

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

March 11, 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 6:00p.m. Present: Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: None. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website.

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

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

3. Public Comment

There was public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Board members have the opportunity to advocate for public education at the capitol on Monday, March 18. Members from MSBA and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) will gather in St. Paul to network, hear from some of Minnesota's education policy and finance decision-makers, and meet with their local legislators.
- Congratulations to Nathan Hoekstra, an 8th grader at NMS, who wrote a piece for the middle school jazz band entitled "Pure Darkness". The song was performed on March 7 at the Northfield Schools All District Jazz Band Concert. Nathan has written quite a few songs but this was the first time he adapted one of his pieces for the jazz ensemble.
- Congratulations to Caley Graber, the first girl in the history of the Minnesota State High School League Boys Wrestling Tournament to medal. Caley took 5th place and has been featured for her record-breaking performance by several Twin Cities news outlets.
- Jake Geiger was presented with the prestigious Herb Brooks Award at the Minnesota State High School League Boys Class A Hockey tournament last weekend. According to the high school league, the annual award is presented to a state tournament participant that strongly represents the values, characteristics and traits that defined Herb Brooks.
- Mock Trial Competed at State Tournament and Maddie Bussmann was honored as the All-State Witness and Piper Artley as an all state All-State Attorney.
- Northfield High School's Rock and Roll Revival 16 debuted last Friday night to a full middle school auditorium. The show is fantastic and we encourage everyone to see it.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Proposed 2024-25 Debt Service Fund Budget. Director of Finance Mertesdorf presented the 2024-2025 Debt Service Fund Budget. The board will be asked to adopt this budget at the May 28, 2024 board meeting.
- b. Proposed 2024-25 Internal Service Fund Budget. Director of Finance Mertesdorf presented the 2024-2025 Internal Service Fund Budget. The board will be asked to adopt this budget at the May 28, 2024 board meeting.
- c. Northfield High School Referendum Plan Discussion. Board Chair Gonzalez-George summarized that the board generally coalesced around the Reimagine Option #2 referendum plan after the March 5 work session. Gonzalez-George asked each board member to share the bond referendum option they can support including the ballot question structure, and their suggested bond term. A robust discussion followed.
- d. American Indian Parent Advisory Committee Report. Superintendent Hillmann shared the latest report from the American Indian Parent Advisory Committee and its vote of concurrence.

- e. Policy Committee Recommendation. Dr. Hillmann presented the policy committee's recommendation to sunset policy 723. This will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

6. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Minutes. Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 26, 2024.
- b. Gift Agreements. Gift agreements included in the board packet.
- c. Financial Report - December 2023. Director of Finance Mertesdorf requested the board approve paid bills totaling \$1,716,174.65, payroll checks totaling \$3,746,255.54, a wire transfer totaling \$650,000.00 from Frandsen General to Frandsen Sweep, a wire transfer totaling \$300,000.00 from Frandsen Sweep to Frandsen General, and the financial reports for December 2023. At the end of December 2023 total cash and investments amounted to \$25,421,706.84.
- d. Grant Application. Director of Child Nutrition Stephany Stromme requested school board approval for a Farm to School - Full Tray Grant for \$15,000 (food) and \$25,000 (equipment) from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for the period Jan. 31, 2024 to Jan. 30, 2027. This grant would provide for a double combi oven and installation and continued support to provide local farm produce for school meals.
- e. Policy Revision. The revision to policy 410 is directly related to changes in federal or Minnesota law and recommended by the Minnesota School Boards Association. Because the district endeavors to have policy align with state and federal law it was recommended that the board adopt the revision presented.
- f. Personnel Items
  - i. Appointments
    1. Update: Tammy Donahue, Tammy Donahue, Child Nutrition Associate I for 3.25 hours/day at Spring Creek, beginning 4/2/2024. \$20.84/hr.
    2. Vincent Garcia, Targeted Services Club Leader for up to 6 hours/week at the Middle School, beginning 3/6/2024-5/16/2024. \$24.30/hr.
    3. Katherine LaCanne, Instructor Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 3/5/2024-5/31/2024. Step 1-\$14.00/hr.
    4. Lizbeth Ramirez, Special Ed EA PCA for 5.75 hours/day at Greenvale Park, beginning 3/4/2024. Step 2-\$17.03/hr. Plus prorated PCA stipend.
    5. Guillermina Velasquez Herrera, 1.0 FTE Custodian at the High School, beginning 3/7/2024. Step 5-\$21.45/hr.
    6. Northfield Community Education Summer 2024 Brochure Instructors.
    7. Rachel Morrison, .90 Assistant Girls Lacrosse Coach at the High School, beginning 4/1/2024. \$3,875.40 stipend.
    8. Lyndsi Ringel, .80 Assistant Cross Country Coach at the High School, beginning 8/12/2024. \$3,548 Stipend.
  - ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
    1. Mark Auge, Science Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
    2. Michelle Bauer, Instructional Coach at the District Office, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
    3. Renee Burnham, English Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
    4. Lindsey Dietiker, Child Nutrition Manager I at Greenvale Park, add Summer Child Nutrition Associate for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 7/2/2024-8/8/2024. \$26.54/hr. (includes stipend)
    5. Jill Kohel, English Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
    6. Emyla Lewis, Community School Club Leader for 12 hours/week at Greenvale Park, change to Community School Club Leader for 8 hours/week and Community School Site Assistant for up to 5 hours/week at Greenvale Park, effective 3/4/2024-5/17/2024. Site Assistant Step 1-\$14.90/hr.

7. Darrell Sawyer, Social Studies Teacher at the Middle School, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
  8. Eric Swan McDonald, Science Teacher at the ALC, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
  9. Sarah Swan McDonald, Social Studies Teacher at the High School, add ALC Summer Teacher for 5 hours/day at the ALC, effective 6/7/2024-7/25/2024. Lane/step
  10. Lillian Tharp, .50 FTE Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, change to .58 FTE Special Education Teacher at the NCEC, effective 1/31/2024-6/6/2024.
  11. Theresa Bauman, Internal Coach-MN Reading Corps with the District, add .10 Internal Coach-MN Math Corps at Spring Creek, effective 9/24/2023-6/20/2024.
  12. Carrie Duba, PreK-12 Instructional Coach with the District, change to MTSS and Data Analytics Coach with the District, effective 7/1/2024.
  13. Ann Schmidt, CNA II; CNA III at the High School, add Summer Child Nutrition Lead for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Greenvale Park, effective 6/12/2024-8/15/2024. \$25.04/hr.
- iii. Leave of Absence
1. Danielle Schroeder, Grade 4 Teacher at Greenvale Park, FMLA Leave of Absence, beginning 8/22/2024-11/21/2024.
  2. Nicole Papke, Title I Teacher at Greenvale Park, Leave of Absence beginning 3/1/2024-5/3/2024.
- iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
1. Monika Burkhead, Grade 6 Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
  2. Whitney Docken, Speech and Language Pathologist at Greenvale Park, resignation effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
  3. Lydia Gross, Special Ed Early Childhood Teacher at the NCEC, resignation effective 6/6/2024.
  4. Dan Kust, Grade 6 Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
  5. Quinn Line, KidVentures Site Assistant with Community Education, resignation effective 3/15/2024.
  6. Pamela Palmquist, Speech and Language Pathologist at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
  7. Cindy Thomas, Special Ed EA PCA at the High School, resignation effective 3/5/2024.
  8. Carrie Zupfer-Rice, Special Ed Teacher at Greenvale Park, retirement effective at the end of the 2023-2024 school year.
  9. Jacqueline DuLac, Accounting Generalist in the District Office, resignation effective 3/22/2024.
- v. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
- Administration is recommending the approval of the following employment agreements covering the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026:
1. Confidential Employees
  2. Technology Employees

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Northfield High School Facility Referendum Plan and Election Date. On a motion by Miller, seconded by Butler, the board directed the administration to prepare a bond referendum for Nov. 5, 2024 that includes three questions:

Question 1: Up to \$95.8 million to support the “reimagine option.”

Question 2: Up to \$18.8 million to support the construction of a field house, contingent on voter approval of the first question.

Question 3: Up to \$7 million to support the installation of a geothermal system at Northfield High School, contingent on voter approval of the first and second questions.

The bond term would be up to 30 years.

On a roll call vote, voting ‘yes’ was Butler, Goerwitz, Miller, Stratmoen, and Gonzalez-George. Voting ‘no’ was Nelson and Quinnell.

8. Items for Information

- a. Enrollment Report. Superintendent Hillmann reviewed the March 2024 enrollment report.
  - b. Board Workshops. The board has a workshop scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the DO Boardroom. The next board workshop is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2024, 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the DO Boardroom.
9. Future Meetings and Workshop
- a. Monday, March 18, 2024, 5:00 p.m., Board Workshop, Northfield DO Boardroom
  - b. Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
  - c. Monday, April 22, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
  - d. Monday, May 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
10. Adjournment
- On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:21 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz  
School Board Clerk