
Northfield District Office Boardroom
[Meeting Link](#)

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Tim Anderson, Ed.D., Superintendent
RE: Explanation of Agenda Items for the Monday, August 10, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Agenda Approval/Table File
3. Public Comment
Public comment for this school board meeting may be made in person at the beginning of the meeting and must comply with the district's public comment guidelines.
4. Announcements and Recognitions
5. Items for Discussion and Reports
 - a. Leadership Introductions. New district and building leaders will be introduced and will briefly address the board. Each leader will share a short professional background, what drew them to Northfield Public Schools, an early highlight or appreciation from their experience so far, and what they are most looking forward to in their work.
 - b. Area Learning Center (ALC) School Improvement Showcase. ALC Director Daryl Kehler will provide the board with an overview of the school's successes and highlights in 2025-2026 and the focus areas for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - c. Permanent School Fund. Superintendent Anderson will present to the board about the Permanent School Fund, which provides a source of financial support for Minnesota's public schools generated by revenue from public lands. This November, voters will be asked to update the Minnesota Constitution by voting on an amendment to modernize how the Permanent School Fund revenue is distributed. Superintendent Anderson will provide background information, explain the proposed constitutional amendment, and outline the potential impact to Northfield Public Schools.
6. Consent Agenda
Recommendation: Motion to approve the following items listed under the consent agenda.
 - a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on July 13, 2026.
 - b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements to be approved are attached.
 - c. Overnight Field Trip Request. Northfield High School Boys Hockey Coach Charlie Cloud requests board approval to take approximately 37 students to Brainerd, MN November 20-21, 2026 for a pre-season scrimmage festival.
 - d. Personnel Items.
 - i. Appointments
 1. Corey Douville, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 8/31/2026. Step 3, \$23.18/hr.
 2. Nicole Drexler, 1.0 FTE Grade 5 Teacher at Spring Creek beginning 8/27/2026. BA, Step 2.
 3. Lily Hollerung, Assistant 9th Grade Volleyball Coach at the High School beginning 8/17/2026. \$4,614 stipend.
 4. Abigail Kemper, .90 FTE Art Specialist at the High School beginning 8/27/2026. MA, Step 10.
 5. Emmalee Kmoch, Early Ventures Teacher for 40 hours/week at the NCEC beginning 8/27/2026. Step 6, \$24.09/hr.
 6. Michelle Lepper, 1.0 FTE Grade 1 Compañeros Teacher at Bridgewater beginning 8/27/2026. MA+20, Step 7.

7. Cathy Malecha, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School beginning 8/12/2026. Step 4, \$23.98/hr.
 8. Jeffrey Mueller, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach at the High School beginning 8/17/2026. \$5,191 stipend.
 9. Mallory Nystuen, Special Ed EA/PCA for 7 hours/day at Spring Creek beginning 8/15/2026. Step 4, \$23.98/hr.
 10. Heather Olson, Lunch Supervision EA for 2.25 hours/day at Greenvale Park beginning 8/31/2026. Step 1, \$22.30/hr.
 11. Christine Peterson, 1.0 FTE Administrative Support Assistant to the Principal at Bridgewater beginning 8/5/2026. Class IV - Step 5, \$28.23/hr.
 12. Rose Taylor, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School beginning 8/31/2026. Step 4, \$23.98/hr.
 13. Hanna Valescu, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 8/31/2026. Step 4, \$23.98/hr.
- ii. Increase/Decrease/Changes in Assignment
1. Kirstin Anderson, Special Ed EA/PCA for 7 hours/day at Spring Creek, change to Special Ed EA/PCA for 7.25 hours/day at Greenvale Park effective 8/24/2026.
 2. Richelle Audiss, Child Nutrition Associate at the Middle School, add Assistant Middle School Girls Tennis Coach effective 8/31/2026. \$2,884 stipend.
 3. Nick Connor, Teacher at the High School, add Math Lead effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
 4. Nicole Drexler, LTS Grade 5 Teacher at Greenvale Park, change to ongoing Grade 5 Teacher at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026. BA, Step 2.
 5. Kelle Edwards, EA at the High School, add Concessions Stand Manager at the High School effective 8/1/2026. \$3,000 stipend.
 6. Noah Gagnon, .8 FTE Science Teacher and .2 FTE Engineering Teacher at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Science Teacher effective 8/27/2026.
 7. Claire Gardner, Teacher at the Middle School, add Literacy Lead effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
 8. Madison Hince, 1.0 FTE Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, change to .25 FTE effective 10/26/2026.
 9. Elena Howe Solberg, Assistant 9th Grade Volleyball Coach at the High School, change to Assistant Volleyball Coach effective 8/17/2026. \$5,191 stipend.
 10. Abby Johnson, LTS EL EA at Greenvale Park, change to ongoing EL EA at Greenvale Park effective 8/31/2026.
 11. Cindy Keogh, Kindergarten EA for 4 hrs/day at Bridgewater, extend position through 6/11/2027.
 12. Rebecca Knight, 1.0 FTE Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, change to .25 FTE effective 10/26/2026.
 13. Joanna McLees, LTS Early Childhood Teacher at the NCEC, add Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher at Bridgewater for up to 44 hours effective 8/10/2026-8/21/2026. \$40/hr.
 14. Dylon Rowe, .5 FTE Assistant Dance Coach at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE effective 10/26/2026.
 15. Heather Ryden, Grade 6 Teacher at the Middle School, change to Instructional Services Systems Specialist at the District Office effective 8/3/2026.
 16. LauraAnn Talbot Peterson, Teacher at the Middle School, add Math Lead effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
- iii. Leave of Absences
1. N/A
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Pamela Bennewitz, EL Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park, resignation effective 7/28/2026.
 2. Christian Blanck, Teacher at the High School, resignation effective 7/15/2026.
 3. Rebekka Flickinger, Teacher at Spring Creek, resignation effective 7/15/2026.
 4. Amy Kolars, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, resignation effective 8/3/2026.
 5. Mariah O'Donnell, Special Ed EA/PCA at the Middle School, declined position effective 7/28/2026.
 6. Faith Torgeson, Special Education EA/PCA at the Middle School, resignation effective 8/3/2026.
 7. Lillian Visaya, Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at the High School, resignation effective 8/3/2026.

*Conditional offers of employment are subject to successful completion of a criminal background check and Pre-work screening (if applicable)

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School Board Election. The Board of Education is requested to adopt the attached resolution regarding the school board election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. This resolution is the board authorization necessary to formally establish this year's election process. The adoption of this resolution will meet the requirements necessary to comply with the election process. Ballots for school board election will be included in the general election ballots prepared by the county auditors. The official canvass of the election results will be scheduled as an agenda item for the regular board meeting on Monday, November 9, 2026.

Superintendent's Recommendation: Motion to approve the Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School Board Election.

8. Items for Information

- a. Construction Update No. 29. Superintendent Anderson will provide an update on the NHS construction project.
- b. Annual Fundraising Report. Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf will review the fundraising report as required by Policy 713.
- c. Staff Breakfast and Program. Northfield Public Schools will welcome back staff for the 2026-27 school year on Tuesday, September 1 from 7:30-10:00 a.m. at Northfield Middle School. The board is invited to join us.
- d. 2026-2027 e-Learning Day Plan. Superintendent Anderson will share the 2026-27 e-Learning plan. The use of the e-Learning Plan was approved by the board in unison with the 2024-25 school year calendar in December 2023. We are required to share the plan each year with the board and post it on the district's website.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, August 24, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, September 28, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

Reaching Out, Reaching Up:

THE 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN



VISION

We prepare every student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society.

BENCHMARKS

1 All children are ready for kindergarten .	2 All students are connected to the community .	3 All students are at grade level in reading and mathematics by the end of third and sixth grades.
4 All students exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being .	5 All students have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school.	6 All students have interests, goals and a vision for the future by the end of eighth grade.
7 All students graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential.	8 All employees report satisfaction in the workplace.	9 All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience.
10 The district maintains 14% of its annual expenditures in its unassigned fund balance to ensure financial stability .	11 Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents.	Note: The first seven benchmarks are aligned with the language identified by Northfield Promise, a collective impact consortium of 20 community organizations committed to helping Northfield's youth thrive "from cradle to career."

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS



People

We prioritize the engagement, satisfaction, and support of every student, staff member, and family.



Learner Outcomes

We prepare every student to be academically and socially ready to choose their preferred pathway after high school graduation.



Equity

We ensure that every child has a fair opportunity to reach their full potential.



Communication

We communicate effectively and transparently with all stakeholders.



Stewardship

We responsibly manage our personnel, finances, property, time and environmental impact.



Partnerships

We seek community partnerships that accelerate student achievement of district benchmarks.



Northfield Area Learning Center (ALC)
School Improvement Plan
2026-27

Presented to the Board on 8.10.2026

Purpose

The purpose of the school improvement plan is to share success stories, identify focus areas for the upcoming school year, align efforts, and inspire action toward achieving our strategic plan and vision to prepare **every** student for lifelong success!

School Improvement Plan Highlights and Goals

Highlights		
Highlight No. 1	80/90/100 Framework Alignment	Narrative
The ALC uses an instrument called the Student Engagement Instrument (SEI) to measure SEL and school connectedness. For the 2025-26 school year, we had 100% of students surveyed strongly agree or agree to the following statements; -My teachers are there for me when I need them. -I enjoy talking with teachers here. -At my school, teachers care about the students. -I feel safe at this school.	The ALC is striving to maintain our current level of having 100% of students feeling safe and connected to the school.	In order to maintain a high level of connectedness, the staff at the ALC implement field trips, variations in scheduling, community meals, and special events. We are also very intentional about how we interact with students as we keep building positive relationships in the forefront. We have restorative practices implemented as a way to repair harm done to relationships and our space if needed. The goal of the program is to have a safe, welcoming, and respectful environment for students, staff, and community to be part of.
Highlight No. 2	80/90/100 Framework Alignment	Narrative
The ALC keeps track of the credit completion rate each grading period so we can determine how well students are achieving credits. For the 2025-26 school year, we had an above average percentage of credits completed for all but one grading period. The baseline average is the average of the 2015-2025 school years.	The ALC has set a goal of having an 80% credit completion rate. In order to see how we are doing towards this stretch goal, we keep track of each grading period in each year by averages to see if we are increasing our average and therefore getting closer and closer to achieving the 80% mark.	The ALC strives to have students connected to the program, as this has been the most effective way for student engagement. Staff also are flexible and work with students by differentiating instruction and how the work gets completed.
Highlight No. 3	80/90/100 Framework Alignment	
The Minnesota Department of Education Report Card	The ALC has been identified as a school in need of	The ALC works with students to obtain a diploma and

keeps track of schools' graduation rates. The Northfield ALC's seven year graduation rate for 2025 was 80%, which was the highest amongst Big 9 schools.	improvement by not having a sufficient four year graduation rate. The ALC does take into account the four year rate as an important data point, but we also look at the five, six, and seven year rates to give the whole picture of the at-risk students we work with. This also aligns with the 100% growth as we seek to have 100% of students graduate, but realize there are other journeys as well.	we have many ways to recover credit, obtain credit, and work towards that goal. We maintain a flexible approach so we can address barriers that may come up for students. We also counsel students and families on other options such as an adult diploma or GED if that is the route they prefer.
Highlights		
Goal No. 1	80/90/100 Framework Alignment	Action Steps
The Northfield ALC will increase our attendance rate from 83% to at least 85% for each grading period during the 2026-27 school year.	The ALC tried to stay within the 80/90/100 framework, but because of the current percentages it makes more sense to keep the goal at 85%. We already have consistently made 80% attendance rate, but 90% is too much of a reach goal at this time so we are staying with 85% as the mark to reach.	The adult actions the ALC staff will take is to maintain our approach to building connectedness in the program. We have seen the trend in the right direction, but it takes time for us to achieve the levels we are going for so we don't want to change course, just fine tune things along the way. Some of the fine tuning includes slight changes to our student support team's approach to helping students with attendance. We plan adjusting our tiers and how to best keep track of the effectiveness of interventions used.
Goal No. 2	80/90/100 Framework Alignment	Action Steps
Students at the ALC will increase from a 74% credit completion rate, to at least 80% credit completion for each grading period during the 2026-27 school year.	The ALC's credit completion rate has trended positively over the past few years, but the 2025-26 school year had a slight downward trend. We feel we can still get to 80% credit completion as we have made that goal in prior grading periods. It is a stretch goal for us as we only made this mark once this past school year, but we feel we can make strides towards this goal.	The adult actions the ALC staff will take is to maintain our flexible approach when working with students. We have found success in having a very individualistic approach to working with students and families as each situation is so unique with its own barriers. The support staff is fine tuning the interventions and going through our list of past practices to continue what is working well and discontinuing ineffective practices.
Goal No. 3	80/90/100 Framework Alignment	Action Steps
The ALC will increase staff agreement that organization level information is communicated across the organization from 40% agreeing to at least 80% of staff agreeing to this statement as measured by the employee engagement survey for the 2026-27 school year.	The goal is to be proficient in areas at a rate of 80%, so this is the standard set. Even though this would double the rate, our sample size is small so I believe this is an achievable goal.	If there is organization level information to be shared, the director will ensure this happens in a timely manner. This will be done through staff meetings, PLCs, and/or emails with staff.

Summary

As summarized by ChatGPT:

The Northfield ALC continues to focus on creating a safe, supportive, and engaging learning environment while improving student outcomes. During the 2025–26 school year, 100% of surveyed students reported feeling safe, connected, and supported by their teachers, reflecting the program’s strong emphasis on relationship-building, restorative practices, field trips, community activities, and personalized student support. Academic performance remained a strength, with credit completion rates exceeding historical averages in all but one grading period, and the school continues to pursue its goal of reaching an 80% credit completion rate through flexible, individualized instruction and targeted interventions. The ALC also achieved an 80% seven-year graduation rate in 2025, the highest among Big 9 schools, demonstrating its commitment to helping at-risk students earn a diploma through multiple pathways and credit recovery options. Looking ahead to 2026–27, the ALC has established goals to increase attendance from 83% to 85%, raise credit completion from 74% to 80%, and improve staff perceptions of organizational communication from 40% to 80% agreement. To achieve these goals, the program will continue strengthening student connections, refining attendance interventions, maintaining individualized supports, and enhancing communication among staff through meetings, professional learning communities, and timely updates.

Northfield Area Learning Center

2026-27 School Improvement Plan
August 10, 2026

Strategic Plan

VISION

We prepare **every** student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society.

Reaching Out, Reaching Up: THE 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

We prepare every student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society.

BENCHMARKS

1 All children are ready for kindergarten .	2 All students are connected to the community .	3 All students are at grade level in reading and mathematics by the end of third and sixth grades.
4 All students exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being .	5 All students have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school.	6 All students have interests, goals and a vision for the future by the end of eighth grade.
7 All students graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential.	8 All employees report satisfaction in the workplace.	9 All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience.
10 The district maintains 14% of its annual expenditures in its unassigned fund balance to ensure financial stability .	11 Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents.	Note: The first seven benchmarks are aligned with the language identified by Northfield Promise, a collective impact consortium of 20 community organizations committed to helping Northfield's youth thrive "from cradle to career."



STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS



People

We prioritize the engagement, satisfaction, and support of every student, staff member, and family.



Learner Outcomes

We prepare every student to be academically and socially ready to choose their preferred pathway after high school graduation.



Equity

We ensure that every child has a fair opportunity to reach their full potential.



Communication

We communicate effectively and transparently with all stakeholders.



Stewardship

We responsibly manage our personnel, finances, property, time and environmental impact.



Partnerships

We seek community partnerships that accelerate student achievement of district benchmarks.

Strategic Commitments



People

We prioritize the engagement, satisfaction, and support of every student, staff member, and family.



Learner Outcomes

We prepare every student to be academically and socially ready to choose their preferred pathway after high school graduation.



Equity

We ensure that every child has a fair opportunity to reach their full potential.



Communication

We communicate effectively and transparently with all stakeholders.



Stewardship

We responsibly manage our personnel, finances, property, time and environmental impact.



Partnerships

We seek community partnerships that accelerate student achievement of district benchmarks.

District Benchmarks

1

All children are ready for **kindergarten**.

2

All students are connected to the **community**.

3

All students are at grade level in **reading and mathematics** by the end of third and sixth grades.

7

All students **graduate** from high school with a plan to reach their full potential.

8

All **employees** report satisfaction in the workplace.

9

All **parents** report satisfaction with their children's educational experience.

4

All students exhibit physical, social and emotional **well-being**.

5

All students have a **connection** with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school.

6

All students have interests, goals and a **vision** for the future by the end of eighth grade.

10

The district maintains 14% of its annual expenditures in its unassigned fund balance to ensure **financial stability**.

11

Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents.

Note: The first seven benchmarks are aligned with the language identified by Northfield Promise, a collective impact consortium of 20 community organizations committed to helping Northfield's youth thrive "from cradle to career."

School Improvement Plan Purpose

- Share success stories
- Identify goals
- Align with the district's strategic plan
- Inspire action
- Align efforts

...to prepare **every** student for lifelong success!



80%

Academically Proficient

90%

SEL Proficient

100%

Growing and Feeling Safe

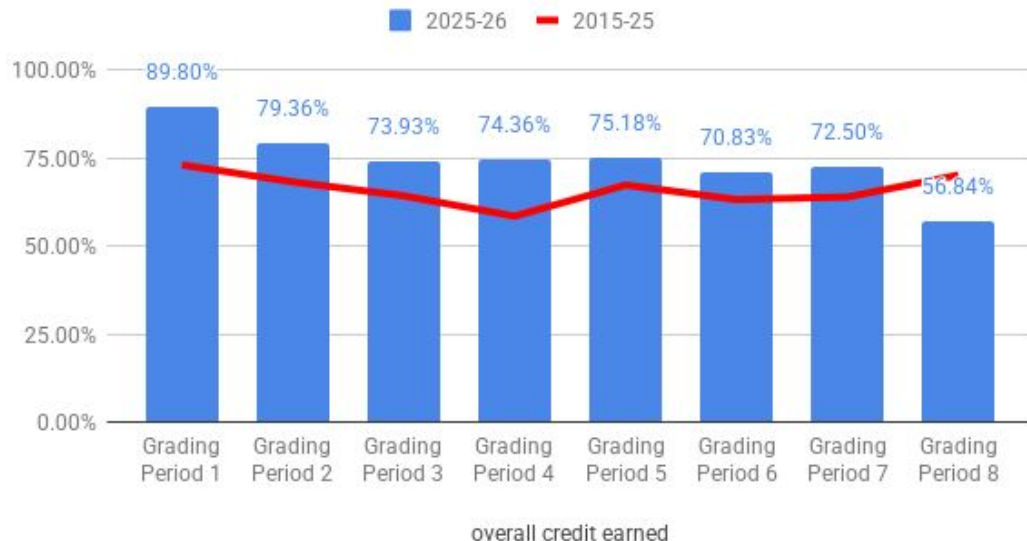
Highlight No. 1 (School Climate)



- **Student Engagement Instrument (SEI) survey**
 - **100% Agree/Strongly Agree**
 - **My teachers are there for me when I need them.**
 - **I enjoy talking to the teachers here.**
 - **At my school, teachers care about students.**
 - **I feel safe at this school.**

Highlight No. 2 (Credit completion)

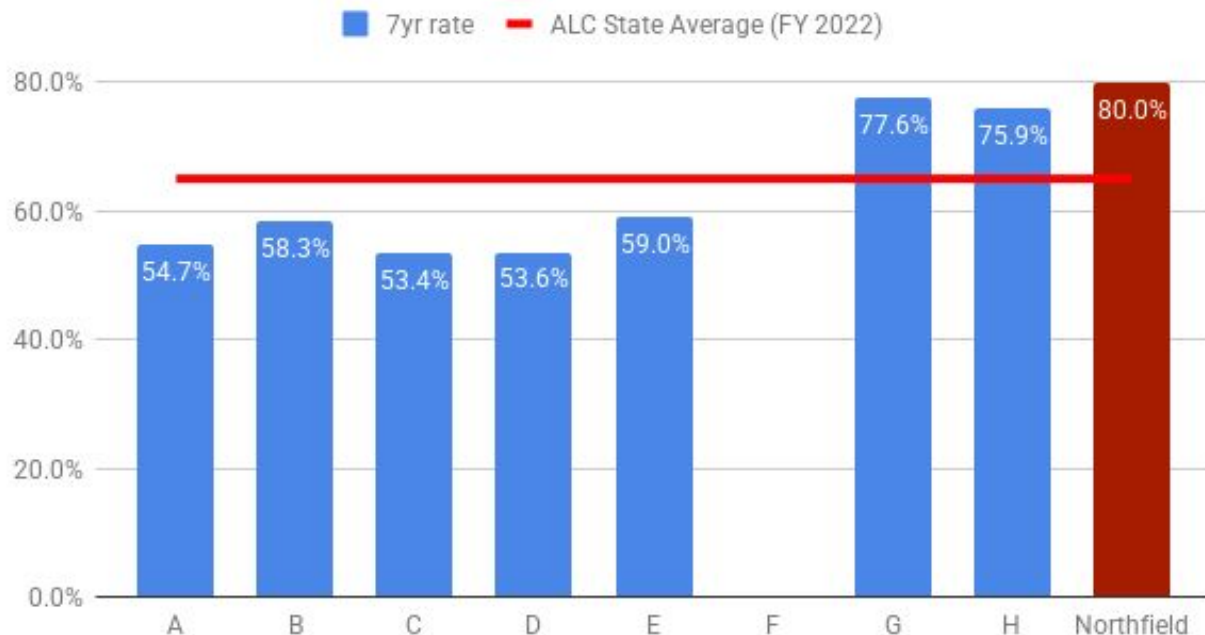
Credits trend line



- Every grading period but one we had above average percentage of credits completed.
 - The average is from the school years 2015-2025.
- All but two grading periods were above average for the percent of students who earned 100% of their credit as well.

Highlight No. 3 (Seven year graduation rate)

7 year graduation rates



- **2025 graduation rates**

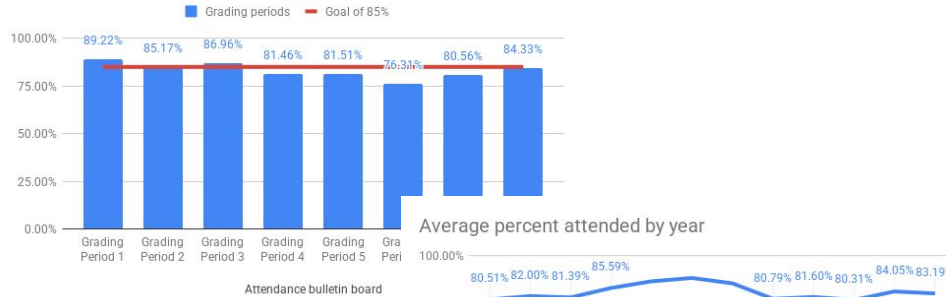
- 4 yr - 62.7%
- 5 yr - 70.8%
- 6 yr - 77.8%
- 7 yr - 80%

- **2026 unofficial graduation rate**

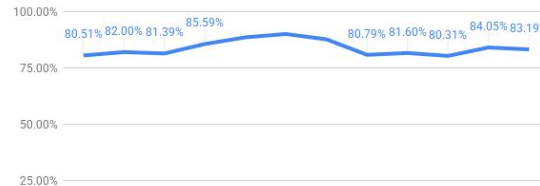
- 4 yr - 69.7%

Goal No. 1 Attendance Rate

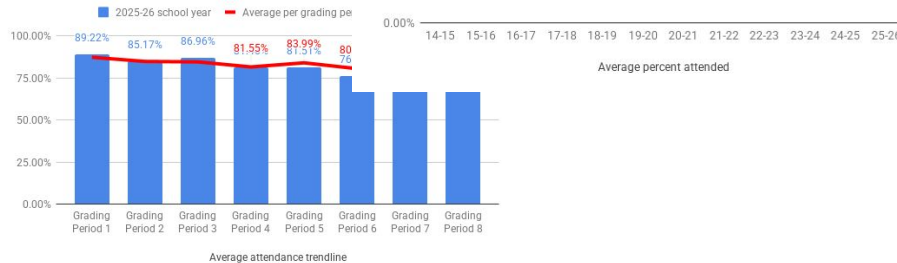
Attendance Goal of 85%



Average percent attended by year



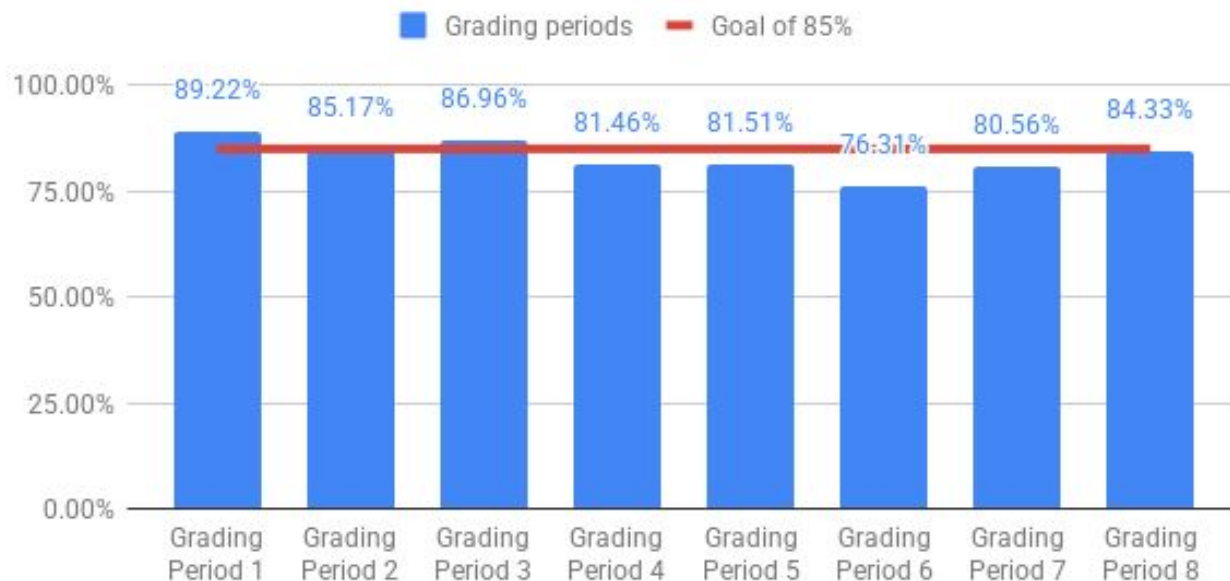
Attendance trend line by grading period



- The Northfield ALC will increase our attendance rate from 83% to at least 85% for each grading period during the 26-27 school year.

Goal No. 1 Attendance Rate

Attendance Goal of 85%

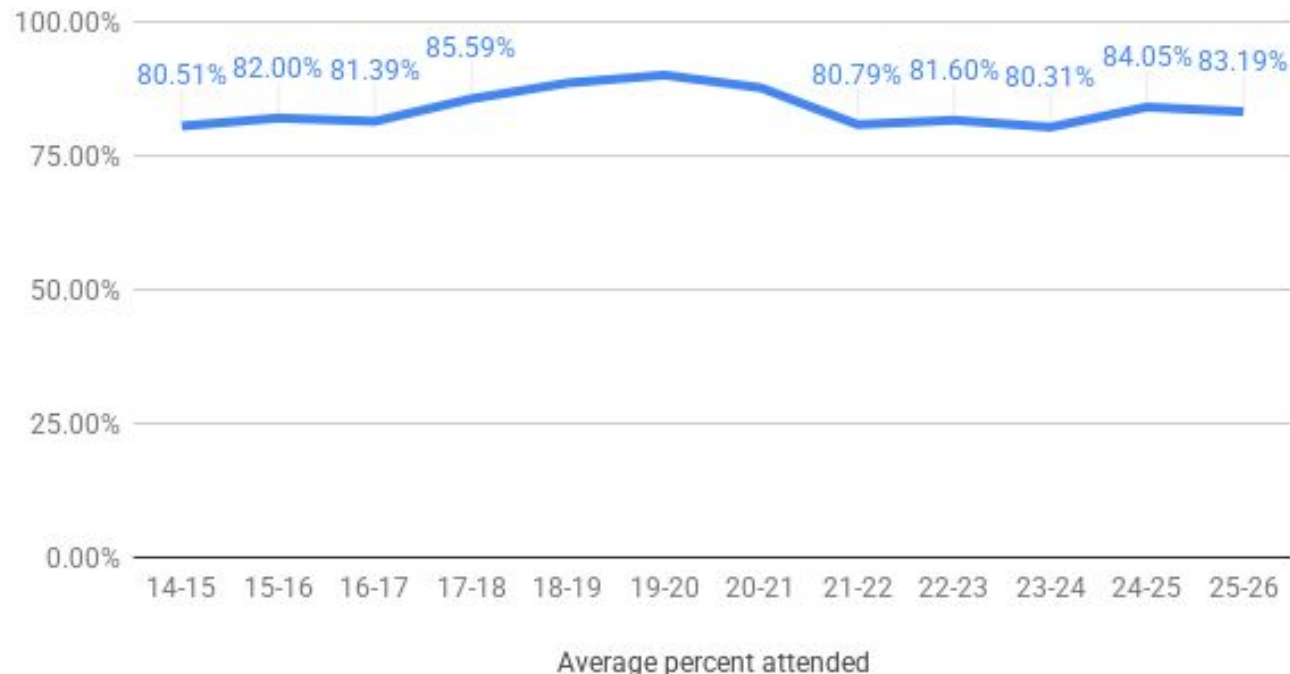


Attendance bulletin board

- The Northfield ALC will increase our attendance rate from 83% to at least 85% for each grading period during the 26-27 school year.

Goal No. 1 Attendance Rate

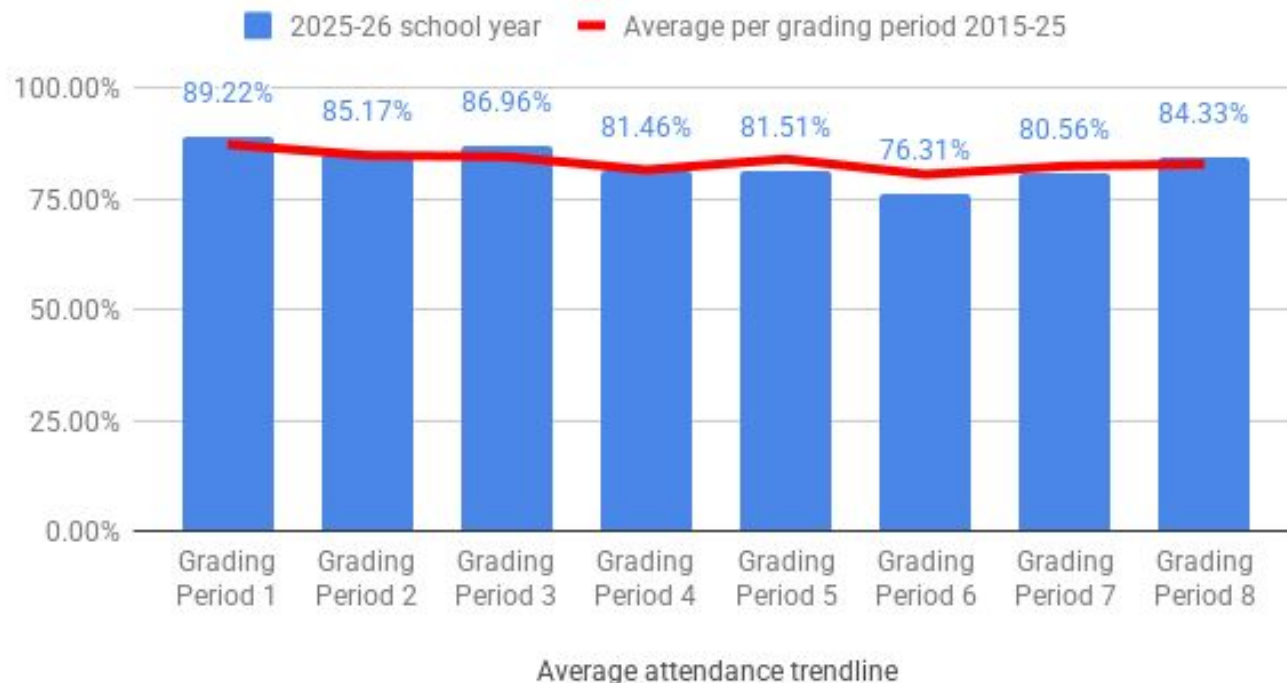
Average percent attended by year



- The Northfield ALC will increase our attendance rate from 83% to at least 85% for each grading period during the 26-27 school year.

Goal No. 1 Attendance Rate

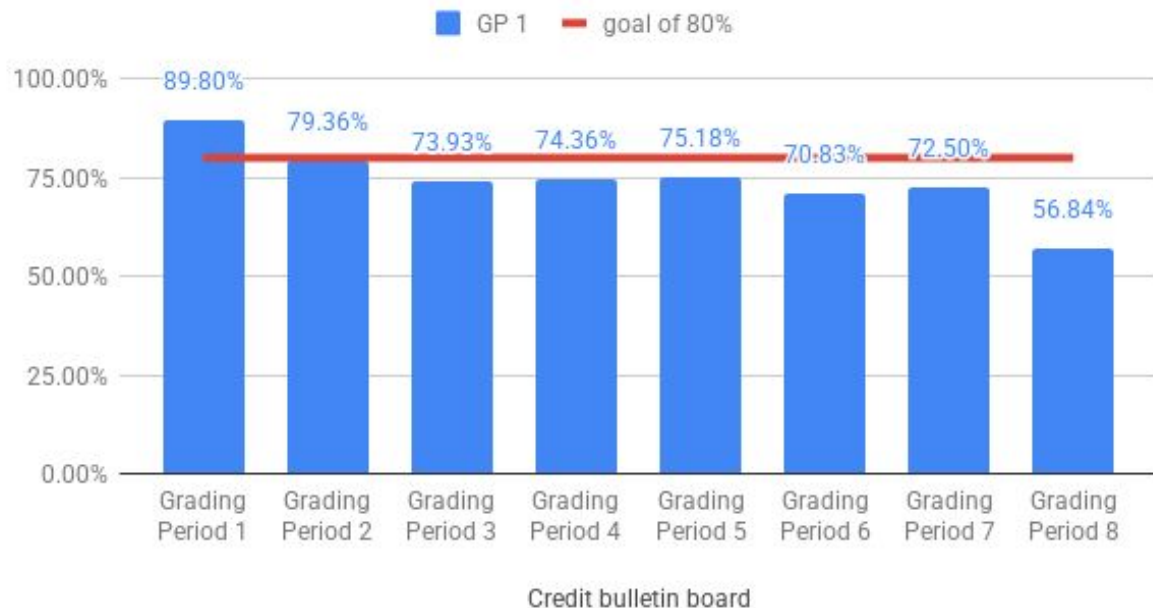
Attendance trend line by grading period



- The Northfield ALC will increase our attendance rate from 83% to at least 85% for each grading period during the 26-27 school year.

Goal No. 2 Credit Completion

Credit Completion goal of 80%



- Students at the ALC will increase from a 74% credit completion rate, to at least 80% credit completion for each grading period during the 2026-27 school year.

Staff Survey Reflection and Goals

2025-26 ALC Results • 10 responses

Greatest Strengths	Top 2 Box
Overall Mean	86%
I feel supported in balancing my work responsibilities. I believe that leaders in my immediate work environment are genuinely concerned for my welfare. I feel that resources in my immediate work environment are allocated to maximize effectiveness. I have the opportunity to provide input on decisions that affect my job. I have a clear understanding of my expectations as an employee. I have the support needed from leadership in my immediate work environment to accomplish my work objectives. I would recommend that parents select my organization to serve their child. I feel that organizational culture supports open and honest communication. I have a clear understanding of the mission and goals of my organization. I believe my work positively impacts those we serve. I feel a sense of pride when I tell people where I work.	Tied for 100%
Top 2 Box = % of scores at a 4 or 5	

- The staff at the ALC is a great team and works well together.
 - A lot of things are going well!
 - Survey led to great discussions on how staff prefer feedback and communication from other parts of the system.
- The goal is to increase staff agreement that organization-level information is effectively communicated across the organization from 40% agreeing to at least 80%, as measured by the employee engagement survey for the 2026-27 school year.

Thank You and Questions



MN Permanent School Fund: What Voters Will Decide This November

Northfield Public Schools Board of Education • August 10, 2026

Informational briefing — Northfield Public Schools does not advocate for or against ballot measures.

Strategic Plan

Vision: We prepare **every** student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society.

Tonight's briefing on the Permanent School Fund reflects that same commitment – helping our board and community engage thoughtfully with an issue that affects Minnesota public education.

Reaching Out, Reaching Up: THE 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

We prepare every student for lifelong success by developing critical thinkers who are curious and ready to engage in our society.

BENCHMARKS

1 All children are ready for kindergarten .	2 All students are connected to the community .	3 All students are at grade level in reading and mathematics by the end of third and sixth grades.
4 All students exhibit physical, social and emotional well-being .	5 All students have a connection with a caring adult beyond their parents as they transition to middle school.	6 All students have interests, goals and a vision for the future by the end of eighth grade.
7 All students graduate from high school with a plan to reach their full potential.	8 All employees report satisfaction in the workplace.	9 All parents report satisfaction with their children's educational experience.
10 The district maintains 14% of its annual expenditures in its unassigned fund balance to ensure financial stability .	11 Community education provides relevant and accessible learning opportunities for all residents.	Note: The first seven benchmarks are aligned with the language identified by Northfield Parents, a collective impact consortium of 20 community organizations committed to helping Northfield's youth thrive "from cradle to career."

STRATEGIC COMMITMENTS



People

We prioritize the engagement, satisfaction, and support of every student, staff member, and family.



Learner Outcomes

We prepare every student to be academically and socially ready to choose their preferred pathway after high school graduation.



Equity

We ensure that every child has a fair opportunity to reach their full potential.



Communication

We communicate effectively and transparently with all stakeholders.



Stewardship

We responsibly manage our personnel, finances, property, time and environmental impact.



Partnerships

We seek community partnerships that accelerate student achievement of district benchmarks.

Tonight's Purpose

- This is a factual, informational briefing for the board and community, not a recommendation.
- Minnesota law allows school districts to explain ballot measures, but not to advocate for a particular outcome.
- Tonight we will cover what the Permanent School Fund is, how it is managed, the proposed amendment, the official ballot language, and what it could mean for Northfield.
- We will not recommend a “yes” or “no” vote. More on this distinction later in the presentation.

What Is Minnesota's Permanent School Fund?

- Established in 1858, when Minnesota became a state
- Built from public lands set aside specifically to support public education
- Functions as a permanent endowment, not a one-time account
- More than 2.5 million acres of land, plus 1 million acres of mineral rights, remain in the trust
- 92% of trust land lies in ten northern Minnesota counties
- Revenue comes from timber sales, mining activity, land leases, and other natural-resource income

Who Manages the Fund Today?

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – manages school trust lands and the revenue they generate

State Board of Investment – invests the fund's assets

Minnesota Department of Education – distributes annual payments to public school districts and charter schools

Current rule: The Minnesota Constitution currently allows distributions only from the fund's interest and dividend earnings, not its full market value. As a result, annual distributions can fluctuate, and growth in the fund does not always translate into more support for schools.

The Fund, by the Numbers

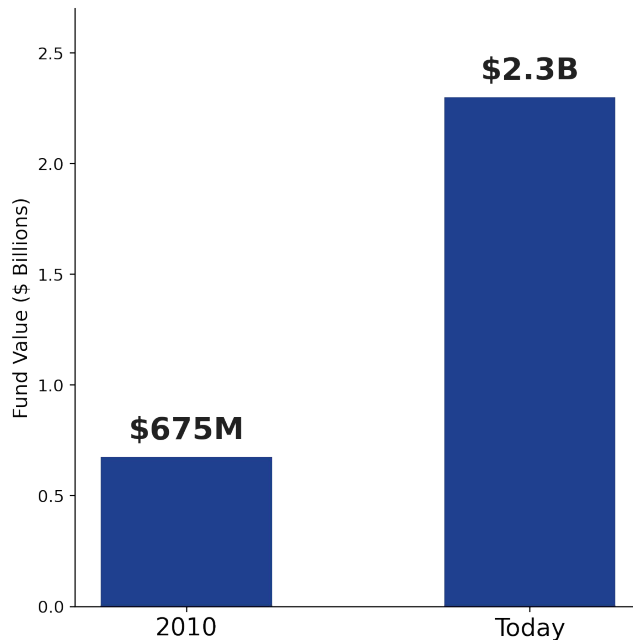
\$675 million total statewide distributions over the last 10 years

\$58 million average annual statewide payout

\$68 average per-pupil payout in 2025

Growth from **\$675 million** in 2010 to **\$2.3 billion** today

Fund Value Growth



Why Is a Change Being Considered?

- In May 2024, the Minnesota Legislature created a nonpartisan task force to study the Permanent School Fund's performance and recommend improvements.
- The task force was charged with balancing two goals: protect the fund for future generations of students, and maximize the benefit for today's students.
- The current distribution formula, written into the constitution decades ago, has not evolved with modern trust and endowment management practices.
- The Task Force found that the fund has grown dramatically, from approximately \$675 million in 2010 to more than \$2.3 billion today, but annual distributions have not grown proportionately because the constitution restricts distributions to interest and dividend income.

The Task Force Recommendation

4.5% annual distribution based on the fund's three-year rolling average market value, beginning July 1, 2027.

- This approach – a percentage of market value, averaged over several years – is commonly used by university endowments and charitable foundations nationwide.
- The recommendation was unanimous, made by a nonpartisan task force of investment, trust, legal, and education experts.
- Passed the Legislature with strong bipartisan support in May 2026: **House 133–0, Senate 43–24.**

What Would Change – and What Wouldn't

Current

- 2–2.5% annual distribution
- Interest and dividends only
- About \$58 per pupil, on average

Proposed

- 4.5% annual distribution of the fund's three-year rolling average market value
- Task force estimate: approximate 40% increase per pupil

What stays the same: no new or increased taxes of any kind; the land and the fund itself remain in trust; local school boards keep full control over how funds are used.

What Voters Will See on the Ballot

OFFICIAL BALLOT LANGUAGE: *“Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to increase the funding going to all school districts from the permanent school fund, which is a fund that supports school districts without raising individual income or property taxes, effective July 1, 2027?”*

- Early voting begins September 18, 2026. Election Day is November 3, 2026.
- Constitutional amendments require a majority of all ballots cast in the election. Leaving the question blank counts the same as a “no” vote.

For Illustration: What Could This Mean For Northfield?

Illustrative only — not an official estimate. Actual amounts are calculated by the Minnesota Department of Education and depend on statewide enrollment and fund performance.

Northfield Public Schools (ISD 659) enrollment in 2025-26: **approximately 3,685 students**

Current statewide average PSF payout: **about \$68 per student**

The task force estimated the proposed PSF payout at **approximately \$96 per student**

The proposed increase of \$28 per student would equate to approximately \$103,180 for Northfield. This is based on information and estimates provided by the task force.

Every Minnesota public school district, charter school, and tribal school receives PSF distributions on a per-pupil basis. Northfield would retain full local control over how any additional funds are used.

Northfield's Role: Inform, Don't Advocate

Education leaders CAN:

- Explain the fund and the proposed amendment
- Share the official ballot language
- Share publicly available financial information
- Host informational meetings and post materials online
- Correct misinformation with facts and context

District resources will NOT be used to:

- Encourage a “yes” or “no” vote
- Produce campaign-style materials
- Fund political advertising
- Organize campaign activities

Employees should not engage in campaign advocacy in their official district capacity.

Where to Find More Information

Minnesota School Boards Association – www.mnmsba.org/advocacy/permanent-school-fund/

Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Legislative bill tracking – HF3900 (House) and SF3593 (Senate)

Your county elections office or the Minnesota Secretary of State – voter registration, polling places, and early voting

Questions and Discussion

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

July 13, 2026
District Office Board Room

1. Call to Order

School Board Vice Chair Corey Butler called the regular meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:00 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 Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Superintendent Anderson expressed gratitude for the kindness, support, and warm welcome he has received from the district as he has begun his new role as superintendent, especially from current leadership and the district office staff. He recognized returning leaders for intentionally welcoming and supporting new staff, reflecting on the organization's culture of generosity and partnership, and he thanked Kelly Spillman-Kramer, executive assistant to the superintendent and board of education, for her excellent support.
- Superintendent Anderson recognized new leaders for eagerly jumping into their roles, collaborating, and offering insights that have confirmed the value they bring to the district.
- Superintendent Anderson thanked the board for their leadership and Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George for taking the time to meet with him in preparation to begin his role, as well as their dedication and commitment to Northfield Public Schools.
- Superintendent Anderson thanked Dr. Matt Hillmann for his gracious, insightful, wise, knowledgeable, generous, and thoughtful leadership, and the deep respect and trust he has earned in the community.
- Congratulations to the Northfield High School Trap Team, who competed in the Class 9A MSHSL Clay Target State Tournament on June 26 in Prior Lake. The Raiders earned this opportunity by taking first place at the trap shooting championship competition on Tuesday, June 23.
- Congratulations to the Northfield High School Skeet Team, who took home their fourth consecutive Class 2A Championship trophy on June 10. In their individual tournaments, Danika Bulfer took third in the High Gun – Varsity – Female category and Brayden Dupay took third in the High Gun – Varsity – Male category.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Annual Safety Drill Report. Superintendent Anderson and Director of Buildings and Grounds Justin Raabolle presented the district's safety drill report as required by Minnesota Statute 121A.037.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the regular school board meeting held on June 8, 2026, and the special school board meeting held on June 24, 2026.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Overnight Field Trip Request. Northfield High School Volleyball Coach Elizabeth Larson requested board approval to take 14 students to Marshall, MN September 11-12, 2026 for the Annual Southwest Minnesota State Volleyball Tournament.
- d. Financial Reports - February 2026. Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf requested the board approve paid bills totaling \$3,414,321.95, payroll checks totaling \$4,043,614.30, a wire transfer totaling \$550,000.00 from

Frandsen General to Frandsen Sweep, a wire transfer totaling \$250,000.00 from Frandsen Sweep to Frandsen General, and the financial reports for February 2026. No bond payments were made. At the end of February 2026, total cash and investments amounted to \$65,140,353.13.

- e. Fiscal Year Organization Actions. The school district's financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. Each year at the school board meeting in July, financial organizational issues must be approved. They were as follows:
 - i. Motion to approve authorizing the Director of Finance to invest surplus district funds in accordance with applicable laws and with the district's Policy 705: Investments, for fiscal year 2026-2027.
 - ii. Motion to approve designating PMA/Associated Bank, Frandsen Bank & Trust Dundas, U.S. Bank Minnesota and the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund as official bank depositories provided they maintain adequate pledged collateral as required by law per district Policy 705: Investments, for fiscal year 2026-2027.
 - iii. Motion to approve authorizing the Director of Finance and the Superintendent to make appropriate wire transfers to and from district depository accounts for fiscal year 2026-2027.
- f. Memberships for 2026-27. The school district belongs to several cooperatives, leagues and associations. Membership in the groups listed below were renewed for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - i. Minnesota State High School League. The designated Northfield High School representative is Activities Director John Mahal, and the designated school board representative is Board Member Corey Butler.
 - ii. Minnesota Association of School Administrators.
 - iii. Minnesota Association of Charter School Authorizers.
 - iv. Southeast Service Cooperative.
 - v. Region V Computer Services Cooperative.
 - vi. Rice County Family Services Collaborative.
 - vii. Minnesota School Boards Association.
 - viii. Healthy Community Initiative.
- g. Policy Updates. The board approved updating references to individuals who have retired in policies 522, 528, and 722, replacing their contact information with current personnel.
- h. Personnel Items.
 - i. Appointments
 - 1. Amy Barlow, Child Nutrition Manager I for 7.5 hours/day at Spring Creek beginning 8/17/2026. \$28.26/hr.
 - 2. Lillian Bauer, 1.0 FTE Custodian Engineer at the High School beginning 6/29/2026. Step 1, \$27.71/hr.
 - 3. Elaina Haag, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/12/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$15.02/hr.
 - 4. Kristi Kortuem, Summer Master Swim Club Coach for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/15/2026-8/31/2026. \$90/hr.
 - 5. Erin Lemke, Child Nutrition Associate I for 3.25 hours/day at Bridgewater beginning 8/20/2026. \$23.52/hr.
 - 6. Joanna McLees, .619 FTE Long-Term Substitute Early Childhood Teacher at the NCEC beginning approximately 9/14/2026-1/1/2027. MA, Step 2.
 - 7. Kevin O'Brien, Summer Master Swim Club Coach for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/15/2026-8/31/2026. \$90/hr.
 - 8. Mariah O'Donnell, Special Education EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the Middle School beginning 8/25/2026. Step 1, \$22.30/hr.
 - 9. Elvia Perez Benitez, 1.0 FTE Custodian at the Middle School beginning 6/17/2026. Step 5, \$24.35/hr.
 - 10. Dylon Rowe, .5 FTE Assistant Dance Coach at the High School beginning 10/26/2026. \$2,545 stipend.
 - 11. Alisha Saladino, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 6/12/2026-8/31/2026. Step 6, \$16.37/hr.
 - 12. Tegan Underdahl, 1.0 FTE Long-Term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Bridgewater beginning approximately 9/28/2026-2/26/2027. BA, Step 1.
 - 13. Nicole Weston, Child Nutrition Associate III for 6.5 hours/day at Spring Creek beginning 8/17/2026. \$26.80/hr.
 - 14. Bella Christopherson, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation beginning 7/6/2026-8/31/2026. Step 1, \$15.02/hr.
 - 15. Anna Edwards, 1.0 FTE Administrative Support Assistant to the Principal at Spring Creek beginning 7/16/2026. Class IV - Step 2, \$26.73/hr.
 - 16. Fabiola Valbuena, 1.0 FTE Custodian at the High School beginning 7/6/2026. Step 2, \$22.81/hr.
 - ii. Increase/Decrease/Changes in Assignment

1. Paula Baragary, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Eagle Bluff Coordinator for Community Education effective 6/18/2026-8/21/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
2. Shari Bridley, General Ed EA for 3.5 hrs/day and Special Ed EA/PCA for 3.10 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to Special Ed EA/PCA for 7.0 hrs/day at the NCEC effective 8/27/2026.
3. Amy Boecker, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.10 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 6.75 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
4. Caroline Bussmann, Class IV Administrative Support Assistant - Community Education for 260 days/year at the NCEC, change to 250 days/year effective 7/1/2026.
5. Kristen Cade, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher for up to 44 hours at Bridgewater effective 8/10/2026-8/21/2026. \$40/hr.
6. Lynnsey Carlsen, Special Ed EA/PCA - RISE Program for 3.2 hrs/day and Special Ed EA/PCA - Resource Program for 3.2 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA/PCA - Resource Program for 6.75 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
7. Thomas Dickerson, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Private Lesson Coach for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/17/2026-8/31/2026. \$45/individual/hour; \$36/individual/hour Group of 5 or less.
8. Miriel Ennis, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/18/2026-8/31/2026. \$16.37/hr.
9. Estella Freeman, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/12/2026-8/31/2026. \$16.64/hr.
10. Elaina Haag, Summer Lifeguard for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/12/2026-8/31/2026. \$15.02/hr.
11. Gretchen Heil, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher for up to 44 hours at Spring Creek effective 8/10/2026-8/21/2026. \$40/hr.
12. Mara Hessian, Special Ed EA/PCA - RISE Program for 3.375 hrs/day and Special Ed EA/PCA - Resource Program for 3.375 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA/PCA - Resource Program for 6.75 hrs/day at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026.
13. Christine Howard, Speech and Language Pathologist at Greenvale Park/Spring Creek, change to Speech and Language Pathologist at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026.
14. Tricia Kasa, AP Testing Coordinator at the High School, position reduced/eliminated effective 8/27/2026.
15. Lisa Koktavy, Class IV Administrative Support Assistant - Community Education for 260 days/year at the NCEC, change to 250 days/year effective 7/1/2026.
16. Bailey Krueger, Speech and Language Pathologist at Greenvale Park/St. Dominic, change to Speech and Language Pathologist at Bridgewater/St. Dominic effective 8/27/2026.
17. Gretta Kunze, Teacher at the NCEC, add Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher for up to 44 hours at Greenvale Park effective 8/10/2026-8/21/2026. \$40/hr.
18. Alisa Larsen, Special Ed EA/PCA for 2.80 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 5.90 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
19. Elizabeth Larson, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Summer Camp Coach for Community Education/Recreation effective 7/13/2026-8/31/2026. \$20/hr.
20. Jill Lauritzen-Kohel, Teacher at the High School, add Teacher Mentor - Grow Your Own effective 7/1/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,500 stipend.
21. Becky Malecha, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Teacher Mentor - Grow Your Own effective 7/1/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,500 stipend.
22. Katie Malecha, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at Bridgewater, add .50 hrs/day supervision for a total of 7.25 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
23. Beth Momberg, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.05 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 6.75 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
24. Marilyn Nelson, Special Ed EA/PCA for 2.65 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 1.95 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
25. Xochitl Oaxaca, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.80 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 7.0 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
26. Jacob Odell, Special Education Teacher at the High School, add Camp Friends Coordinator for Community Education effective 6/18/2026-8/21/2026.
27. Theresa Olson, Supervision EA for 1.50 hrs/day and Special Ed EA/PCA for 6 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA for 6.75 hrs/day at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026.
28. Chris O'Neill, Teacher at the Middle School, add Eagle Bluff Coordinator for Community Education effective 6/18/2026-8/21/2026. \$1,000 stipend.
29. Stephanie Petersen, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at Greenvale Park, change to Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026.
30. Stephanie Petersen, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026.
31. Graham Peterson, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/29/2026-8/31/2026. \$16.10/hr.
32. Alisha Saladino, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/18/2026-8/31/2026. \$17.45/hr.
33. Kyle Schmidt, General Ed EA for 5 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 4.30 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
34. Melissa Spitzack, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Summer Plus Teacher at Greenvale Park effective 6/17/2026-7/30/2026. \$40/hr.

35. Samuel Stier, Summer Instructor Assistant for Community Education/Recreation, add Summer Instructor Lead for Community Education/Recreation effective 6/29/2026-8/31/2026. \$16.10/hr.
36. Rebecca Stoufis, Special Education Teacher at the High School, add Camp Friends Coordinator for Community Education effective 6/18/2026-8/21/2026.
37. Jade Suhsen, Special Ed EA/PCA for 3.60 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 3.10 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
38. Pilar Sullivan, General Ed EA for 7.75 hrs/day at the NCEC, change to 6.80 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
39. Sarah Swan McDonald, Teacher at the High School, add Boundary Waters Teacher for up to 32 hours at the ALC effective 6/15/2026-6/19/2026. Lane/step.
40. Gina Swenson, Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher for up to 44 hours at Greenvale Park effective 8/10/2026-8/21/2026. \$40/hr.
41. Justine Voronkova, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.83 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to 6.75 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
42. Deb Wagner, Cafeteria Supervision EA for 1.12 hrs/day, Special Ed EA/PCA - Resource Program for 1.755 hrs/day, and Special Ed EA/PCA - SOAR Program for 3.375 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA/PCA - RISE Program for 6.75 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
43. Michele Warden, Media EA for 5.5 hrs/day and Copy/Laminating EA for 2 hrs/day at Bridgewater, add .50 hrs/day supervisory for a total of 8 hrs/day effective 8/27/2026.
44. Katrina Warner, Supervision EA for 1 hr/day and Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.25 hrs/day at Bridgewater, change to Supervision EA for 1 hr/day and Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hrs/day at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026.
45. Kari Winter, Teacher at the NCEC, add Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher for up to 44 hours at Bridgewater effective 8/10/2026-8/21/2026. \$40/hr.
46. Lauren Zwolenski, Educational Assistant for 7.25 hrs/day at Spring Creek, change to 1.0 FTE Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal and Activities Director at the Middle School effective 7/1/2026. Class III - Step 4, \$25.04/hr.
47. Thomas Austin, AFNR/Technology Engineering Teacher at the High School, add a 1/6th overload for Semester I only effective 8/27/2026-1/22/2027.
48. Lindsay Becker Larson, ESY EA/PCA at the Middle School, add ESY Bus EA/PCA for 1.75 hours/day at the Middle School effective 7/6/2026-7/17/2026.
49. Pam Charlton, ADSIS Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Literacy Lead at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
50. Noreen Cooney, School Social Worker at Spring Creek, add MTSS Lead at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
51. Danielle Crase, .7 FTE Assistant Girls Golf Coach at the High School, change to .85 FTE Co-Head Girls Golf Coach at the High School effective 3/22/2027.
52. Lindsey Downs, ADSIS Teacher at Spring Creek, add Literacy Lead at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
53. Sarah Duchene, ADSIS Teacher at Bridgewater, add Literacy Lead at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
54. Molly Ericksen, School Psychologist at Bridgewater, add MTSS Lead at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
55. Robert Garcia, Grade 4 Compañeros Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Math Lead at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
56. Brittney Hubbard, Special Education SOAR Teacher at Spring Creek, add ESY SPARK Teacher for up to 3.75 hours/day, up to 10 days at the NCEC effective 7/6/2026-7/24/2026.
57. Marcy Korynta, School Psychologist at the Middle School, add MTSS Lead at the Middle School effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
58. Hope Langston, .25 FTE Instructional Systems Data Coach at the District office, change to Instructional Services Transition Support for up to 5 days for the 2026-27 school year. \$683/day.
59. Suzanne Lanza, Grade 1 Compañeros Teacher at Bridgewater, add Math Lead at Bridgewater effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
60. Melissa Larsen, Instructional Behavior Coach at Greenvale Park, add MTSS Lead at Greenvale Park effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
61. Mackenzie Ludwig, ECSE Teacher at the NCEC, add ESY SPARK Teacher for up to 3.75 hours/day, up to 10 days at the NCEC effective 7/6/2026-7/24/2026.
62. Becky Malecha, Grade 5 Teacher at Spring Creek, add Math Lead at Spring Creek effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
63. Nancy Meyers, Child Nutrition Associate III at the Middle School, add ESY Bus EA/PCA - CVSEC for 3 hours/day effective 7/13/2026-7/30/2026.
64. Ruth Morgan-Malecha, Substitute EA for the District, add ESY Bus EA/PCA for 1.5 hours/day at Greenvale Park effective 7/6/2026-7/17/2026.
65. Mel Miller, Head Girls Golf Coach at the High School, change to .85 FTE Co-Head Girls Golf Coach at the High School effective 3/22/2027.
66. Joan Odell, ESY EA/PCA at Greenvale Park, add ESY Bus EA/PCA for 1.58 hours/day for the District effective 7/13/2026-7/30/2026.

67. Molly Otte, Art Teacher at the Middle School, add a 1/6th overload in lieu of supervision effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027.
68. Amy Pantze, Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day plus .5 hours/day supervisory at Greenvale Park, change to Special Ed EA/PCA for 6.75 hours/day plus .25 hours/day supervisory at Greenvale Park effective 9/8/2026.
69. Sarah Swan-McDonald, MTSS Teacher at the High School, add MTSS Lead at the High School effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
70. Jan Thomas, Substitute Bus EA for the District, add ESY Bus EA/PCA - MSAD/MSAB for 1.20 hours/day for the District effective 7/13/2026-7/30/2026.
71. Rachael Thompson, School Psychologist at the NCEC, add MTSS Lead at the NCEC effective 8/27/2026-6/11/2027. \$1,000 stipend.
- iii. Leave of Absences
 1. N/A
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
 1. Kari Adelmann, ESY EA/PCA at the NCEC, resignation effective 7/7/2026.
 2. Tyler Balow, Co-Head Boys Track & Field Coach at the High School, resignation effective 7/2/2026.
 3. Amy Truman, Administrative Support Assistant at Spring Creek, resignation effective 6/24/2026.
 4. Tegan Underdahl, Early Ventures Teacher at the NCEC, resignation effective 8/19/2026.
 5. Suzanne Lanza, Compañeros Teacher at Bridgewater, resignation effective 7/13/2026.
 6. Liz Pasch, Child Nutrition Associate I at the High School, resignation effective 7/13/2026.
 7. Alicia Veltri, Special Education Instruction & Inclusion Coach at the District Office, resignation effective 7/11/2026.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Transportation Contract. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the two-year transportation contract with Benjamin Bus, Inc. for 2026-28, with an option to extend the contract two more years, through the 2029-30 school year.
- b. Participation Agreement Between Northfield Public Schools and St. Dominic School. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Epstein, the board unanimously approved the participation agreement between St. Dominic School and Northfield Public Schools, allowing seventh and eighth grade students enrolled at St. Dominic to participate in select Northfield School District programs that are not offered at St. Dominic. In accordance with MSHSL Bylaw 105, seventh and eighth grade students at St. Dominic have the opportunity to participate in NHS activity programs because St. Dominic is a non-continuation school that does not offer education beyond eighth grade. This agreement will be reviewed every two years.
- c. 2026-27 Student Citizenship Handbook. On a motion by Epstein, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously approved the proposed changes to the 2026-27 Student Citizenship Handbook.
- d. Resolution Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access Recertification System. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Nelson, the board approved by roll call vote the resolution to authorize Dr. Tim Anderson to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) and Christine Neset to act as the IOwA to add and remove names only for Northfield Public Schools 0659-01. Voting "yes" were: Butler, Epstein, Goerwitz, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Gonzalez-George. No one voted "no".

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659, as follows: The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with the MNIT Enterprise Identity and Access Management Standard which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency (LEA). The board authorizes Dr. Tim Anderson to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) and Christine Neset to act as the IOwA to add and remove names only for Northfield Public Schools 0659-01.

8. Items for Information

- a. Construction Update No. 28. Superintendent Anderson provided an update on the NHS construction project.

- b. End-of-Year Enrollment Report. Superintendent Anderson reviewed the June 2026 end-of-year enrollment report.
- c. Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy. The dates for filing for school board are July 14-28, 2026 in the District Office. An affidavit of candidacy must be filed in the office of the school district clerk and the \$2 filing fee paid prior to 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. The next school board election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.
- d. July 27 Training Session Canceled. The board training session scheduled for July 27, 2026 has been canceled. The board will consider scheduling a training session at a date to be determined this fall.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, August 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, August 24, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, September 14, 2026, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Nelson, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Maggie Epstein
School Board Clerk

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING DONATIONS

The following resolution was moved by _____ and seconded by _____:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 123B.02, Sub. 6 provides: “The board may receive, for the benefit of the district, bequests, donations, or gifts for any proper purpose and apply the same to the purpose designated. In that behalf, the board may act as trustee of any trust created for the benefit of the district, or for the benefit of pupils thereof, including trusts created to provide pupils of the district with advanced education after completion of high school, in the advancement of education.”; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 465.03 provides: “Any city, county, school district or town may accept a grant or devise of real or personal property and maintain such property for the benefit of its citizens in accordance with the terms prescribed by the donor. Nothing herein shall authorize such acceptance or use for religious or sectarian purposes. Every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full.”; and

WHEREAS, every such acceptance shall be by resolution of the governing body adopted by a two-thirds majority of its members, expressing such terms in full;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Northfield Public Schools, ISD 659, gratefully accepts the following donations as identified below:

The vote on adoption of the Resolution was as follows:

Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

Whereupon, said Resolution was declared duly adopted.

By: Claudia Gonzalez-George, Chair

By: Maggie Epstein, Clerk

Date of the bequest, donation, or gift:	Amount:	Who the bequest, donation, or gift is from:	What the bequest, donation, or gift is for:
7/14/2026	\$350.00	Just Food: Northfield Community Co-op Inc.	Donation for Raider Chess Club
7/14/2026	\$250.00	Community Resource Bank	Donation for Raider Chess Club
7/16/2026	\$200.00	Fifty North	Community Band 2026 Season
7/30/2026	\$250.00	Home Town Credit Union	Chess Club
7/30/2026	\$794.04	Ordway	Transportation grant for GVP Grade 4 Field Trip



Northfield High School
Activities Office

Extended Overnight Request Form

Staff Member(s) Responsible (Name and phone):

School and Program: NHS Boys Hockey

Date of Requested Trip:

1. What group is taking this trip?

High School Boys Hockey V + JV

2. Estimated # of Students:

37

Adult Supervisors:

5

3. Destination:

4.

Brainerd, MN - Hotel TBD

5. Date/Time of Departure:

11/20/26 4:00PM

6. Date/Time of Return:

7.

11/21/26 9:00PM

8. State purpose and/or educational value of trip (attach information to form if needed).

Pre-season Scrimmage Festival
Team Bonding + Building

9. Name the manner of travel and the carrier.

Coach Bus (For gear + overnight bag / Nutrition)

10. State housing arrangements (must include name, address and phone number of hotel). TBD → will update once confirmed

11. List of coach, parent or guardian contact info. (Attach)

Charlie Clauz

612-600-4415



12. List participants (reminder to have participants complete parent/guardian permission form if applicable). (Attach)

Varsity & JV team

13. Indicate who will be in charge of supervising the trip (roles and responsibilities).

Charlie Clow - Organizing transport, lodging & supervising overnight

14. State the safety precautions and procedures for emergencies while on the trip.

- Buddy system w/ players
- Curfew check-ins

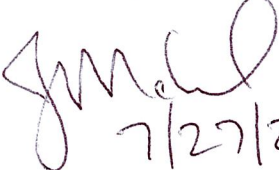
11. Give budget costs, how the trip will be funded and estimated cost per student.

Fundraiser from Booster Club + donations
= \$200

12. List any proposed precautions, special needs, special concerns, student concerns, - if applicable. N/A

Signature of Staff Member Responsible: 

Date field trip request was submitted to Principal: 7/20/26

Principal/Administrator Signature and Date:  7/27/26

Approved:  Not Approved:

Superintendent Signature and Date: _____

Approved: _____ Not Approved: _____

School Board Review Date: _____

Approved: _____ Not Approved: _____

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
AND CALLING THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 (Northfield), State of Minnesota as follows:

1. (a) It is necessary for the school district to hold its general election for the purpose of electing three (3) school board members for terms of four (4) years each.

(b) The clerk shall include on the ballot the names of the individuals who file or have filed affidavits of candidacy during the period established for filing such affidavits, as though they had been included by name in this resolution. The clerk shall not include on the ballot the names of individuals who file timely affidavits of withdrawal in the manner specified by law.
2. The general election is hereby called and elected to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, the 3rd day of November, 2026.
3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for this general election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district and which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as for the state general election.
4. (a) The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said general election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, at least eighty-four (84) days before the date of said election. The notice shall include the date of said general election and the office or offices to be voted on at said general election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

(b) The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said general election.

(c) The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said general election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot. The sample ballot for a polling place must reflect the offices, candidates and rotation sequence on the ballots used in that polling place.

(d) The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be published in the official newspaper of the school district for two (2) weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of said election.

(e) The notice of election so posted and published shall state the offices to be filled set forth in the form of the ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

(f) The clerk is authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in each polling place on election day.
5. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this election, and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate election officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.
6. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cause or to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form, color and instruction as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system.

GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 659
NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
November 3, 2026

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:



**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER – 4 YEAR TERM
VOTE FOR UP TO THREE**

- ☐ Candidate A
- ☐ Candidate B
- ☐ Candidate C
- ☐ _____ Write in, if any
- ☐ _____ Write in, if any
- ☐ _____ Write in, if any

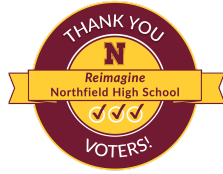
Optical scan ballots must be printed in black ink on white material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to be used to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot so that the judges' initials are visible when the ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

7. The name of each candidate for office at this election shall be rotated with the names of the other candidates for the same office in the manner specified in Minnesota law.
8. If the school district will be contracting to print the ballots for this election, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instructions to the printer for layout of the ballot. Before a contract in excess of \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the printer shall, if requested by the election official, furnish, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit, or certified check acceptable to the clerk in an amount not less than \$1,000 conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The clerk shall set the amount of the bond, letter or credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.
9. The individuals designated as judges for the state general election shall act as election judges for this election at the various polling places and shall conduct said election in the manner described by law. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit them to the school board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections. The general election must be canvassed between the third and tenth day following the general election.
10. The School District Clerk shall make all Campaign Financial Reports required to be filed with the school district under Minnesota Statutes, Section 211A.02 available on the school district's website. The clerk must post the report on the school district's website as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the receipt of the report. The school district must make a report available on the school district's website for four years from the date the report was posted to the website. The clerk must also provide the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board with a link to the section of the website where reports are made available.

Dated: August 10, 2026

Claudia Gonzalez-George, School Board Chair

Maggie Epstein, School Board Clerk



Reimagine Northfield High School Bond Referendum Projects | Construction Update No. 29 | August 10, 2026

Recent highlights

- Knutson Construction sends weekly project updates. These weekly updates are being posted to the [Reimagine Northfield High School website](#).
- A camera has been set up to show construction progress. A link to the camera footage can be accessed by scanning the QR code below, and has been added to the [Reimagine Northfield High School website](#).



- Watermain excavation and installation is starting to move across the NE parking lot to the north towards the old basketball and tennis courts. Parking will be limited to the eastern side of the lot. Walking access to doors 1 and 37 will remain open by using the sidewalks - either north or south of the parking lot. The excavation and installation will be blockaded off from people and vehicles.
- Dirt work is still the primary work being completed, which will prepare the site for building construction.
- The first geothermal well has been completed and is in the inspection phase. The inspection will make sure it meets the system's expectations before working on the subsequent wells.

Upcoming meetings and discussions

- District leadership and budget meetings are held twice a month between the district, Wold, and Knutson to keep the project on track.
- Project oversight committee meetings are held twice a month, as needed.

Community Information

- Community members can view information about the project, including images and the [video walkthrough of the reimaged Northfield High School](#), on the [district website](#).

Fundraiser Report | 2025-26 School Year | August 10, 2026

Val Mertesdorf, Director of Finance

As required in Policy 713: Student Activity Accounting, I am providing a report of student activity account fundraisers from 7/1/25 - 6/30/26.

Activity	Type of fundraiser	Purpose	Results
FFA	Fruit, nuts & cheese sale	Raise funds to support growing FFA program and participation in National Convention	\$10,668.92
FFA	Rootbeer Floats	Raise funds to support growing FFA program and participation in National Convention	\$50.88
FFA	DJJD Pork Producers Booth	Raise funds to support growing FFA program and participation in National Convention	\$439.00
FFA	Pumpkin Harvesting	Raise funds to support growing FFA program and participation in National Convention	\$800.00
FFA	Dakota County Jackpot Concessions	Raise funds to support growing FFA program and participation in National Convention	\$516.04
Robotics	Bag groceries at Cub	Program support	\$1,139.68
BPA	Gertens plant sale	Raise funds to support students going to National Conference	\$1,029.59
NHS Choir	Kwik Trip Car Wash	Raise funds for choir trip to Florida	\$2,480.00
Vocal	Gertens plant sale	Raise funds for choir trip to Florida	\$1,902.65
Gymnastics	Car Wash	Raise funds for gymnastics equipment and team apparel	\$675.00
Girls Golf	Pick up trash at DJJD Rodeo	Purchase new polo shirts and winter hats for players	\$1,000.00
Girls Basketball	Bag groceries at Cub	Raise funds for team apparel and equipment	\$542.16
Gymnastics	VFW Pancake breakfast	Raise funds for gymnastics equipment and team apparel	\$955.00

Boys Tennis	Bag groceries at Cub	Raise funds for team apparel and equipment	\$1,296.86
Girls Tennis	Banners at DJJD	Raise funds for team apparel and equipment	\$565.00
Girls Tennis	Bag groceries at Cub	Raise funds for team apparel and equipment	\$1,073.30

Why e-Learning days?

The purpose of e-Learning days is to maintain instructional momentum when Minnesota winter weather disrupts the ability to provide in-person instruction rather than extend the school year later into June.

Note: If a parent **does not** wish to have their student participate in an e-Learning day, they have that option. Please call the attendance line at your school and let them know. That absence will be excused.

When will the district use e-Learning days?

The first full school day cancellation due to winter weather **will not** be replaced with an e-Learning day. The **second** and **subsequent** school closures will be replaced with e-Learning days. In special circumstances, the superintendent may determine not to designate an e-Learning day on a day when there is a full school day cancellation due to weather. If the district closes school after initially identifying a two-hour late start, an e-Learning/online learning day will be implemented using the same parameters as if it were a standard school closure. There is a limit of five (5) e-Learning days for weather-related closures. Because school districts can provide online instruction to their students at their discretion, the board may authorize additional online learning days if necessary.

Staff availability

Teachers, administrators, and other licensed professionals will be available by email, phone (via voicemail), Talking Points, or through the grade-appropriate digital learning space (Schoology, SeeSaw, or Google Meet) based on the schedules below. The [staff directory](#) includes all district email addresses and voicemail extensions. Students receiving special education services can expect to be contacted by their case manager to determine how they can support a successful e-Learning/online learning day experience.

Student attendance and activities

Students will be considered in attendance as indicated in the table below. Parents may call the attendance line to notify the school of their student's absence. This absence will follow the same protocols as for an absence when students physically attend school. Student work on e-Learning/online learning days will follow the guidelines in the table below. Not all e-Learning/online learning activities will be graded. Graded activities will be allowed additional time for submission on a case-by-case basis. Students who need additional time because of limited Internet access or other family responsibilities should contact their teacher for an extension.

Building	Student Activity Guidelines
Area Learning Center	Students will receive e-Learning/online learning day instructions from the ALC.
Bridgewater, Greenvale Park, and Spring Creek	Students are marked "present" for the e-Learning/online learning day if they hand in the assigned work. At least one activity must be completed in each curricular area on the e-Learning matrix (linked below). Follow the instructions on the matrix. Teachers are available between 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m. to support students and their work. Students may post their work in SeeSaw or Schoology or return it the next school day. Kindergarten Grade 1 Grade 2 Grade 3 Grade 4 Grade 5

Middle School	Northfield Middle School staff will post the day's activities on Schoology before 9:00 am. Students will join their Period 1 class via Google Meet at 9:00 am for attendance and to receive instructions about the e-Learning day. Expectations will align with what students would complete within a regular class period. The learning activity will advance the current content being learned in the course. The teacher will explain the maximum time the student should spend on the learning activity. Teachers will be available to assist students with the day's tasks based on the following schedule. For clarity, this schedule is not for required live instruction but for student assistance. 1st period: 9:00 am-9:45 am (includes the required 15-minute e-Learning day attendance, expectations, and schedule overview) 2nd period: 10:00 am-10:30 am 3rd period: 10:45 am-11:15 am Lunch: 11:15 am-12:15 pm 4th period: 12:15 pm-12:45 pm 5th period: 1:00 pm-1:30 pm 6th period: 1:45 pm-2:15 pm 7th period: 2:30 pm-3:00 pm
High School	Northfield High School staff will post the day's activities on Schoology before 9:00 am. Students will join their Period 2 class via Google Meet at 9:00 am for attendance and to receive instructions about the e-Learning day. Expectations will align with what students would complete within a regular class period. The learning activity will advance the current content being learned in the course. The teacher will explain the maximum time the student should spend on the learning activity. Teachers will be available to assist students with the day's tasks based on the following schedule. For clarity, this schedule is not for required live instruction but for student assistance. 2nd period: 9:00 am-9:45 am (includes the required 15-minute e-Learning day attendance, expectations, and schedule overview.) 1st period: 10:00 am-10:30 am 3rd period: 10:45 am-11:15 am Lunch: 11:15 am-12:15pm 4th period: 12:15 pm-12:45 pm 5th period: 1:00 pm-1:30 pm 6th period: 1:45 pm-2:15 pm 7th period: 2:30 pm-3:00 pm
Northfield Community Education Center	Adult Basic Education, Early Ventures, and KidVentures are canceled. Early Childhood Family Education and Hand-in-Hand Preschool - families will receive e-Learning day instructions from staff.
Big Nine Online	Students will follow the Big Nine Online program schedule.