

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

February 26, 2024
District Office Boardroom

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 6:04 p.m. Present: Butler, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell, and Stratmoen. Absent: Goerwitz. 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 Butler, the board unanimously approved the agenda

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Hand in Hand Preschool, Early Ventures Learning Center and Early Childhood Family Education will hold an open house and summer and/or fall registration night on Thursday, March 7 at the NCEC.
- Ayla Puppe has won the 2024 Ms. Hockey Award. Ayla, a senior forward and captain this season, is the first Raider to win the state's top hockey award as she led the state in goals (61), assists (50) and total points (111) this season. Ayla will graduate this spring and attend the University of Minnesota to play hockey for the Golden Gophers.
- Caley Graber is the third girl in Minnesota history to qualify for the boys state wrestling tournament and the first ever female champion in boys wrestling from Section One. She is currently ranked #11 nationally at 105 pounds.
- The boys swim and dive team will swim preliminaries on Friday and hope to place many of our swimmers into finals on Saturday at the Aquatic Center at the University of Minnesota. They had a second place finish at this year's True Team meet.
- Wrestlers Caley Graber, Caden Staab, Keith Harner, Owen Murphy, Ryan Kuyper, Noah Ackerman, and Lainey Houts will wrestle in the individual competition this Friday morning and hopefully into Saturday's Championships.
- The Mock Trial team of Grace Van Voorst, Mason Vatter, Connor Percy, Maddie Bussman, Hailey Parish, Savannah Mellies, Jack Linder, Ali Matthews, Piper Artley, Gwyn Cikanek, and Noa Marohl have been dominant all season. Their advisor Stephen Cade says this group is driven and enjoys competing all while they prepare for the Mock Trial State Tournament March 7-8 in St. Paul.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Morris Leatherman Telephone Survey Results. Dr. Don Lifto from The Morris Leatherman Company presented the results of the Northfield High School facility telephone survey.
- b. Indigenous (American Indian) Parent Meeting and Service Update. Superintendent Hillmann updated the board about the Indigenous Parent Advisory Committee meetings held this year. Director of Instructional Services Hope Langston and Indigenous Family Cultural Liaison Sybil Betsinger shared the activities associated with improving services to Indigenous students and families.
- c. Potential 2024 Northfield High School Bond Referendum Update. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed what has occurred thus far regarding the potential 2024 bond referendum to address facility problems at Northfield High School including the facility problems identified by the board, the community engagement efforts, the potential options to address the facility problems, the associated costs with those options, and the tax impact. The board will hold a work session on March 5 to discuss next steps.

6. Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

7. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 12, 2024.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements to be approved were attached.
- c. Personnel Items
 - i. Appointments
 1. Max Albertson, Instructor Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 2/24/2024-5/31/2024. Step 4-\$14.75/hr.
 2. Kalista Dahle, .20 Production Coordinator at the High School, beginning 2/14/2024-3/16/2024. \$843.40 stipend.
 3. Tammy Donahue, Child Nutrition Associate I for 3.25 hours/day at Spring Creek, beginning 3/4/2024. \$20.84/hr.
 4. Khara Huffstutter, Special Ed EA PCA for 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 2/20/2024. Step 2-\$17.03/hr. Plus prorated PCA stipend.
 5. Lydia Montgomery, Special Ed EA PCA for 3.5 hours/day at the NCEC/Greenvale Park, beginning 2/20/2024-6/6/2024. Step 3-\$17.39/hr. Plus prorated PCA stipend.
 6. Kellie O'Meara, Instructor Lead with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 2/24/2024-5/31/2024. Step 2-\$15.25/hr.
 7. Hani Abdi, 1.0 FTE Custodian at the Middle School, beginning 3/6/2024. \$19.63/hr.
 8. Vincent Garcia, Targeted Services MSYC Club Leader for up to 6 hours/week at the Middle School, beginning 3/6/2024 - 5/16/2024. \$24.30/hr.
 9. Hannah Peters, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day and EA PCA Bus for .75 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 3/1/2024-6/6/2024. Step 1-\$16.66/hr. plus a prorated PCA stipend.
 - ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 1. Jacob Fox, Instructor Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, changed the rate of pay to Step 2-\$14.25/hr., effective 2/19/2024-5/31/2024.
 2. Estella Freeman, Instructor Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, add Instructor Lead with Community Ed Recreation, effective 2/15/2024-5/31/2024. Step 1-\$15.00/hr.
 3. Ellen Haefner, Parent Educator for 25 hours/week at the NCEC, change to Parent Educator for 27 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 2/1/2024.
 4. Beth LaCanne, Co-Head Girls Tennis Coach at the High School, add .75 Assistant Boys Tennis Coach at the High School, effective 3/25/2024. \$3,229.50 stipend.
 5. Ruby Modory, Site Supervisor with Community Ed Recreation, add Instructor Lead with Community Ed Recreation, effective 2/15/2024-5/31/2024. Step 1-\$15.00/hr.
 6. Karen Nelson, FACS Teacher at the High School, add Event Worker at the High School, effective 2/14/2024.
 7. Jake Odell, Work Based Learning Teacher at the High School, add .25 Assistant Boys Tennis Coach at the High School, effective 3/25/2024. \$1,076.50 stipend.
 8. Libby Stanton, ECFE Teacher for 27.75 hours/week at the NCEC, change to ECFE Teacher for 30.25 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 2/1/2024.
 9. Elizabeth (Beth) Winter, EA-General Ed for 2.5 hours/day at Greenvale Park, change to EA-General Ed for 2.67 hours/day at Greenvale Park, effective 2/14/2024.
 10. Lydia Montgomery, Special Ed EA PCA for 17.5 hours/week at the NCEC and Greenvale Park, change to 23 hours/week at the NCEC and Greenvale Park, effective 2/26/2024-6/6/2024.
 11. Roberta Schmidtke, Early Ventures Site Leader for 40 hours/week at the NCEC, change to Early Ventures Site Leader for 16 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 2/20/2024-6/6/2024.
 - iii. Leave of Absence
 1. Brooke Bulfer, HR Generalist at the District Office, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 2/19/2024 return date TBD.
 2. Kay Goodrich, EA at the High School, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 3/11/2024 and will continue for up to 60 work days.
 3. Lisa Krueger Robb, EL Teacher at the High School, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 1/25/2024 and will continue on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
 4. Brent Lothert, Systems Administrator with the District, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning on or about 4/10/2024 for 8 work days.

5. Sarah Smith, Special Education EA/PCA at Greenvale Park, medical leave of absence beginning March 18, 2024, through the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
 6. Ashly Blatti, Grade 5 Teacher at Bridgewater, FMLA medical leave of absence beginning on 8/22/2024-11/18/2024.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Charlie Alvarez, Teacher at Greenvale Park, resignation effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
 2. Anastasia Breyer, EA at Bridgewater, resignation effective 3/8/2024.
 3. Alexis Sanborn, EA at the High School, resignation effective 3/6/2024.
 4. Carolee Closmore, EA at the NCEC, declined position effective 2/22/2024.
 5. Connor Fitzloff, EA at Bridgewater, termination effective 2/22/2024.
 6. Katherine Pickerign, Child Nutrition Associate at Spring Creek, resignation effective 3/22/2024. Lee Rudebusch, Science Teacher at the High School, resignation effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year
 7. Lee Rudebusch, Science Teacher at the High School, resignation effective at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. 2024-2025 Operating Capital and Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Budgets. On a motion by Butler, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously approved the 2024-2025 Operating Capital and Long Term Facilities Maintenance Budgets presented at the February 12, 2024 board meeting.

	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>
Operating Capital	\$3,084,701	\$3,175,919
Long-Term Facilities Maintenance	\$1,416,396	\$1,198,050

- b. Long Term Facilities Maintenance Ten Year Plan. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved the Long Term Facilities Maintenance Ten Year Plan and the Indoor Air Quality Management Plan as presented at the February 12, 2024 board meeting.
- c. Policy Recommendation. On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Miller, the board unanimously approved the policy committee's recommendation to sunset policy 310.

9. Items for Information

- a. Public Schools Week. Public Schools Week, celebrated this year from Feb. 26-March 1, 2024, is a time for students, families, educators, and community members to come together to show support for the country's public schools. Public schools provide a level playing field for all students, serving everyone equally regardless of socioeconomic status, background, or ability. During Public Schools Week 2024, take action and support our public schools!

10. Future Meetings and Work Session

- a. Tuesday, March 5, 2024, 4:00 p.m., Board Work Session, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, March 11, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, March 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Board Workshop, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the board unanimously approved to adjourn the regular board meeting at 8:04 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz
School Board Clerk