

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

School Board Meeting  
December 12, 2005  
Northfield High School Media Center

**Continuation of Truth in Taxation Hearing**

- I. Call to Order.  
Chairperson Kari Nelson called the continuation of the Truth in Taxation Hearing to order at 7:35 p.m. Smith was absent.
- II. Public Testimony and Comments.  
There was none.
- III. On a motion by Hager, seconded by Cirksena, the continuation of the Truth in Taxation Hearing was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

**Regular School Board Meeting**

- I. Call to Order.  
Chairperson Kari Nelson called the meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:40 PM. 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 Hargis, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on November 28, 2005, were approved. Then, on a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena minutes of the Truth in Taxation Hearing on December 6, 2005, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
  - Dr. Richardson noted the reception that was held prior to the Board meeting for the National Merit Scholars and their parents. Great opportunity for students to publicly thank their teachers.
  - Nelson acknowledged the profile in the *Northfield News* about Noel and Lois Stratmoen.
  - The fifth graders had a good week at Eagle Bluff. Thank you to FREL and the parent volunteers. A review/evaluation will follow.
  - Thank you to the parent volunteers and Coach Casteel for the Northfield Wrestling Invitational.
  - High School Choral concert in Carleton's chapel - excellent.
  - Cirksena visited the ALC and recognized the entrepreneurial venture, Soy Scents.
  - There will be a fundraiser for the Gilbertson family through Papa Murphy's.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports.

1. Update on Federal Programs.

Dr. Gary Lewis, Director of Student Services, presented an update on Federal Title programs within the District. The presentation included a brief description of each of the Title areas, current allocations and how the District is utilizing those dollars.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. School Improvement Plans.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hager, the Board approved the six school or program improvement plans submitted by building or program staffs for the 2005-06 school year. Berthelsen recognized the work of staff and site councils.

2. Quality Compensation (Q Comp) Proposal.

On a motion by Hager, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the Quality Compensation Plan developed by District staff. Superintendent Richardson noted that the budget page needs to be finished and the Memorandum of Understanding finalized. Teachers will vote on December 20, 2005.

3. Certify Final 2005 Payable 2006 Tax Levy.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Hargis, the Board certified to County Auditors the 2005 Payable 2006 Final Certified Net Tax Levy in the amount of \$10,016,724.61.

4. Statutory Operating Debt (SOD) Plan, Recovery Spreadsheet and Resolution.

On a motion by Hager, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board approved the Resolution for Statutory Operating Debt Recovery.

5. Policy 214 - Out of State Travel by School Board Members.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board approved Policy 214, Out of State Travel by School Board Members as amended.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Middle School Assembly Program.

The Board approved the "Bullies to Buddies" school assembly on February 6, 2006, at the Middle School. Grades 6-8 will attend this assembly presented by Izzy Kahlman, founder of the Bullies to Buddies Program. The Cannon Valley Girl Scouts Council secured a grant to fund this program.

2. Professional Services Contract.

The Board approved a professional services contract between Northfield Public Schools and Beth Berry to execute the TORCH grant received by the District from the Department of Higher Education. Ms. Berry will work with Marnie Thompson to direct the preparation and performance of the details of the work as outlined in the Contract. The TORCH grant will cover the cost of this professional services contract.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Angie Nielsen, Special Ed Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park for 2.0 hours per day beginning December 1, 2006, pro-rated benefits, Class III, step 6. This is in addition to her 2.25 hr/day Supervisory Educational Assistant position.
2. Nate Knutson, transfer from a Workstation Specialist to a Technology Specialist position beginning December 12, 2005, at an hourly rate of \$22.50.
3. Co-Curricular Assignments  
Roger Jenni, Assessment/Testing Coordinator for year 2 of the History Grant, \$40 per hour to a maximum of \$7,800 as specified in the grant.  
Laurie Sadowski, Cheer Team (Split Stipend)
4. Laura Goodwin, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School for 6.5 hours per day (student days) beginning December 15, 2005, Class III, step 1.
5. Karen Jensen, Educational Assistant at Sibley School, increase supervisory time from 2.25 to 3.5 hours per day in addition to her 3.5 hours per day instructional time for a total of 7.0 hours per day, effective December 12, 2005.

b. Increase in Contract Time

1. Margaret Fink, Special Education Teacher at Greenvale Park, increase in contract time from .5 to .6 FTE effective December 5, 2005.

c. Leave of Absence

1. Ann Terwilliger, FMLA Leave, October 15 through November 21, 2005.

d. Resignations/Discontinuance of Employment

1. Ben Ducklow, Workstation Specialist, resignation effective December 16, 2005.
2. Donald Kepler, long-term substitute Custodian Engineer at Greenvale Park. His last day of long-term subbing will be December 16, 2005, due to return of Allen Sauter from military duty.
3. Kelly Saari, ALC Program Assistant, resignation effective October 25, 2005.
4. Suzanne Pasch, Middle School Food Service, resignation effective December 12, 2005

e. Seniority Lists

1. The Board approved the 2005 Seniority List for licensed staff.
2. The Board approved the 2005 Seniority List for principals.

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

4. Student Activity Account/Swimming and Diving Coaching.

The Board approved transferring a sum not to exceed \$800 from the boys swimming and diving student activity account into the payroll account to pay for Patterson Leeth to work with the varsity/junior varsity boys swimming team on a part-time basis.

VIII. Items for Information.

1. TIES 2005 Exceptional Teacher Awards.

Congratulations to Karen Lane, first grade teacher at Bridgewater, and John Bade, middle school art teacher, for receiving the TIES 2005 Exceptional Teacher Award.

This award honors teachers who effectively integrate technology into their classroom and engage students in learning.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, January 9, 2006, Organizational School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, January 9, 2006, Regular School Board Meeting, Immediately following Organizational Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, January 23, 2006, Regular School Board Meeting, 7:00 PM

Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk