

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

October 24, 2022

District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

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. Present: Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard and Quinnell. Absent: Stratmoen. This meeting was open to the public, live-streamed and recorded, and access to the recording was posted to the school district website. Stratmoen arrived at 6:16 p.m.

2. Agenda Approval/Table File

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

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Congratulations to both the volleyball team and the girls cross country team for being the Big 9 Conference Champions this fall.
- Bridgewater Elementary School is hosting a Veteran's Day assembly on Nov. 11 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the gymnasium.
- The Minnesota Association of School Administrators announced that Superintendent Dr. Matt Hillmann has been named the 2023 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year. Dr. Hillmann has emerged as a fierce leader and advocate for equity and student achievement not only within the Northfield district but also across the state. The school board expressed its gratitude and appreciation for Superintendent Hillmann's leadership and dedication to the district.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. Northfield High School Facility Plan Voter Survey Results. Dr. Don Lifto presented the results of the high school facility plan voter survey conducted by Morris-Leatherman.
- b. Superintendent Operations & Strategic Plan Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update about district operations which included sharing the district's gratitude to Jim Pasch for his 40 years of service to the district and congratulating him on his retirement, the changes to family engagement for elementary, secondary, ALC and Portage students, a capital projects informational update, and information on the curriculum and instructional review cycle (CIRC). He also noted that several staff members from Prairie Creek Community School were selected as presenters at the national Progressive Educators' Network Conference.

Stratmoen left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

- c. EL Request for Additional Support. Director of Instructional Services Hope Langston requested the school board consider approval to hire a seven hour per day English Learner (EL) Educational Assistant (EA) for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year due to an increase in the number of newly enrolled students with Level 1 English proficiency at Spring Creek and Northfield High School. The maximum projected cost of salary and benefits for a seven hour/day EA is \$29,950. This projection assumes a start date of November 28. This will be an item for individual action at the next board meeting.

6. Committee Reports

Board member Goerwitz provided updates on both the Wellness Committee and CVSEC, and board member Pritchard provided an update on the Communication Advisory Committee.

7. Consent Agenda

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

a. Minutes

Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on October 10, 2022

b. Gift Agreements

- \$1,789.64 from NHS Class of 1955 for NPS Angel Fund food service
- \$13,578.52 from Bridgewater Booster Club: donation of \$18.52/student for classroom teachers, as well as funds for specialists & special education teachers
- \$1,000.00 from Post Consumer Brands to the TORCH program
- \$1,000.00 from Post Consumer Brands to sponsor the Robotics Club
- \$1,896.30 from Bridgewater Booster Club for a one year subscription of Accelerated Reader

a. Policy Revisions Due to Changes in Law

The revisions to policies 208, 209, 210, 415, 417, 418, 515, 708, 709 and 722 create substantive change or additions to existing policies. The revisions are 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 is recommended that the board adopt the substantive revisions presented. These policies will continue to be evaluated as scheduled in the board's policy review cycle.

c. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Ashley Montemurro, Special Ed EA PCA for 5 hours/day and Gen Ed Supervisory for 2 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 10/27/2022. Step 1-\$16.33/hr. + PCA Stipend.
2. Jessica Provancha, American Sign Language Interpreter at the NCEC. beginning 10/11/2022-5/31/2023; \$27.03/hr.
3. Camden Gagner, Child Nutrition Student Associate for up to 1 hour/day at the ALC, beginning 10/26/2022; \$10.33/hr.
4. Daniel Hollerung, Building Supervisor with Community Education, beginning 10/23/2022-5/31/2023. \$17.89/hr.
5. Nevaeh Johnson, Child Nutrition Student Associate for up to 1 hour/day at the ALC, beginning 10/26/2022; \$10.33/hr.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Theresa Bauman, .50 FTE Reading Corps Coach with the District and .10 FTE Math Corps Coach at Spring Creek, add .05 FTE Title I Teacher at St. Dominic, effective 10/24/2022-6/9/2023.
2. Carrie Duba, School Psychologist/MTSS at the District Office, add ACT Sped Testing Coordination at the High School, effective 10/17/2022-6/9/2023.
3. Brent Dunkelberger, Teacher at the Middle School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/17/2022-5/26/2023. Year 1-\$27.11/hr.
4. Adam Karsko, 1.0 FTE Head Custodian at the High School, change to 1.0 FTE District Maintenance Coordinator at the District Shop, effective 10/24/2022.
5. Angela Schock, Teacher at the Middle School, add 9th Grade Girls Basketball Coach at the High School, effective 11/14/2022. \$4,062 + step 5.
6. Josten Coleman, Teacher at the Middle School, add Assistant Wrestling Coach at the High School, effective 11/21/2022. \$4,570.
7. Joseph Greenwood, 1.0 FTE Day Custodian Engineer at the High School, change to temporary 1.0 FTE Head Custodian at the High School, effective 10/24/2022 - approximately 11/14/2022. Head Custodian rate.
8. Pilar Sullivan, General Ed EA for 34.5 hours/week at the NCEC, change to General Ed EA for 38.5 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 11/4/2022.

iii. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Matt Crase, Wrestling Coach at the Middle School, resignation effective 10/8/2022.
2. Sophia Nevin, Special Ed EA PCA at the NCEC, resignation effective 11/4/2022.
3. Brent Yule, Wrestling Coach at the High School, resignation effective 10/17/2022.
4. Ryan Driscoll, Head Boys Basketball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 10/24/2022.

8. Items for Individual Action

- a. District Health Insurance. On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously directed administration to collaborate with the Northfield Education Association (NEA) to create a Memorandum of Understanding to make the district's monthly health insurance contribution \$583.26 for single coverage and \$1,774.40 for family coverage. The district has historically strived to maintain a contribution of approximately 80% of the total premium and this will align with approximately 80% of the 2023 premium. In the spring of 2023 when the district negotiates with the NEA, we recommend using this level of district contribution as the base. This will be the district's new operating level for the foreseeable future. This recommendation will cost an additional \$1.45 million over the 2021 rates (an additional \$450,000 over what was already authorized for one year). The estimated district contribution would increase from \$5.4 million in 2021 to \$7.5 million for 2023.
- b. Policy Recommendations. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board unanimously approved the recommended updates to policies 630 and 646, to sunset policies 648, 649 and 650, and to adopt the proposed style guide.
- c. Resolution of School Board Supporting FORM A Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Quinnell, the board unanimously approved by roll call vote, the Resolution of School Board Supporting FORM A Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation. Voting 'yes' was Baraniak, Butler, Goerwitz, Gonzalez-George, Pritchard and Quinnell. No one voted 'no'. Absent: Stratmoen.

9. Items for Information

- a. World's Best Workforce Plan Presentation. Hope Langston, Director of Instructional Services, will summarize the 2022-2023 World's Best Workforce Plan at the public hearing scheduled at 5:15 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 14. This public hearing will precede the regular school board meeting scheduled on Monday, Nov. 14 at 6:00 p.m.

10. Future Meetings

- a. Monday, November 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, November 28, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, December 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Baraniak, the board adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk