

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
April 11, 2005
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Chairperson Kari Nelson called the meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 p.m. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
 - Julie Pritchard spoke about the Rally for Public Education that will be taking place on Thursday, May 5 from 5 to 6 PM on Bridge Square in downtown Northfield.
 - Sam Demas representing the Northfield Arts Guild and Jane McWilliams asked that the Board reaffirm the criteria for the reuse of the old middle school as outlined by the Middle School Reuse Committee.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hargis, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 28, 2005, were approved. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the minutes of the Special School Board meeting held on April 4, 2005.
- V. Announcements.
 - Katie Purdes, Family Services Coordinator in Community Education, was recently elected as President-elect of the Minnesota School Age Care Alliance.
 - Congratulations to John Mahal, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, who has been awarded a grant from the Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. Mr. Mahal's project, titled *Weaving Self-Control* is one of 46 classroom grant projects funded this year to encourage creative and innovative projects that enhance teaching and learning.
 - On Thursday, March 31st, several 6th graders attended Regional History Day at the Minnesota State University in Mankato. Of those students, seven will advance to State History Day competition at the University of Minnesota on May 1st.
 - Congratulations to Raider Speech Team members Sarah Abbott, Becca Mellstrom, Noelle Risberg, and Marcia Barck for qualifying for State 2005.
 - Congratulations to Bret Hoekstra, Matt Amundson, Hannah Means, Abby Snesrud, Anna Williams, and Rachel Albin as they represented Northfield and Minnesota in a very classy manner at the National Weightlifting Championships in St. Paul two weekends ago. Hannah Means finished in third place, broke three state records, and tied another state record. Team Minnesota Women, led by four Northfield girls, finished 2nd in the nation.
 - Nelson spoke about the parent education opportunity sponsored by HCI and PEARLS during Saturday Night Live at the Middle School.
 - Nelson highlighted the Alternative Learning Center's program, Empty Bowls, on Friday, April 15 from 5:30 to 8:00 at the United Methodist Church to support local hunger programs.

VI. Items for Discussion and/or Reports

1. Companeros Report.

Last fall the District contracted with Tara Fortune, Coordinator for the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) at the University of Minnesota, and Diane Tedick, Associate Professor in Second Languages and Cultures Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the U of MN, to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the Companeros Program. That evaluation is now complete. Drs. Fortune and Tedick presented their findings and recommendations to the School Board.

2. Prairie Creek Community School Sponsorship Report.

The School District's sponsorship contract with Prairie Creek Community School expires on June 30, 2005. As a condition for contract renewal, Prairie Creek Community School was required to hire an independent team of evaluators and report the results of this team's evaluation to the Northfield Board of Education prior to any action that would extend the sponsorship. Bonnie Jean Flom, a member of the Evaluation Team, presented the findings of the evaluation to the School Board and, based on these findings, recommended on behalf of the team, that the District's sponsorship contract with Prairie Creek Community School be renewed for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2005, and continuing to June 30, 2008. New state statutes requires the District to review and comment on Prairie Creek's performance and then forward that analysis to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for their review and comment. Once MDE has completed their review, the District would receive authorization to vote on renewing District sponsorship of Prairie Creek for the next three years. This means that the actual vote on renewal will be done in May or June.

3. Old Middle School Finance Report.

Director of Business Affairs Tom Stringer reported on the budget for the maintenance of the old middle school. He indicated that, to date, \$394,263.28 of the \$500,000 has been spent.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Process for Consideration of New Proposals for Middle School Reuse.

Stratmoen moved, Cirksena seconded to approve the process for review of Middle School Reuse proposals as outlined in Ehlers & Associates, Inc. memo dated April 7, 2005.

Hager moved and Stratmoen seconded to amend the line item, "Proposals and analysis submitted to Board for review and selection (if appropriate)" on the timeline in the April 7, 2005, memo from Ehlers & Associates from May 23 to June 13 and to allow the Superintendent and Board Chair to adjust the schedule to reflect that deadline. Amendment passed on a 5 to 2 vote. Voting 'yes' was Boardman, Hager, Hargis, Stratmoen and Nelson. Voting 'no' was Cirksena and Smith.

The motion then to approve the process for review of Middle School Reuse proposals as amended was approved.

2. Review and Affirm or Amend Goals Recommended by the Middle School Reuse Committee.

On a motion by Boardman, seconded by Hargis, the Board reaffirmed the goals recommended by the Middle School Reuse Committee for the old Northfield Middle School. They are: Significant Community Use, Financial Feasibility, Downtown Support, Historic Preservation, Good Neighbor.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Financial Reports - February 2005.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,662,531.73, payroll checks totaling \$1,787,756.72, bond payments totaling \$262.53 and the financial reports for February 2005.

2. Construction Bids.

The School Board approved the low qualified piping base bid and the low qualified bid for Alternate 1 and Alternate 2 from Dimension Plumbing and Heating in the amount of \$676,780 for the Longfellow Mechanical Ventilation Improvement project. Also, \$2,988 for plan reviews and permits by the City of Northfield and the Department of Health.

3. Grant Application.

The \$7000 grant request to the Northfield Area United Way to support the Summer Ventures program was approved. Summer Ventures is a program providing academic support for at-risk elementary and middle school students.

4. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Renae Christenson, 1.0 Speech Language Pathologist, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA-0*.
2. Cindy Keogh, Kidventures Site Leader Staff, for 30.0 hours per week, 248 day work-year, beginning March 21, 2005, step 1 of the wage scale, pro-rated benefits. Ms. Keogh will continue to work 1.75 hours/day as a supervisory Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park.

b. Leaves of Absence

1. Donald Kepler, Custodian Engineer, granted a leave of absence from April 4, 2005 through July 1, 2005.

c. Job Share

1. Gail Kohl and Constance H. Nelson approved to job share at Bridgewater Elementary School for the 2005-06 school year with Ms. Kohl at .75 FTE and Ms. Nelson at .25 FTE. The administration supports this arrangement that will allow Ms. Nelson to also fill the .25 Mentor position.

2. Carrie Zupfer-Rice, Special Education Teacher, approved a .5 job-share position for 2005-06, with the other .5 job share teacher to be determined by administration.

d. Retirements

1. John McNamara, Industrial Technology Teacher at the High School, retirement effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year. Mr. McNamara has taught in the district for 25 years.
2. Susan Roosenraad, Mathematics Teacher at the High School, retirement effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year. Ms. Roosenraad has taught in the district for 21 years.
3. Rosemary Fink, 8th Grade Health Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year. Ms. Fink has taught in the district for 34 years.
4. Barbara Altstaetter, English Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year. Ms. Altstaetter has taught in the district for 21 years.

e. Resignations

1. Kristine Wacek, Spanish Teacher at the Middle School, resignation effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year.
2. Ryan Connolly, High School Choir Director, resignation effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year.
3. Cindy Keogh, resignation from 0.5 hour/day of her Supervisory Educational Assistant position at Greenvale Park - she will continue to work 1.75 hours/day of that position.
4. Kris Dompierre, Nurse at Greenvale Park, resignation effective April 22, 2005.

f. Voluntary Reduction

1. Anne Balluff granted a voluntary reduction in her contract time from .65 to .5 FTE beginning with the 2005-06 school year.

5. Overnight Student Field Trip.

High School Industrial Arts Teacher John McNamara's request of his overnight student field trip request for two students to attend the Ford/AAA hands-on state competition in Brooklyn Park on April 26 and April 27 was approved.

*Lane placement subject to verification by Professional Growth Committee.

**These conditional offers of employment are subject to successful completion of a criminal background check.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
High School	48%	48%
Middle School	73%	71%
Bridgewater	98%	99%
Greenvale Park	93%	98%
Sibley	98%	98%
Longfellow	99%	99%

2. Job Share Information.

At the March 28, 2005, School Board meeting, Board member Diane Cirksena asked how many employees job share and how benefits are administered to employees who job share. Tom Stringer provided answers to those questions.

3. Grant Received.

Greenvale Park Elementary School received a grant to purchase 80 books to be used in supporting children and families with early literacy. The books purchased will be sent home so parents can support their children with reading. The grant is through the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 25, 2005, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, May 9, 2005, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

X. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Boardman, the Board adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Jean Boardman, Clerk