

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
July 10, 2006
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. Berthelsen and Hager were absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
There was no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on June 12, 2006, were approved as corrected.
- V. Announcements.
 - We were recently notified by Standard & Poors that they have recognized Northfield Middle School for narrowing the gap in student achievement between economically disadvantaged students and their higher performing classmates while simultaneously raising the average proficiency rates of the student groups being compared. Our middle school is one of 45 schools from 34 districts in Minnesota to be highlighted in this analysis. Congratulations to the middle school staff and, most of all, the students.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports.
 1. March 2007 School Board Meetings.
The School Board meetings in March 2007 are scheduled for March 12 and March 26. Since March 26 is during Spring Break and having a quorum could be an issue, the Board decided to hold only one Board meeting in March and schedule a second meeting only if needed.
 2. Follow-up on July 6, 2006, Start Tribune South Edition Story about School District Spending.
The data presented in the article inaccurately portray the relative ranking of Northfield in comparison to other south metro districts in the area of district-level administrative expenditures. The reason for this is that most other districts, including at least five of the comparison districts listed in the chart, do not code technology services to this area. While Northfield has coded technology staff and services that support building level instructional technology in district-level administrative expenditures, other districts code those same expenses in regular instruction, instructional support or capital. As a result, our district-level expenditures figure is inflated by that amount. To get an accurate comparison, our district-level expenditures, with technology expenditures placed in one of these other areas, would be reduced to \$277 per pupil with a ranking of approximately 120 lowest out of 164 districts with more than 1000 students enrolled. Northfield's district-level administrative expenditures would be below the revised average of \$291 for the eleven comparison districts. If this data is to be used to make meaningful comparisons, the state financial accounting system will need to provide very specific direction for placement of different

categories of expenditures. The focus of the story should remain on the important message that the major increases in special education costs and employee benefits are far outpacing inflation and resulting in greater disparities between state funding and school district needs.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Transportation Contract with Benjamin Bus 2005-2007.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved the School Bus Transportation Contract with Benjamin Bus Inc for 2005-07 as presented.

2. Resolution Providing for the Sale of General Obligation Aid Anticipation Certificates of Indebtedness, Series 2006B.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the resolution providing for the sale of general obligation aid anticipation certificates of indebtedness, series 2006B; and covenanting and obligating the district to be bound by and to use the provision of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to guarantee the payment of the principal and interest on these certificates. Voting 'yes' were Cirksena, Hargis, Nelson, Smith and Stratmoen. (Berthelsen and Hager were absent.)

3. Contingent Resolution Relating to Choosing Nominees for Election to the School Board and Calling the School District Primary Election.

On a motion by Hargis, seconded by Smith, the Board approved the Contingent Resolution Relating to Choosing Nominees for Election to the School Board and Calling the School District Primary Election.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Hoffman Photo-Action Sports Photography.

The Board approved an amendment to the current two-year contract with Hoffman Photo. This amendment for the 2006-07 year adds the option of sideline photography for purchase by the athletes/participants and their parents from the Hoffmans-photography website. Hoffman Photo will give 10% of the profits to Northfield High School that will be used to offset the costs for the Activity Awards for our co-curricular programs (including athletic and academic activities).

2. rSchool Today.

The Board approved a contract for the new Web-based activity scheduling program. This is a joint decision by the schools in our Missota Conference and replaces the old program that was in place. Cost of the program is budgeted in the current activities budget.

3. Gift Agreement - Bridgewater PTO.

The Board accepted the gift of \$23,116.38 from the Bridgewater Elementary School PTO to Bridgewater Elementary School during the 2005-2006 school year.

4. Contract with Center for Human Resources for Employee Assistance Program.

The Board approved the contract with the Center for Human Resources (CHR) for the Employee Assistance Program for the 2006-2007 school year. The contract amount is \$2500 for the time period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. There is no increase in the annual contract amount over last year. CHR will provide brief counseling, assessment and referral services for School District employees and members of their households.

5. Fiscal Year Organization Actions.

The following financial organizational issues were approved.

- i) Approved authorizing the Director of Business Affairs and the District Accountant to invest surplus District funds in accordance with applicable laws and with the District's Investment Policy, DG, for fiscal year 2006-2007.
- ii) Approved designating Bremer Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., PMA/LaSalle Bank, Valley Bank Dundas, Ambac Securities Inc., U.S. Bank Minnesota and the Minnesota School District Liquid Asset Fund as official bank depositories provided they maintain adequate pledged collateral as required by law per District procedure DG-R, for fiscal year 2006-2007.
- iii) Authorized the Director of Business Affairs and the District Accountant to make appropriate wire transfers to and from District depository accounts for fiscal year 2006-2007.

6. Memberships for 2006-2007.

Membership in the groups listed below were renewed for the 2006-2007 school year.

- a. Minnesota State High School League.
- b. Minnesota Association of School Administrators.
- c. Schools for Equity in Education.
- d. Southeast Service Cooperative.
- e. Region V Computer Services Cooperative.
- f. Rice County Family Services Collaborative.
- g. Minnesota School Boards Association.
- h. Healthy Community Initiative.

7. Financial Reports - May 2006.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,113,751.24, payroll checks totaling \$1,712,124.56, and the financial reports for May 2006. There were no bond payments made in May 2006.

8. Middle School SCOPE Overnight Field Trip Request.

The Board approved the annual SCOPE trip to Missouri to visit sites connected with the James Younger Gang. This trip will take place in June 2007.

9. Health and Safety Program Certification.

The Board certified Attachment 99 Health Safety Performance Criteria as provided by Director of Buildings and Grounds Don Warhol. A total of \$243,651 is budgeted for Health and Safety projects during 2006-07.

10. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Daniel Hurley, .5 ALC Coordinator/.5 Student Services Specialist, 45 weeks, beginning July 1, 2006, \$62,563.25. The salary for ALC Coordinator is subject to revision when negotiations are completed.
2. Katherine Jacques, Grade 3 Companeros Teacher at Greenvale Park Elementary School, beginning with the 2006-07 school year, BA lane, step 0*.
3. Kristen Harstad, Special Education Teacher at Sibley Elementary School beginning with the 2006-07 school year, BA lane, step 13*.
4. Daniel Burns, Special Education Teacher at the High School beginning with the 2006-07 school year, MA60 lane, step 6*.
5. Lori Rossmiller, .6 Spanish Teacher at the High School, long-term substitute for the 2006-07 school year, MA-7*.
6. Kimberly Hicks, Special Education Teacher at Sibley Elementary School, beginning with the 2006-07 school year, BA-2*.
7. Jeffrey Roland, Elementary Principal at Greenvale Park School, 47-week work year, beginning July 1, 2006, \$90,332.00, subject to revision when negotiations with principals for 2006-08 have been completed.
8. Christie Quamme, Food Service Associate I, long-term substitute position for the 2006-07 school year for 3.5 hours per day, \$11.97/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
9. Additional Summer School Assignments
Joan Lizaola, Middle School Targeted Services Assistant, 88-hour assignment
Alison Perry, Middle School Targeted Services Assistant, 88-hour assignment
Jessi Huber, Science Teacher ALC Summer Class, 72-hour assignment
10. Lisa Weis, Special Education Teacher at the High School beginning with the 2006-07 school year, MA lane, step 6*.
11. Michelle Sickler, Elementary Teacher, transfer from Grade 5 at Greenvale Park to Grade 6 at the Middle School.
12. Lois Kelly, .5 Speech/Language Pathologist, for the 2006-07 school year, BA30-11*, pro-rated benefits. This is a shared position: .25 Northfield /.2 Goodhue County Ed District, and .05 Artech.
13. Margaret Witt, .5 Media Specialist (pending approval of variance) at Sibley School for the 2006-07 school year. MA-8*.
14. Karna Hauck, .25 long-term substitute Art Teacher at Sibley School for the 2006-07 school year, MA-10*.
15. Gao Hung, .4 Chinese Teacher, for the 2006-07 school year, pending issuance of a community expert license, BA-0*.
16. Co-Curricular Assignment
Jill Ertl, one extra class (English) first semester of the 2006-07 school year.
17. Violette Mpagazihe, Middle School Youth Center Site Assistant, from July 10, 2006 – August 17, 2006, \$9.97/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
18. Sarah Martens, long-term substitute High School Spanish Teacher for the 2006-07 school year, BA45, step 2*.
19. Tina Dokken, Middle School Mathematics Teacher beginning with the 2006-07 school year, BA45, step 5*.

- b. Increase in Contract Time/Hours
 - 1. Amy Allin, Middle School Science Teacher, increase from .5 to 1.0 FTE beginning with the 2006-07 school year.
 - 2. Dee Tomczik, Instructional and Supervisory Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, increase from 4.0 to 5.0 hours per day, beginning with the 2006-07 school year.
 - 3. Mary Huberg, increase of up to 360 clerical hours for 2006-07 school year for Early Childhood Screening, Hand in Hand Preschool/School Readiness and the EarlyVentures Learning Center, beginning July 1, 2006, Class I, step 2 of the wage scale for Office Employees and subject to revision when negotiations for 2006-07 have been completed.

- c. Leave of Absence
 - 1. Charles Border, FMLA leave from June 12, 2006 through June 30, 2006.
 - 2. Terry Heil, Leave of Absence without pay from August 30, 2006 through May 30, 2007.
 - 3. Mary Bleckwehl, leave of absence without pay for the 2006-07 school year.

- d. Resignations/Retirement
 - 1. Ronald Oeltjenbruns, Bridgewater Head Custodian, resignation effective June 30, 2006.
 - 2. Anne Lamppa, Bridgewater Title I Teacher, resignation effective end of 2006-07.
 - 3. Charles Border, Auxiliary Custodian, retirement with last day of work to be July 28, 2006.
 - 4. Steve Taggart, High School Industrial Technology Teacher, resignation effective July 10, 2006.

*Lane placement subject to verification by Professional Growth Committee.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Grants Received

Recent grant awards received by Community Services programs:

Bridges to Kindergarten	\$13,000	United Way
Family Literacy Program	\$9,000	United Way
Summer Ventures/ Targeted Services	\$8,000	United Way
Project ABLE	\$5,500	United Way
Special Olympics	\$1,500	United Way
Babies & Blankets	\$4,780	WINGS
Summer Ventures/ Targeted Services	\$4,000	WINGS
TOTAL	\$45,780	

2. School Board Candidate Filings

As of Monday, July 10, three people have filed for School Board. Kari Nelson, Mike Berthelsen and Noel Stratmoen have filed.

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IX. Future Meetings

Monday, August 14, 2006, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, August 28, 2006, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, September 11, 2006, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Friday, September 22, 2006, 8 AM - 4 PM, Alliance Education Summit, Minneapolis Convention Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk