

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
August 8, 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 7:05 p.m. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on July 11, 2005, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - Chairperson Kari Nelson announced the resignation of School Board Member Jean Boardman due to health concerns effective July 31, 2005. Kari thanked her for her service to the children of the Northfield School District. Wendy Smith expressed her appreciation as well.
 - The Northfield School District was placed on the NCLB watch list last year due to the low performance on MCA tests of our Hispanic students (many English language Learners) and our special education students. This meant that our student's scores in these two sub groups did not demonstrate adequate yearly progress (AYP) for the first year. With a great deal of hard work by staff and students and new cohorts of students being tested, all of our buildings either made AYP in each sub group and as a whole school or the sub group was not used in an AYP calculation because the cell size was too small.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Environmental Education Program Process Update.
Superintendent Richardson presented a draft alternative that administrators and 5th grade teachers would like to pilot during the 2005-06 school year in place of the current Wolf Ridge program. The pilot being proposed maintains a three-day, two-night overnight environmental education experience as well as an alternative day only experience with identical daytime instructional opportunities for all students. This pilot proposal has been presented to the 5th grade teachers and modifications have been made to reflect that feedback. Parents of 2nd through 5th grade parents will be invited to attend a meeting to hear the details of the proposed pilot program and have an opportunity to share their thoughts and provide feedback about the alternative with administrators and Board representatives on Wednesday, August 17, 2005 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the Sibley Elementary Media Center. Parent feedback will be considered as further modifications are made to the draft proposal. Parent feedback will also be recorded and shared with the Board of Education prior to the Board's August 22, 2005 meeting where the pilot overnight proposal will be presented to the Board for possible approval.

2. Overview of Omnibus Education Bill.

Director of Business Affairs Tom Stringer and Superintendent Richardson presented an overview of the impact of the 2005-06 Omnibus Education Bill on the Northfield Public Schools. The presentation included an overview of the funding and language changes in the law as well as a best estimate as to the impact of funding increases on the 2005-06 budget picture.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Awarding the Sale of General Obligation Aid Anticipation Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2005B.

On a motion by Hargis, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved the resolution awarding the sale of aid anticipation certificates on August 10, 2005. Voting 'yes' was Cirksena, Hager, Hargis, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

2. Resolution Providing for Public Hearing on Property Tax Levy.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board adopted the following Resolution.

RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 659, Shall meet in the Media Center at the Northfield High School, 1400 Division Street, Northfield, MN on Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the school district's 2005 payable 2006, property tax levy. This date does not conflict with the county hearing dates.

In the event the School Board is unable to complete its deliberations on this matter at the hearing on the original date specified, the hearing shall be continued and the Board shall meet in the Media Center at the Northfield High School, 1400 Division Street, Northfield, MN on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. to continue the hearing. This date does not conflict with the applicable county hearing dates.

3. Acceptance of Board Member Resignation.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board accepted the resignation of Jean Boardman from the Northfield Board of Education effective July 31, 2005.

4. Process for Filling the Vacancy on the School Board.

Hager suggested an open process for filling the vacancy.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved the process for filling the vacancy on the Northfield Board of Education by offering the appointment to the next highest vote recipient at the November 2, 2004, School Board Election. Voting 'yes' was Cirksena, Smith, Hargis, Stratmoen and Nelson. Voting 'no' was Hager.

5. Clerk Vacancy.

Cirksena moved and Smith seconded the nomination of Katy Hargis as Board Clerk. There were no other nominations and Hargis was unanimously elected as Clerk of the Northfield School Board through December 31, 2005.

6. Personnel Items.

Personnel items were pulled from the consent grouping by Smith. She recognized and thanked Leon Haefner and Barb Wornson for their dedication and years of service. Then, on a motion by Smith, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved the following personnel items.

a. Appointments**

1. Elizabeth Valentine, ESL Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA lane, step 10*.
2. Bruno Theisen, ESL Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary School and the Middle School, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA lane, step 6*.
3. Emileana Graupmann, .4 Middle School / .6 High School Social Studies Teacher, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, BA lane step 2*.
4. Kathleen Hofmann, .35 FACS Teacher at the Middle School, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA lane, step 10*.
5. Nicole Papke, increase contract time from 5.0 to 1.0 FTE Grade 2 at Greenvale Park, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA30 lane, step 7*.
6. David Gilmore, .5 ALC Math Teacher, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, BA15 lane, step 6*.
7. Brenda Hand, TOSA assignment as 0.8 FTE ESL Teacher, 0.2 ESL Coordination, with a \$2,000 stipend for work beyond the normal work day/work year for the coordination duties.
8. Candace Hard, long-term substitute Special Education Resource Room Teacher at Greenvale Park for the 2005-06 school year, BA lane, step 1*.
9. Patricia Pfeiffer, Special Education Resource Room Teacher at the Middle School, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA60 lane, step 6*.
10. Amy Pfefferle, increase contract time from .5 to 1.0 FTE Kindergarten at Sibley Elementary School beginning with the 2005-06 school year.
11. 2005-06 Co-Curricular Assignments – a list is enclosed.
12. Zachary Pelletier, Orchestra/General Music Teacher, increase contract time from .8 to 1.0 FTE and reassign to .7 Middle School Orchestra and General Music/.3 Elementary Orchestra.
13. Kathleen Kopseng, English/German Teacher at the High School and Middle School, increase contract time from .7 to .8 FTE, beginning with the 2005-06 school year pending variance approval, BA-7*.
14. Jennifer Rauk, Media Specialist at Bridgewater/Sibley School, beginning with the 2005-06 school year, MA lane, step 9.*
15. Allison Meidt, Grade 5 Teacher at Greenvale Park, increase contract time from .5 to 1.0 FTE beginning with the 2005-06 school year.
16. Lynn Tchida, Family Services Coordinator, beginning August 29, 2005, \$70,000/year, pro-rated for 2005-06.
17. Larry Edwards, transfer from District Substitute/Auxiliary Custodian to High School Custodian, 3:00-11:00 shift, Monday-Friday, beginning August 10, 2005.

b. New Assignments/Building Transfers for Licensed and Non-licensed Staff beginning 2005-06

1. Patsy Ophaug, will remain at Middle School for 2005-06.

School Board Minutes

August 8, 2005

Page Four

2. Julie Bubser, add 1.0 Supervisory Educational Assistant time at Sibley, step 1 of the wage scale.
 3. Mary Williams, reassign to .4 Concert Band and Symphonic Band Director and .6 Band lessons at the High School.
- c. Leave of Absence
1. Kristen Cade, childcare leave of absence without pay for the 2005-06 school year.
- d. Retirements/Resignations
1. Leon Haefner, Band Director, retirement effective July 15, 2005. Mr. Haefner has taught in the district for 26 years.
 2. Barbara Wornson, ALC Instructor, resignation effective at the end of the 2004-05 school year. Ms. Wornson has taught in the district for 16 years.
 3. Robert Aakre, High School Custodian, resignation effective August 12, 2005.
 4. Kathleen Purdes, Family Services Coordinator, resignation effective August 12, 2005.
 5. LuAnn Raadt, Educational Assistant at Sibley School, resignation effective August 4, 2005.

*Lane placement subject to verification by Professional Growth Committee. Salary subject to revision when negotiations for 2005-06 are completed.

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

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

Item #6 - Smith requested that the Personnel Items be removed from the consent agenda. Moved to item #6 under the Items for Individual Action.

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

1. Rejoice! Lutheran Church Lease Agreement.
The Board approved the long-term lease agreement with Rejoice! Church for the period September 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006.
2. Student Activity Fund Transfer.
The Board approved the transfer of money from the Speech Student Activity Account into a payroll account to cover the cost of a person to work with the speech team. No school funds will be used to pay this stipend. All funds have been raised by the NHS Speech team.
3. American Red Cross Authorized Provider Agreement.
The Board approved an Authorized Provider Agreement between the Rice-LeSueur Counties Chapter of the American Red Cross and the Northfield Public Schools to provide American Red Cross training in the areas described in Appendix A.
4. Financial Reports for June 2005.
The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,956,770.01, payroll checks totaling \$4,145,774.18, bond payments of \$6,083.83 and the financial reports for June 2005.

5. Gift Agreement.

The Northfield Booster Club has donated the following items at a total value of \$17,075:

Balls - Pucks - Shots - Discs	\$6,500.00
Athletic Travel Bags	\$7,575.00
Electrical Stimulation Machine (for athletic training - injury treatment)	\$2,000.00
Weight room - bars and t-shirts	\$1,000.00

7. Joint Powers Agreement for Day Treatment Services.

The Board approved the Joint Powers Agreement with Faribault Public Schools "for the purpose of creating a reliable system for providing mental health treatment as related services to certain special education students of the Districts and of other districts." The agreement is for three years beginning August 25, 2004.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Grants Received.

- a. \$15,000 from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation to fund various projects developed by the Northfield Early Childhood Initiative Coalition including outreach, school readiness, public awareness and community events.
- b. Approval of three AmeriCorps Members to be funded by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation at a total cost of \$4,500. The AmeriCorps Members will work on the early literacy projects related to the Early Childhood Initiative Coalition.
- c. Kids' C.A.F.E. received an additional \$1,000 above and beyond the original \$1,500 from the Grace Whittier Fund administered by the City of Northfield.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, August 22, 2005, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, September 12, 2005, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

- X. Stratmoen expressed appreciation to Chairperson Nelson for her leadership at School Board meetings. Superintendent Richardson announced the 2005 Minnesota Education Summit on September 23rd. Information will be distributed in Friday's Memo. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk