

# **NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **School Board Minutes**

January 8, 2024

Northfield District Office Boardroom

1. Call to Order

The Organizational meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Acting Chair Claudia Gonzalez-George for the purpose of organizing the board for the 2024 calendar year. Present: Butler, Gonzalez-George, Miller, Nelson, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Absent: Goerwitz.

2. NYC representative Marianna Estrada read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. Oath of Office

Minnesota Supreme Court Associate Justice Gordon Moore administered the ceremonial oath of office to all elected school board members.

4. Agenda Approval / Table File

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

5. Items for Individual Action

a. Election of Officers

i. Election of board chair.

Butler moved that Claudia Gonzalez-George be nominated as board chair. There were no further nominations. Claudia Gonzalez-George was the only candidate nominated for the office of chair, and was hereby declared elected by acclamation. Motion carried 6/0. Acting Chair Gonzalez-George directed the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Board Chair Gonzalez-George then chaired the remainder of the Organizational board meeting.

ii. Election of vice-chair.

Miller moved that Corey Butler be nominated as vice-chair. There were no further nominations. Corey Butler was the only candidate nominated for the office of vice-chair, and was hereby declared elected by acclamation and Chair Gonzalez-George directed the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Motion carried 6/0.

iii. Election of clerk.

Gonzalez-George moved that Amy Goerwitz be nominated as clerk. There were no further nominations. Amy Goerwitz was the only candidate nominated for the office of clerk, and was hereby declared elected by acclamation and Chair Gonzalez-George directed the acting clerk to so record in the minutes. Motion carried 6/0.

iv. Election of treasurer.

Gonzalez-George moved that Ben Miller be nominated as treasurer. There were no further nominations. Ben Miller was the only candidate nominated for the office of treasurer, and was hereby declared elected by acclamation and Chair Gonzalez-George directed the clerk to so record in the minutes. Motion carried 6/0.

b. Set Dates, Times, and Location for Regular Board Meetings

On a motion by Butler, seconded by Nelson, the board approved the schedule for school board meetings January 2024 - January 2025. Regular meetings of the Northfield School Board will begin at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Mondays in January, February, April, May, August, September, October and November, except where indicated, and will be held in the District Office Boardroom. One meeting will be held the first Monday of the month in March, June, July and December. Motion carried 6/0.

c. School Board Member Stipends

On a motion by Miller, seconded by Butler, the board approved to maintain the stipends for board members at \$4,000 annually, \$330 per month, and \$5,000 annually, \$416 per month for the board chair. Motion carried 6/0.

6. Consent Agenda

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

- a. Designate the Official District Newspaper. The official newspaper of the Northfield School Board will be the *Northfield News*.
- b. Designate Legal Counsel. The board designated Squires, Waldspurger & Mace P.A. as the official legal counsel for Northfield Public Schools and Dorsey & Whitney, LLP as the official bond attorneys for Northfield Public Schools. Persons authorized to contact legal counsel are the Superintendent, the Director of Human Resources, the Director of Finance, the Director of Special Services, and other district-level administrators only after receiving superintendent approval.
- c. Authorization of Use of Facsimile Signatures. The board authorized that facsimile signatures of officers of the board be utilized in signing school district checks and documents.
- d. Mileage Reimbursement Rate. The board approved the mileage reimbursement rate for use of private automobiles on school district business at 67.0 cents per mile effective January 1, 2024. This mileage rate was established by the Internal Revenue Service.

7. Items for Information

- a. Policy 203 Operation of the School Board of Education - Bylaws. Board members are expected to familiarize themselves with Policy 203 Operation of the School Board of Education - Bylaws. The suggested revisions to this policy are anticipated to be approved at the regular school board meeting immediately following this organizational meeting.
- b. Policy 209 Code of Ethics. Board members are expected to familiarize themselves with Policy 209 Code of Ethics. The purpose of this policy is to assist board members in understanding the role of individual board members and the contribution that each must make to develop an effective and responsible school board.
- c. Resolution to Empower the School Board to Combine the Duties of the Offices of Clerk and Treasurer of the School Board in One Person in the Finance Office of the School District. The board unanimously approved this resolution by roll call on Jan. 14, 2019 which empowers Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf to conduct the duties of clerk and treasurer for the purposes of expediting the business of the district. This resolution is a one time requirement and remains in effect until the board acts to appoint someone else in the finance office to fulfill this role.

- d. Board Committee Memberships. A brief description of each board committee or organization for calendar year 2024 was attached. Board member committee appointments and representation on various organizations and school liaisons, will be an action item at the Jan. 22 regular board meeting.
  - e. Board Workshops. The school board will hold workshops on Monday, March 18, 2024, and Monday, July 22, 2024.
8. Adjournment  
On a motion by Miller, seconded by Stratmoen, the board adjourned the Organizational meeting at 6:15 p.m.



Amy Goerwitz  
School Board Clerk