

# **NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **School Board Minutes**

January 22, 2024

District Office Boardroom

Board Member Ben Miller participated remotely from the public lobby at 371 Ski Hill Rd, Lutsen, MN 55612

1. Call to Order

School Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District No. 659 to order at 6:00 p.m. Board member attendance was taken. Present: Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. Absent: Butler. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the agenda by roll call. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

There were no announcements or recognitions.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Financial Forecast. Superintendent Hillmann provided an updated financial forecast and the schedule for 2024-25 budget presentations to the board.
- b. Summary of Superintendent's Mid-Year Evaluation. Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George shared her summary of the superintendent's mid-year performance evaluation July 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023. Board members gave Dr. Hillmann a very strong performance rating across all key areas. His overall average score was 4.87 on a 5.0 point scale across 41 job responsibilities organized around eight major topics and four focus areas. Board members cited Dr. Hillmann's exceptional work in engaging all stakeholders in a shared vision of learning, in the implementation of strategies that result in measurable achievement gains, fostering a culturally competent environment where diversity is valued, and establishing goals for staff learning.
- c. Potential 2024 Northfield High School Bond Referendum Update. Superintendent Hillmann provided a recap of the potential high school referendum timeline and where we are year-to-date, reviewed the Jan. 16, 2024 board work session, and he outlined the initial cost estimates for six options to address the facility problems at Northfield High School.

6. Committee Reports

Board member Miller provided an update on the District Youth Council (DYC).

7. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda items by roll call. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the Organizational School Board meeting held on January 8, 2024, and Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 8, 2024.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements to be approved were attached.
- c. MSHSL Membership for 2023-2024. At the July 10, 2023 regular school board meeting the board unanimously approved renewal of the district's membership in the Minnesota State High School League and designated Activities Director John Mahal and Board Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George as the Northfield High School representative. Board Chair Gonzalez-George recommended Jeff Quinnell replace her as the board representative to the Minnesota State High School League effective immediately.

d. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Richelle Audiss, Child Nutrition Associate I for 3 hours/day at the Middle School, beginning 1/24/2024. \$20.84/hr.
2. Timothy Hoernke, Assistant Softball Coach at the High School, beginning 3/11/2024. \$5,383-stipend-Step 1.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Paula Baragary, Grade 5 Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher for up to 2 hours/week at Spring Creek, effective 1/16/2024-5/16/2024. \$40/hr.
2. Erin Blanck, ECFE EA for 20 hours/week at the NCEC, add ECFE Special Events worker for 1 time each month and change to ECFE EA for 23.5 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 1/8/2024-6/6/2024.
3. Ashly Blatti, Grade 5 Teacher at Bridgewater, add Math Lead at Bridgewater, effective 9/1/2023-6/6/2024. \$750 stipend.
4. Katie Casson, German Teacher at the High School, add Assistant Knowledge Bowl Coach at the High School, effective 1/3/2024. \$2,153-stipend.
5. Pam Charlton, Grade 1 Teacher at Bridgewater, add Literacy Lead at Bridgewater, effective 9/1/2023-6/6/2024. \$750 stipend.
6. Diane Frederick, .6 FTE Long Term Substitute Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, change to .48 FTE Special Ed Teacher at the Middle School, effective 1/22/2024-6/6/2024. MA10, Step 10
7. Robert Garcia, Grade 4 Companeros Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Math Lead at Greenvale Park, effective 9/1/2023-6/6/2024. \$750 stipend.
8. Brianna Grabinger, ECFE EA Sib Care for 8 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE EA Sib Care for 14.5 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 1/8/2024-6/6/2024.
9. Becki Malecha, Grade 4 Teacher at Spring Creek, add Math Lead at Spring Creek, effective 9/1/2023-6/6/2024. \$750 stipend.
10. Oscar Marquez, Night Custodian at Bridgewater, change to Night Custodian at Spring Creek, effective 12/26/2023.
11. Tammy McDonough, .9 FTE Science Teacher at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE Science Teacher at the High School, effective 1/24/2024-6/6/2024.
12. Shanise Morris, Special Ed EA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA PCA Extracurricular and Nonacademic Support at the Middle School, effective 1/9/2024.
13. Ryan Pietsch, Phy Ed Teacher at Spring Creek, add Assistant Boys Golf Coach at the High School, effective 3/18/2024. \$4,306-stipend.
14. Tony Rezac, Night Lead Custodian at Spring Creek, change to Night Custodian at the Middle School, effective 12/26/2023. - \$0.30/hr.
15. Alexis Sanborn, Bus EA for 1.50 hours/day at the High School, change to Bus EA for 1.83 hours/day at the High School, effective 1/16/2024-6/6/2024.
16. Amanda Sieger, ADSIS Teacher at Spring Creek, add Literacy Lead at Spring Creek, effective 9/1/2023-6/6/2024. \$750 stipend.
17. Joshua Stalsberg, Custodian at the Middle School, change to Custodian at Bridgewater, effective 12/26/2023.
18. Libby Stanton, ECFE Teacher for 25 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE Teacher for 27.75 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 1/8/2024.
19. Diane Torbenson, ADSIS Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Literacy Lead at Greenvale Park, effective 9/1/2023-6/6/2024. \$750 stipend.
20. Winston Vermilyea, Lifeguard with Community Ed Recreation, add Instructor Lead with Community Ed Recreation, effective 1/8/2024-5/31/2024. Step 6-\$16.25/hr.
21. Sheila Atkinson, Special Ed EA Bus for .25 hours/day at Bridgewater, change to Special Ed EA Bus for .42 hours/day at Bridgewater, effective 1/19/2024-6/6/2024.
22. Brian Link, Custodian at the Middle School, change hours from 11:00-7:00 p.m. to 12:00-8:00 p.m. effective 1/19/2024.

iii. Leave of Absence

1. Renee Burnham, English Teacher at the ALC, FMLA Leave of Absence, beginning 1/9/2024 and continuing on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.

2. Paige Haley, Kindergarten Teacher at Bridgewater, FMLA Leave of Absence, beginning on or about 6/2/2024 and will continue for 8 work weeks.
  3. Laura Vind, Special Ed Teacher at the Middle School, .40 FTE Leave of Absence, beginning 1/24/2024-6/6/2024.
  4. Brent Dunkelberger, Math Teacher at the Middle School, FMLA Leave of absence beginning on or about 2/26/2024-approximately 3/8/2024.
  5. Angela Eliason, Music Teacher at Greenvale Park, FMLA Leave of absence beginning on or about 4/20/2024 through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Ryan Pietsch, Golf Coach at the Middle School, resignation effective 1/16/2024.
  2. Zoe Condon, Custodian at the High School, resignation effective 1/18/2024.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. Policy Recommendation. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Gonzalez-George, the board unanimously approved by roll call to approve the recommended updates to policy 906. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.
- b. Request to Hire Additional English Learner Instructional Support. On a motion by Gonzalez-George, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved by roll call up to \$19,000 for FTE to support English language learners at Northfield Middle School for the remainder of the 2023-24 school year with the assumption of a Jan. 24, 2024 start date and an end date of June 6, 2024. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.
- c. Board Committee Assignments. On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Goerwitz, the board approved by roll call to approve board member committee appointments and representation to various organizations and school liaisons for calendar year 2024. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.

9. Items for Information

- a. Paraprofessional Recognition Week. January 21–27, 2024 is Paraprofessional Recognition Week in Minnesota. Northfield Public Schools appreciates our educational assistants and the support and services they provide to enhance student achievement. Educational assistants support instruction, assist with virtual learning, provide personal care services, etc. We are grateful for their commitment to meeting the needs of students.
- b. Public Meeting. The school board will host a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, January 29, 2024, in the auditorium at Northfield High School. The purpose of this meeting is to solicit feedback from the public about the potential options to address the facility problems at Northfield High School.

10. Future Meetings, Work Session and Public Meeting

- a. Monday, January 29, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Public Meeting, Northfield High School Auditorium
- b. Monday, February 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, February 12, 2024, Closed Board Meeting immediately following the Regular Board Meeting for the purpose of labor negotiations
- d. Monday, February 26, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the board unanimously approved by roll call to adjourn the regular board meeting at 7:54 p.m. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no'.



Amy Goerwitz  
School Board Clerk