

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
October 24, 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. Hargis was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
There was no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on October 10, 2005, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - Christina Keesey is playing at the State Individual Tennis Finals on October 28.
 - Boys soccer continues on to the State Tournament with a game on October 27 at Minnetonka against Meadow Creek Christian.
 - Girls Swimming/Diving came in second at the True Team State meet on October 22.
 - For the first time, Volleyball has earned a Missota Conference Championship. They are co-champions with Hutchinson. They will host a section game against Lakeville South on October 26.
 - Boys Cross Country has also earned a Missota Conference Championship. Cross Country section meet is on October 27 in Owatonna.
 - The Football team will host a section game on October 25 against Albert Lea.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports.
 1. Teaching American History Grant Update.
Sara Swan McDonald and Paula Seeberg provided the Board of Education with an update on year two of the Teaching American History grant. This year's theme is: "American Assimilation. American Identity" and will include four Saturday seminars (October 8, November 12, February 4 and April 8) and a week-long summer institute (June 12-15).
 2. School District Priority Issues for 2005-2006.
Superintendent Richardson provided the School Board with an overview of the priority issues facing the School District this school year. The purpose was to provide the Board with a big picture perspective on District efforts in curriculum and instruction, funding and budgets, personnel, facilities, technology and operations as well as the District's continued collaboration with charter schools located within the District. See the attached document for a complete listing of the priority issues.

3. Reception for National Merit Scholars.

The reception for National Merit Scholars will be held on Monday, December 12, 2005. After a brief discussion, it was decided to begin the reception at 6:30 PM and move the start of the Regular School Board meeting on December 12th to 7:30 PM.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. December 12, 2005, Regular School Board Meeting.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved a 7:30 PM start time for only the December 12, 2005, Regular School Board meeting to accommodate the reception for the District's National Merit Scholars.

2. Financial Reports - September 2005.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board approved paid bills totaling \$8,305,437.84, payroll checks totaling \$1,650,944.24 and the financial reports for September 2005.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Barbara Schetnan, Special Ed Educational Assistant, transfer from Longfellow position to a 6.5 hours per day position at the High School beginning October 17, 2005, step 6 of the Class III wage scale.
2. Co-Curricular Assignments
Rachel Fink, transfer from 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach to 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Liz Rohach, Assistant Dance Team (JV), shared stipend
Erik Scharrer, Assistant Alpine Ski Coach
3. Chelen Gore, Parent Educator, for up to 5.0 hours per week, beginning October 24, 2005, \$19.75 per hour*.
4. Northfield Area Learning Center Evening Independent Study Courses
Assignments subject to minimum class enrollment.
David Bly, English, hourly rate based on lane/step.
Cheryl Mathison, Work Seminar, hourly rate based on lane/step.
Burton Fleming, Behavioral Sciences, hourly rate based on lane/step.
Burton Fleming, History, hourly rate based on lane/step.

*Subject to revision when negotiations for 2005-06 have been completed.

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

b. Leave of Absence

1. Julie Mitchell, High School Food Service, unpaid leave of absence for the remainder of the 2005-06 school year. The administration supports this request.
2. Terry Heil, extension of leave of absence through January 2, 2006.

c. Resignations

1. Christy Gregorson, 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
2. Margaret Jandro, Assistant Dance Team (JV)

Items for Information

1. TORCH Grant Received.

High School Assistant Principal Marnie Thompson in collaboration with the Familias En Accion coalition was awarded a \$40,000 grant. Funds for this project will be provided by a grant from the Minnesota Intervention for College Attendance Program administered by the Office of Higher Education. The goal of TORCH ("Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes") is to increase the academic achievement and school connectedness of Northfield's Latino students in grades 6-12, leading to higher graduation rates among these students and enhanced post-secondary aspirations.

2. November 2nd High School Faculty Meeting.

On Wednesday, November 2nd at 3:00 PM, the High School faculty will be celebrating its five star rating! School Board members are invited to attend. The reception will be held in the Cafeteria at the High School.

VIII. Future Meetings

Monday, October 24, 2005, Closed Negotiations Strategy Session,
immediately following Regular School Board Meeting,
District Office Conference Room

Monday, November 14, 2005, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, November 28, 2005, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

IX. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk