

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

October 22, 2018

Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order  
Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Goerwitz, Hardy, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Colangelo, Iverson, and Pritchard.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File  
Table File items were added.
- III. Public Comment  
No public comment.
- IV. Announcements and Recognitions
  - Congratulations to Rebecca Messer, who received recognition from the College Board's Advanced Placement Program and Educational Testing Service, for significant contributions during the 2018 AP Reading.
  - Cheryl Hall, Director of Special Services, shared that the District has some staff members participating in teacher preparation programs through the New Year, New U collaboration. This is helping us to address the Special Education teacher shortage.
  - Dr. Gary Lewis, Retired Director of Student Services for Northfield Public Schools and CEO of SpEd Forms, Inc., has been awarded the Legacy Award by the Minnesota Administrators for Special Education (MASE).
  - The "Greenvale Park Community School Report to the Community" was completed this month. The report details the results of the fourth year of community school programming at Greenvale Park.
- V. Items for Discussion and Reports
  - A. High School Flex Schedule  
Northfield High School Principal Joel Leer and Northfield High School Guidance Counselor Mark Ensrud reported on the new flex schedule and Career & College Readiness (CCR) Cohorts implemented at Northfield High School.
  - B. Analysis of District's Health Insurance  
Molly Viesselman, Director of Human Resources, provided an analysis of the District's health insurance and shared results of a recent Willis Towers Watson national health insurance survey that highlighted Northfield Public Schools' health insurance program as one of the top 48 performers of more than 2,000 organizations.
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. District Youth Council (DYC). Iverson updated the Board on DYC. In addition to reporting on the board meetings, the DYC reported on participating in district committees including Policy, Finance Advisory, Northfield Forward, and Wellness with a focus on what is most relevant for students. This group has discussed the high school's new flex schedule at length.
  - B. Policy Committee. Iverson updated the Board on the Policy Committee. This year's goal is to review the 200, 800, and 900 series policies.
  - C. Northfield Forward. Iverson updated the Board on Northfield Forward regarding Tammy McDonough's work with the eighth grade science team.
- VII. Consent Agenda  
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda items:
  - A. Minutes. Minutes of the October 8, 2018 Regular School Board meeting.

## B. Personnel Items

### a) Appointments

- 1) Erin Morris, Targeted Services PLUS Student Site Assistant for up to 1.5 hours/day at Sibley, beginning 11/01/2018-05/02/2019; \$9.65/hr.
- 2) Erin Runningen, Targeted Services PLUS Student Site Assistant for up to 1.5 hours/day at Bridgewater, beginning 11/01/2018-05/02/2019; \$9.65/hr.
- 3) Garret Swenson, Targeted Services PLUS Student Site Assistant for up to 1.5 hours/day at Sibley, beginning 11/01/2018-05/02/2019; \$9.65/hr.
- 4) Fall/Winter Spring Recreation Positions #2822, Effective October 22, 2018 – May 31, 2019  
Abby Borene, Tennis, \$9.90/hour  
Lauren Weber, Tennis, \$9.65/hour
- 5) Mark Tietz, Auditorium Technician for 4 hours/day 728 annual hours with Community Services, beginning 10/31/2018. \$22.17/hr.

### b) Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Lori Christopherson, Administrative Assistant at the High School, add Rock N Roll Revival Production Coordinator at the High School, effective 12/1/2018-03/18/2019; Level F, Step 1
2. Mary Magnuson, Special Ed Teacher at the High School, add Special Education Homebound Teacher, with the District, hours will vary, effective 10/3/2018-06/07/2019; Lane/Step Pay
3. Nancy Schwartz, Community School Evening Club Leader at Greenvale Park, add Community School Evening Club Leader for 1.5 hours/day on Wednesday's at Greenvale Park, effective 10/24/2018-06/07/2019; \$21.01/hr.
4. Amber Soderlund, Teacher at Sibley, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher for up to 1.5 hours/day Mon.-Thurs. at Sibley, effective 11/6/2018-05/02/2019; Yr. 3-\$27.11/hr.
5. Daniel Taylor, Teacher at the High School, add Community School Evening Club Leader for 1 hour/day on Tuesdays at Greenvale Park, effective 10/23/2018-06/07/2019; \$21.01/hr.
6. Arlene Tuma, ECFE EA/Sibling Care for 18 hours/wk at the NCRC, change to ECFE EA/Sibling Care for 20 hours/wk at the NCRC, effective 10/8/2018.
7. Tina Docken, Teacher at the Middle School, add Targeted Services BLAST Teacher for up to 5 hours/wk Mon.-Thurs. at the Middle School, effective 10/22/2018-05/02/2019; Yr. 2-\$27.11/hr.

### c) Leave of Absence

1. Mary Harrity-Davidson, Teacher at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 10/15/2018 for up to 60 work days.
2. Garrick Hoekstra, EA at the Middle School, Unpaid Leave of Absence, effective 10/22/2018-11/2/2018.
3. Andy Jaynes, Teacher at Sibley, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 11/6/2018-11/23/2018.
4. Mark Langevin, Teacher at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave of Absence, effective 10/22/2018-11/2/2018.
5. Dustee Phenow, Teacher at Bridgewater, Family/Medical Leave for Childcare, effective on or about 01/21/2019 for 11 work weeks.

### d) Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

## VIII. Superintendent's Report

### A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution of School Board Supporting FORM A Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation.  
On a motion by Colangelo, seconded by Goerwitz, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution of School Board Supporting FORM A Application to Minnesota State High School League Foundation for a FORM A grant to offset student activity fees. Voting 'yes' was Goerwitz, Hardy, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Colangelo, Iverson and Pritchard. No one voted 'no.'
2. Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Debt Service Fund to Make the Debt Payments on the District's Series 2017A Facilities Maintenance Bond Issue.

On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously authorized the Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Debt Service Fund to Make the Debt Payments on the District's Series 2017A Facilities Maintenance Bond Issue.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board (the Board) of Independent School District No. 659, State of Minnesota, as follows:

The Board has reviewed the debt payment and levy schedule for the Series 2017A Facilities Maintenance Bonds and authorizes the transfer of \$154,008.33 from the Restricted for Long Term Facilities Maintenance account in the General Fund to the Debt Service Fund to make the annual debt payments during fiscal year 2017-18.

The following voted in favor thereof: Goerwitz, Hardy, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Colangelo, Iverson, Pritchard, and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon the resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

3. Resolution Awarding the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2018A.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hardy, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution Awarding the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2018A. Jeff Seeley from Ehlers, Inc. reviewed the refunding of Series 2018A bonds.

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board (the Board) of Independent School District No. 659, State of Minnesota, as follows:

The Board has Awarded the Sale, Determined the Form and Details, Authorized the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Provided for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2018A.

Upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof: Goerwitz, Hardy, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Colangelo, Iverson, Pritchard, and the following voted against the same: None, whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

IX. Items for Information

- A. Co-Curricular Additions or Reductions. Dr. Hillmann shared information from the co-curricular committee meeting that was held on September 20, 2018. This will be an item for action at the next Board meeting.
- B. Bond Referendum Update. Dr. Hillmann provided an update on preparations for the November 6, 2018 bond referendum. We want to reiterate that this referendum does not include the high school, but does address the needs of our earliest learners, security at each building, and includes a very modest tax increase of \$27/month on an average \$250,000 residential home in Northfield. In many precincts, the voter will have to flip over the ballot to access the bond referendum question. We have averaged three referendum presentations each week, Board Chair Pritchard had an article in last week's Northfield News, and the last Greenvale Park tour and informational meeting is scheduled October 29. We have information available on the Superintendent's blog, tables at school events, on our local KYMN radio station, stickers on popcorn boxes, and inserts in programs at school events.
- C. Digital Replacement Days for Weather-Related Cancellations. Dr. Hillmann shared preliminary information about a pilot program that would provide instructional activities for students via Schoology and Seesaw for

any weather-related school cancellations beyond the two days built into the 2018-19 calendar. Teaching staff will have required work activity assigned via the appropriate technology and then be available throughout the day. We do have the technology to pilot this program, however, we would allow a window of opportunity to turn in assignments, perhaps two to three days, to allow those students who do not have internet access to complete the assignments. This is a pilot program and we will gather feedback from faculty, staff and students.

- D. The Retired Educators Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, October 24th at Ruth's On Stafford.
- E. The National Merit Reception will be held on Tuesday, November 13th at 6:00 PM in the NHS Media Center (immediately preceding the School Board meeting scheduled that evening.)
- F. S&P Global Rating. Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf reviewed the recent confirmation of the District's AA+ bond rating as assigned by Standard & Poor's. This is the second best rating a school system can be assigned; only three school districts in Minnesota have earned a AAA rating.

X. Future Meetings

- A. Tuesday, November 13, 2018, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center
- B. Monday, November 26, 2018, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center
- C. Monday, December 10, 2018, 7:00 PM, Regular Board Meeting, NHS Media Center

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Colangelo, the Board adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk