

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
November 14, 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.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
There was no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Berthelsen, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on October 24, 2005, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - The 7th grade ELC trip to Eagle Bluff went very well this year - 197 students, 25 parents and 9 staff participated in the trip!
 - After winning the Missota Conference and Section Championships, the Raider boys cross country team competed at the State Meet at St. Olaf College on Saturday, Nov. 5. The cross country team is coached by Merilee Sander, Joe Winegardner and Stephen Cade.
 - Sell out crowds attended the Fall Musical, "Oliver" Nov. 4,5,11,12. Over 100 cast and crew members were involved in this effort under the direction of Bob Gregory-Bjorklund.
 - Senior Christina Keesey signed paperwork to attend Ohio State in a ceremony at the high school on Wed, Nov. 9. Christina has played varsity tennis at NHS for 5 years with 4 appearances at the State Tournament, finishing 3rd this past season.
 - The Gator Girls Swimming and Diving Team finished third in the Section 1A Championships last Friday. Maggie Perrott was the section champion in the 50 Freestyle and 100 Freestyle, Tanya Thomforde was the section champion in the 100 breaststroke.
 - Board members highlighted the following activities: Prairie Fire Theater and Peter Pan; the all district band concert; and the Middle School orchestra and choir concert.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports.
 1. Elementary Site Continuous Improvement Plan Presentations.
Each of the three elementary buildings presented their site continuous improvement plan. The presentations described the site improvement goals, the data or evidence that was used to identify those goals, and the specific performance targets that the building will use to determine their success in reaching the goals. The presentations also highlighted the specific activities and staff development that each building will complete during the next school year and how progress will be monitored. These plans fit directly with new statutory requirements for improvement plans for all districts and buildings and also provide the basis for the student achievement goal requirements of Q-Comp, should we be able to reach an agreement on implementing that program in our district for 2006-07.

2. Fiber Optics for Greenvale Park, Longfellow and Sibley Schools.

Director of Technology Denise Griffith presented a proposal for the completion of the fiber optic network connecting all of the buildings within the district. Her presentation looked at the impact of the current inequity between those buildings with fiber optic connections and the other buildings in the district. It also described how this project can be completed using a lease purchase program and the benefits for students and staff of completing the network at this time.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. American Education Week and National Community Education Day Proclamations.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the American Education Week Proclamation as presented.

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and

WHEREAS, education employees - be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians - work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and

WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise;

Now, therefore, the Board of Education of the Northfield Public Schools, do hereby proclaim November 13-19 as the 84th annual observance of American Education Week.

National Community Education Day - November 15, 2005.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved the National Community Education Day Proclamation as presented.

WHEREAS the Community Education concept emphasizes an expanded role for public school resources and provides a mechanism to address both the present and potential educational needs of all community members; and

WHEREAS Community Education programming serves as an instrument to brighten individual futures and trample barriers to educational access, and as it incorporates a process for identifying and analyzing emerging program opportunities; and

WHEREAS the principles of Community Education are Self-Determination, Self-Help, Leadership Development, Localization, Integrated Delivery of Services, Maximum Use of Resources, Inclusiveness, Responsiveness, and Lifelong Learning; and

WHEREAS the citizens of the Northfield Public School District are committed to enhancing the collaboration and involvement of families, community members, organizations, teachers, and students in problem solving and decision making that lead to a more meaningful, innovative, and boundless experience for all, and

WHEREAS the theme of National Community Education Day in 2005 is Every School a Community School;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Education of the Northfield Public Schools proclaim Tuesday, November 15, 2005, Community Education Day and encourage everyone to consider the ability of community schools and Community Education programs to inspire, motivate, and accomplish a vision for the community's future.

2. Community/School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding.

Staff provided an explanation of the safe schools levy.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Northfield Public Schools and the City of Northfield to provide a police officer.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

Hargis requested that item #1 - Community/School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding be pulled from the Consent Agenda and placed as item #2 under Items for Individual Action.

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

2. Longfellow Exterior Façade Repairs.

The Board of Education approved A. J. Spanjers Company, Inc. as the lowest qualified bidder for the exterior façade renovation at Longfellow School. The cost of the project will be \$18,870.

3. Financial Reports - October 2005.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,484,097.64, payroll checks totaling \$1,674,149.98, bond payments totaling \$262.53 and the financial reports for October 2005.

4. High School Overnight Trips.

The Board approved two co-curricular overnight trips. Both trips will be paid from student activity account funds.

- Dance Team to Alexandria, MN on January 6-7, 2006
- Softball Team to LaCrescent, MN on May 12-13, 2006

5. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Vicki Behr, Mentoring Grant Liaison, for up to 10 hours per week, beginning 10/31/05 through the end of the grant. This is in addition to her Educational Assistant position.
2. Rose Brison, Food Service Associate I, 3.5 hours per day, 3 days per week, beginning October 26, 2005 through June 6, 2006. There are no benefits with this temporary position.
3. Sommer Dunn, Supervisory Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park for 1.75 hours per day beginning October 24, 2005. There are no benefits with this position.
4. Kenneth Walls, Middle School Youth Center Lead Assistant, for 12-15 hours per week, beginning October 31, 2005, \$12.42/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
5. Kari Gorr, KidVentures Program Supervisor, increase work year from 248 days to 261 days, beginning with the 2005-06 school year.
6. Cheryl Strike, Connected Kids Mentoring Specialist, hours for year two of the grant will be 30 hours per week, effective November 14, 2005.
7. Jane Johnson, KidVentures Program Assistant for 4.5 hours per day, Bridgewater a.m. and Sibley p.m. beginning October 24, 2005, pro-rated benefits. This is in addition to her Educational Assistant position.
8. Ryan Paulson, KidVentures Program Assistant for up to 5.5 hours per day, beginning October 31, 2005, step 1, pro-rated benefits.
9. Erin Nohava, Special Ed Educational Assistant for 3.0 hours per day at Greenvale Park, beginning November 8, 2005, Class III, step 1 of the wage scale. This is in addition to her KidVentures position.
10. Melissa Quinnell, ECSE Educational Assistant at Longfellow School for 6.5 hours per day, 4 days per week, beginning November 29, 2005, Class III, step 1, pro-rated benefits.
11. Co-Curricular Assignments for 2005-06
 - Ray Coudret, 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
 - Jonathan Natvig, 9th Grade Part-time Boys Basketball Coach (Hourly)
 - Sarah Carlson, 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach (Hourly)
 - Cliff Casteel, Assistant Boys and Girls Track Coach – full stipend
 - Nate Olson, Assistant Boys Hockey Coach
 - Kim Rohr, One Extra Class, full year, no supervision.
 - Faith Hagedorn, Middle School Speech Co-Advisor (stipend split with Lisa Hovden)
 - Steve Taggart, Assistant Weight Room Coach, hourly (not to exceed \$900, funded by Summer Weight Room account).
 - Laura Marks, Assistant Weight Team Coach, hourly (not to exceed \$800, funded by Summer Weight Room account).

b. Leave of Absence

1. Mark Auge, intermittent FMLA leave for the period of November 8, 2005 through December 31, 2006.
2. Kathy Wiertsema-Miller, FMLA leave from November 2 – 11, 2005.
3. Margaret Peterson, FMLA leave from November 10 – 25, 2005.

c. Resignations/Terminations

1. Kim Slegers, Assistant Boys and Girls Track Coach
2. Wendy Frances, Substitute/Auxiliary Custodian, separation effective October 24, 2005.
3. Tad Hinnenkamp, Middle School Lead Assistant, resignation effective October 19, 2005.

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

6. Student Teaching Agreement.

The Board approved an agreement with the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota State College and University Board and Bemidji State University for the purpose of providing student teaching experiences for students from Bemidji State University.

VIII. Items for Information.

1. Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences.

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

	<u>2005</u>	<u>2004</u>
Greenvale Park	98%	97%
Sibley	99%	98%
Bridgewater	99%	99%
Middle School	76%	82%
High School	56%	63%

2. Children's Mental Health Workshop.

The Board was given a flyer promoting a workshop on children's mental health. It is sponsored by the district's Student Services Department and the Special Education Advisory Council.

3. 2005-2006 Enrollment Options Report.

Information Systems Specialist Christine Neset provided the Board with the 2005-2006 Enrollment Options Report. The Northfield Public Schools has 247 students attending our schools from other school districts this school year compared to 279 last year. 525 Northfield students are attending school elsewhere, including other public schools (129), charter schools (197) and non-public schools (199). This compares to 499 students last year.

4. Letter to Parents of Students Receiving Special Education Services.

IX. Future Meetings

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

Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 7:00 PM, Truth in Taxation Hearing,
Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, December 12, 2005, 6:30 PM, Reception for National Merit Scholars,
Northfield High School Cafeteria

Monday, December 12, 2005, **7:30 PM (Notice change in time)**,
Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board adjourned at 9:10 PM.