

**NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**School Board Minutes**

School Board Meeting  
November 22, 2004  
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.  
Chairperson Noel Stratmoen called the meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:30 p.m. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.  
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.  
Boardman requested that the names of the School Board members elected on November 2, 2004, be included in the minutes. On a motion by Zakrajsek, seconded by Nelson, the amended minutes of the School Board meeting held on November 8, 2004, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
  - The Bridgewater Student Council under the direction of Lahna Tran and Nate Truman raised \$1,062 for UNICEF! That's almost \$300 more than last year!
  - Pat Foley completed his last season as Head Coach of the Cross Country team. Pat is retiring after more than 20 years as head coach. He was honored by many current and former runners at the cross country awards banquet on Nov. 15. Pat's leadership and commitment to excellence have inspired many team members and coaching peers during his award-winning career. Pat is continuing his teaching career in the high school special education department.
  - The Girls Swim Team finished 2nd at the Section Meet in Austin on Nov. 12. Eight swimmers will advance to the State Meet at the University of MN on Nov. 22-24.
  - Congratulations to all of the varsity football players and their coaches on their fantastic football season. Thank you for the memorable season and trip to the dome last Friday night. As you probably know, the Raider Football team lost to Sartell-St Stephen in the State Semi-Final.
  - Congratulations to Tim Smisek who was named to the KARE 11 All-Metro football team.
  - Congratulations to the National Merit Scholars! A reception for the students and their families was held before the school board meeting on Monday, November 22. Commended scholars are Sarah Abbott, Nathan Marks, Rebecca Mellstrom, Meghan Nelson, Chris Schodt, Jim Shimek - and semi-finalist, Tyler Gillingham
- VI. Celebration - District Student Support Services  
High School students gave a presentation on the RESPECT retreat that is held annually for all ninth graders. Middle School students described SLAM, a middle school leadership team, and how it impacts the middle school. Students from Greenvale Park spoke about their experience with the social work programs at Greenvale Park.

VII. Items for Discussion and/or Reports

1. Middle School Reuse.

Representatives from Artspace, Ehlers & Associates and SMSQ Architects presented the Board with an update on efforts to develop a successful reuse proposal. The presentation shared what work has been completed to date and what discussions have occurred with the Northfield Arts Guild and ARTEch concerning portions of the building they would like to use. Information about the status of tax credits and historic tax credits also were discussed as well as an updated timeline of actions. Artspace asked to return in January to provide the Board with a revised development agreement, a request for an extension on the letter of understanding and an update on options if tax credits are not received.

2. District Finance Update - Preliminary 2003-04 Audit Results.

Director of Business Affairs Tom Stringer shared preliminary end-of-year results for the General Fund. Currently, the district is facing a \$653,335 shortfall in the 2003-04 budget. While the district had planned to have a \$60,000 surplus in the 2003-04 budget, increased costs contributed instead to the deficit. Three key areas contributed to the deficit - (1) special education tuition sent to other public school districts and Northfield charter schools, (2) costs for printing, and (3) unanticipated costs for contracted services.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Northfield Public Schools Endowment Fund.

On a motion by Boardman, seconded by Zakrajsek, the Board approved the agreement establishing the Northfield Public Schools Endowment Fund Under the Plan for Minnesota Community Foundation.

2. Strategic Plan, First Reading.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Dahl, the Board approved the first reading of Policy 104, District Strategic Plan.

3. School Board Policies - First Reading.

On a motion by Wolle, seconded by Zakrajsek, the Board approved the first reading of Policy 102, Equal Educational and Employment Opportunity.

On a motion by Zakrajsek, seconded by Dahl, the Board approved the first reading of Policy 203, Operation of the School Board - Bylaws.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

On a motion by Wolle, seconded by Nelson, the Board approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments

- (1) Brenda Ohaks, Special Ed Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary School for 3.0 hours per day beginning November 29, 2004, Class III, step 6. There are no benefits with this position.

(2) Richard Welch, Housekeeper at the High School for 3.5 hours per day beginning November 8, 2004, step 2 of the wage scale. There are no benefits with this position.

b. Leave of Absence

(1) Mary Bleckwehl, leave of absence through January 31, 2005.

c. Policy Covering Wages, Hours, and Fringe Benefits for 2004-05 and 2005-06 for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants. The amounts are within that budgeted previously by the School Board for salaries and benefits.

d. Approved Pre-determination Settlement Agreement with an employee.

IX. Items for Information

1. Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.

Attendance at this year's parent-teacher conferences is as follows:

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
Longfellow	99%	99%
Greenvale Park	97%	98%
Sibley	98%	99%
Bridgewater	99%	99%
Middle School	82%	73%
High School	63%	62%

X. Future Meetings/Events

Tuesday, December 7, 2004, 7:30 PM, Truth in Taxation Hearing,  
Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, December 13, 2004, 6:30 PM, Reception for Board members Ruth Dahl,  
Eduardo Wolle and Regina Zakrajsek

Northfield High School Cafeteria Annex

Monday, December 13, 2004, 7:30 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,  
Northfield High School Media Center

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Wolle, seconded by Zakrajsek, the Board adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Wendy Smith, Clerk