

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

September 26, 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, 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 Quinnell, seconded by Butler, the board unanimously approved the agenda.

3. Public Comment

There was one public comment.

4. Announcements and Recognitions

- Congratulations to 12th grader Henry Vrtis who has been selected as a 2023 National Merit Scholarship semifinalist. On September 14 the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced approximately 16,000 national semifinalists, representing less than one percent of high school seniors in the United States. Henry and the other semifinalists will have an opportunity to continue in the competition for 7,250 National Merit Scholarships worth nearly \$28 million that will be offered next spring.
- Congratulations to 12th grader Hannah M. Hulett, who was named a Commended Student in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program for her exceptional academic performance. Hannah is among approximately 34,000 Commended Students from across the nation who are being recognized as part of the National Merit program. Commended Students placed among the top five percent of 1.5 million students who entered the 2023 Merit Program by taking the 2021 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test.
- Three Northfield High School Students Awarded with Academic Honors from College Board National Recognition Programs. These students excelled in College Board assessments and schoolwork to earn these awards, which colleges use to identify academically competitive underrepresented students. Congratulations to Amelia Rosenhamer, Margaret Muth and Sophia Weed. Each received the National Rural and Small Town Award (NRSTA) and were recognized because of their academic achievements in school and outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, PSAT 10 and/or AP Exams.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

- a. District Youth Council (DYC) Update. DYC co-chairs Grace Ryden and Connor Percy updated the board regarding current committee membership, a recap of 2021-2022 activities and the council's plans for the 2022-2023 school year.
- b. Northfield High School Facility Plan Voter Survey Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update on the voter survey with Morris-Leatherman. Approximately 250 of 400 phone calls have been completed and the survey should conclude this week. Survey results will be shared at the first board meeting in October.
- c. Superintendent's Operations & Strategic Plan Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update about district operations. Recently, the district solicited new health insurance bids. Using the health insurance transparency act (HITA) provisions, the district took two rounds of bids. After the first round, the district shares the lowest responsible bid amount with all bidders. Bidders then submit a final bid for the district's consideration. This included bids for returning to a fully insured program. The bid recommendation will be shared at the Oct. 10 board meeting.

As part of the district's "reset" theme for 2022-23, instructional services and teaching staff have been re-establishing expectations for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). The transition of chess shifting to community education from the high school activities department has been successful so far and we congratulate the team and their families for their commitment and perseverance in shifting to this new funding model.

6. Consent Agenda

On a motion by Butler, seconded by Pritchard, the board unanimously approved the consent agenda.

a. Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on August 22, 2022
- Minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on September 12, 2022

b. Gift Agreements

- \$3,000.00 from Multek Flexible Circuits: \$1,000.00 to robotics and \$2,000.00 for scholarships
- \$1,000.00 from Northfield Raider Touchdown Club for the Northfield Touchdown Club Scholarship

c. Personnel Items

i. Appointments

1. Richelle Auidiss, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/17/2022-5/31/2023; \$11.64/hr.
2. Erin Blanck, Early Childhood EA/Sib Care Provider for up to 18 hours/week at the NCEC, beginning 9/21/2022; Step 4-\$17.70/hr.
3. Duane Bogne, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/12/2022-5/31/2023; \$10.75/hr.
4. Halvor Bratland, Targeted Services MSYC Site Assistant for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, beginning 10/3/2022-5/26/2023; Step 2-\$14.88/hr.
5. Marly Corona Zuniga, Community School Student Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 9/28/2022-6/9/2023. Student-\$10.33/hr.
6. Alijah Cruel, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/19/2022-5/31/2023; \$10.33/hr.
7. Kifah Dubad, Community School Student Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 10/3/2022-6/9/2023. Student-\$10.33/hr.
8. Jordan Embry, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/12/2022-5/31/2023; \$10.33/hr.
9. Gabriel Fisher-Navarro, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/17/2022-5/31/2023; \$10.33/hr.
10. Brianna Grabinger, Early Childhood EA/Sib Care Provider for up to 10 hours/week at the NCEC, beginning 9/20/2022; Step 1-\$16.33/hr.
11. Dax Johnson, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/19/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$10.33/hr.
12. Vicky Johnson, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 9/28/2022; Step 4-\$17.70/hr. + PCA Stipend
13. Cody Kaslow, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/17/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$10.58/hr.
14. Lisa Koktavy, 1.0 FTE Administrative Support Assistant Class IV at the NCEC, beginning 10/3/2022; Step 3 - \$22.77/hr.
15. Melissa Koukari, Program Supervisor with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/19/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$12.39/hr.
16. Katherine Kreft, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day and Supervisory for .25 hours/day at Spring Creek, beginning 9/19/2022; Step 4-\$17.70/hr. + PCA Stipend \$2,500
17. Jay Kuivinen, Lifeguard with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/19/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$14.64/hr.
18. Angelica Grobe-Larsen, Child Nutrition Associate I for 3.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 10/17/2022. \$20.05/hr.
19. Hailey Malecha, Community School Club Leader for up to 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 9/27/2022-6/9/2023. \$23.65/hr.
20. Thomas Neuger, Site Supervisor/Scheduler with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 10/1/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$11.64/hr.

21. Robert Nutt, Event Worker with the High School Activities, beginning 9/22/2022.
22. Madelyn Peralta, Community School Student Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Bridgewater, beginning 9/27/2022-6/9/2023. Student-\$10.33/hr.
23. Kyan Rauk, Program Assistant with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/12/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$10.33/hr.
24. Kai Richardson, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.5 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 9/26/2022; Step 1-\$16.33/hr. + PCA Stipend
25. Thea Ritter, Community School After School Site Assistant for up to 3 hours/day Mon.-Wed. at Greenvale Park, beginning 9/29/2022-5/26/2023. Step 1-\$14.50/hr.
26. Marthann Schulte, Special Ed EA PCA for 6.75 hours/day at the High School, beginning 10/3/2022; Step 4-\$17.70/hr. + PCA Stipend
27. Samantha Shimota, Building Nurse for 7.5 hours/week at St. Dominic, beginning 9/30/2022-6/9/2023; ADN/LPN - \$32.88/hr.
28. Winston Vermilyea, Water Safety Instructor (WSI) with Community Ed Recreation, beginning 9/20/2022 - 5/31/2023; \$14.89/hr.
29. Hope Bauernfeind, Community School Student Site Assistant for up to 6 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 9/28/2022-6/9/2023; \$10.33/hr.
30. Elise Goodfellow, KidVentures Student Site Assistant on call as needed at the Elementary Schools, beginning 9/28/2022. Sub rate \$10.33/hr.
31. Garrett Gray, KidVentures Site Assistant for up to 15 hours/week at Spring Creek, beginning 9/30/2022. Step 1- \$14.50/hr.
32. Xela Gunvalson, Community School Club Leader for up to 6 hours/day Mondays and Wednesdays at Bridgewater, beginning 10/03/2022-6/9/2023; \$23.65/hr.

ii. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Kristin Basinger, Special Ed EA PCA at the Middle School, add Special Ed EA PCA Bus EA for approximately 1.5 hours/week with the District, effective 9/7/2022-6/9/2023.
2. Russel Boyington, KidVentures Site Assistant at Bridgewater, add Community School Evening Club Leader for up to 3 hours/week on Wednesdays at Bridgewater, effective 10/3/2022-5/25/2023. \$23.65/hr.
3. Kristen Cade, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Community School Teacher for up to 2 hours/day Mon-Thurs. at Bridgewater, effective 10/3/2022-5/25/2023; Yr. 27-\$28.82/hr.
4. Pamela Charlton, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Community School Teacher for 1 hour/day for 4 days/week at Bridgewater, effective 10/3/2022-5/25/2023; Yr. 1-\$27.11/hr.
5. Doug Davis, Teacher at the High School, add Event Work with the High School Activities, effective 9/15/2022.
6. Kelle Edwards, Educational Assistant at the High School, add Event Work with the High School Activities, effective 9/15/2022.
7. Oscar Gaspar, ESL Educational Assistant at the High School, add Community School Club Leader for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. Bridgewater, effective 10/3/2022-5/25/2023. \$23.65/hr.
8. Rich Guggisberg, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Event Work with the High School Activities, effective 9/15/2022.
9. Denise Halvorson, Teacher at the Middle School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 10 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/3/2022-5/26/2023; Yr. 3-\$27.11/hr.
10. Catherine Lovrien, Teacher at the Middle School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 6 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/3/2022-5/26/2023; Yr. 2-\$27.11/hr.
11. Kathleen Malecha, Special Ed EA PCA at Bridgewater, add Community School Club Leader for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. Bridgewater, effective 10/3/2022-5/25/2023. \$23.65/hr.
12. Kim Medin, Teacher at Bridgewater, add Community School Teacher for 2 hour/day for 4 days/week at Bridgewater, effective 10/3/2022-5/25/2023; Yr. 2-\$27.11/hr.
13. Karen Murphy, Night Custodian 3:00-11:00 p.m. at Spring Creek, change to Night Custodian 1:00-9:00 p.m. at the High School, effective 9/19/2022.
14. Nicole Rasmussen, Special Educational Assistant PCA at Bridgewater, add KidVentures Site Assistant for 10 hours/week at Bridgewater, effective 9/6/2022. Step 4-\$15.91/hr.
15. Andrea Redder, Special Ed EA PCA for 14 hours/week at the NCEC, add Special Ed EA PCA for 17.5 hours/week + General Ed EA Wrap around care (extended day) for 5 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 9/6/2022.
16. Steve Rinderknecht, Night Custodian at Bridgewater, change to Night Custodian at Spring Creek, effective 9/19/2022.
17. Heather Stanton Ims, Social Worker at the Middle School, add MSYC Teacher for up to 8 hours/week Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/3/2022-5/26/2023; Yr. 2-\$27.11/hr.

18. Annie Welch, Community School Evening Site Assistant at Greenvale Park, add Community School After School Site Assistant 2 hours/day on Tuesdays at Greenvale Park, effective 9/29/2022-5/26/2023. Step 1-\$14.50/hr.
19. Brenda Hand, EL Teacher at Bridgewater, add Community School Teacher for up to 2 hours/day on Wednesdays at Bridgewater, effective 10/03/2022-5/25/2023. Yr 1-\$27.11/hr.
20. Kelly Hebzynski, Head Student Council Advisor - 50% stipend at the Middle School, add Assistant Student Council Advisor - 50% stipend at the Middle School, effective 9/22/2022; \$2,539
21. Gretchen Heil, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Spring Creek, effective 10/03/2022-6/9/2023. Yr 2-\$27.11/hr.
22. John Kromschroeder, Custodian Engineer 3-11 p.m. at the Middle School, change to Head Custodian 7-3:30 p.m. at the Middle School, effective 9/26/2022.
23. Jennifer Lompart, EL Teacher at the High School, add Community School Teacher for up to 3 hours/day on Wednesdays at Bridgewater, effective 10/03/2022-5/25/2023. Yr 1-\$27.11/hr.
24. Darrell Sawyer, Teacher at the Middle School, add Private Lesson Sport Coach with Community Ed Recreation, effective 9/23/2022-5/31/2023; \$36/person per hour for a single private lesson & \$20/person per hour for a semi-private lesson of up to five people.
25. Rebekka Shrank, Teacher at Spring Creek, add Community School Teacher for up to 2 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Spring Creek, effective 10/03/2022-6/9/2023. Yr 1-\$27.11/hr.
26. Jennifer Streefland, School Counselor at the Middle School, add Head Student Council Advisor - 50% stipend, and Assistant Student Council Advisor - 50% stipend at the Middle School, effective 9/22/2022; \$2,539
27. Pilar Sullivan, Hand in Hand Gen Ed EA for 34 hours/week at the NCEC, change to Hand in Hand Gen Ed EA for 34.5 hours/week at the NCEC, effective 9/23/2022.

iii. Leave of Absence

1. Monika Burkhead, Teacher at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 1/25/2023-approximately 3/13/2023.
2. Danielle Crase, Teacher at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 2/19/2023 for 8 work weeks.
3. Matt Crase, Teacher at the High School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 2/19/2023 for 2 work weeks.
4. Emily Grote, HR Generalist at the District Office, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 11/27/2022 for 12 work weeks.
5. Correction: Mackenzie Ludwig, ECSE Teacher at the NCEC, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning on or about 2/16/2023 for 12 work weeks.
6. Lori Warner, Occupational Therapist at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 9/19/2022 - 9/23/2022.
7. Danielle Crase, Assistant Girls Golf Coach, Leave of Absence beginning on 3/15/2023 - 4/17/2023.
8. Stephanie DeAdder, Child Nutrition Administrative Assistant, leave of absence beginning on October 5, 2022 through April 5, 2023.

iv. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Samantha Massie, Special Education PCA at NCEC, termination effective 9/23/2022.

7. Items for Individual Action

- a. Policy Committee Recommendations. On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Baraniak, the board unanimously approved the policy committee's recommended updates to policies 104, 610.1, 612 and 619 as presented.
- b. Proposed 2022 Payable 2023 Property Tax Levy. On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Goerwitz, the board unanimously certified to County Auditors the 2022 Payable 2023 Preliminary Levy Limitation and Certification at the maximum authority. The amount of the preliminary levy for 2023 is \$21,135,540.24 and represents a 5.63% increase over last year. This represents the maximum levy amount as of this publication. The board, for many years, has certified the preliminary levy using the term "maximum" because the final levy certification can be lower than the preliminary certification but cannot be higher. Certifying at the "maximum" allows for flexibility should the calculation be higher than what is printed at the time of this board action.

8. Items for Information

- a. Capital Projects Levy Referendum Website and Public Meetings. The district has launched its capital projects levy informational campaign website at: <https://northfieldschools.org/cpl>. The next public meeting is scheduled Oct. 6, 6:00 pm—7:15 pm, in the gymnasium located in the ALC/district office building. Attendees should enter the building at door 5 off the parking lot.
- b. Farm-to-School Luncheon at Spring Creek. On Thursday, Oct. 27 Spring Creek Elementary Child Nutrition Department will host state and local leaders along with farm to school advocates for lunch. Board members are invited to attend. Please contact Stephany Stromme, Director of Child Nutrition, for specific information and to RSVP.
- c. Enrollment Report. Dr. Hillmann shared the preliminary district enrollment report.

9. Future Meetings

- a. Thursday, September 29, 2022, 5:00 p.m., Board Work Session, Northfield DO Boardroom
- b. Monday, October 10, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- c. Monday, October 24, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom
- d. Monday, November 14, 2022, 6:00 p.m., Regular Board Meeting, Northfield DO Boardroom

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the board adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk