

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
October 9, 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. Cirksena 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 Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on September 25, 2006, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - The Girls Soccer team won the **conference** title. Both the boys and girls soccer teams are seeded #1 in the section.
 - The Fifth Grade class at Bridgewater participated in the **Youth Frontiers Kindness Retreat** on October 6. The goals of this Retreat were that students understand how others are affected positively or negatively by their words, and to identify positive ways to deal with bullies and bullying. The Retreat will help students and staff to create a more caring school climate, reduce bullying and connect students with positive role models. Twelve high school senior leaders participated throughout the day with the three Youth Frontier leaders. This day was made possible by funding from the Bridgewater PTO and the Northfield Healthy Community Initiative.
 - Parents are encouraged to register for Parent Communications Network (PCN).
 - Board Chair Kari Nelson extended a public welcome to the new Director of Buildings and Grounds, Kevin Larson, who begins on October 16, 2006.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) Update.
High School Assistant Principal Marnie Thompson and Beth Berry, Project Director, provided the Board of Education with an update on the progress that has been made this past year on increasing the number of Northfield Latino students graduating from high school and enrolling in postsecondary institutions. The planned activities centered around three primary areas - academic improvement, college and career preparation and access, and increased school connectedness among youth and families. Most significantly, all six senior TORCH students graduated last June - a remarkable achievement considering that the Latino graduation rate had been 36% over the past five years. In addition, five of the six TORCH seniors last year enrolled in postsecondary opportunities for this year. Funding for TORCH for the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years is from the State of Minnesota's Office of Higher Education. To sustain the program past the 2006-2007 school year, additional funding is being sought from the State of Minnesota's Juvenile Justice Advisory Council.

2. Minnesota's Promise.

Superintendent Chris Richardson provided an overview of a call to action from 27 past and present Minnesota superintendents to transform education in Minnesota for the global information age. Minnesota's Promise – World Class Schools, World Class State is the culmination of almost two years of work by the Superintendents Symposium to develop a vision for a coherent system of education in Minnesota that prepares every student for success. It proposes eight key traits that must be in place to create that world class system and challenges others in the state to join in the efforts to make this vision a reality.

Minnesota's Promise was presented to the public at the Humphrey Institute on the University of Minnesota Campus on Friday, October 6. An audience of 250 influential leaders from government, business, K-12 education, foundations and colleges were present at the event, which was jointly sponsored by MASA and University of Minnesota President, Bob Bruinicks.

3. Review of Current School Security Measures.

Superintendent Richardson updated the Board about the measures and precautions the District has in place in the event that violence would take place in one of the schools.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution Regarding Structurally Balanced School District Budgets.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Smith the Board unanimously approved the resolution incorporating financial projections showing that the proposed Agreement with the Northfield Principals Association will not cause structural imbalance in the District's budget during the period of the Agreement and for one year following the period of the Agreement. (Voting 'yes' were Berthelsen, Hargis, Hager, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no'. Cirksena was absent.)

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Lease Renewal of Maintenance Building.

The lease agreement for district maintenance and storage was approved. The effective increase over the three years is 3.1%. The district has leased space for operations since February 1, 2002. The yearly amount is currently budgeted in the operating capital account.

2. Ice Arena Agreement.

The rental agreement for 2006-07 was approved. The estimated costs are approximately \$30,000. The amount is budgeted in the current operating capital account.

3. Financial Reports - August 2006.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,799,399.75, payroll checks totaling \$468,886.02 and the financial reports for August 2006. There were no bond payments made in August 2006.

4. Facility Use Agreement with Northfield Swim Club.
The agreement for the time period between October 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007 was approved.
5. Grant Application.
Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) has applied for a \$40,000 grant from the State of Minnesota's Juvenile Justice Advocacy Council to enable the continuation of the services provided to Latino students. The Grant Application was approved.
6. Cooperative Sponsorship.
The Board approved a cooperative sponsorship with ARTech in wrestling, which would be in effect for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years.
7. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments**
 1. Kevin Larson, Director of Buildings and Grounds, beginning October 16, 2006, annual salary pro-rated to \$47,855.80 for 37 weeks and subject to revision when negotiations with Non-Union Administrators for 2006-07 have been completed.
 2. Susan Nelson, Early Childhood Special Ed Educational Assistant at Longfellow School for 3.25 hours per day, beginning September 29, 2006, Class III, step 4. There are no benefits with this position
 3. Nicole Pulju, Site Assistant, Community Services Division, beginning September 26, 2006, \$9.97, subject to revision when negotiations for 2006-07 have been completed. There are no benefits with this position.
 4. Emily Hanson, Student Site Assistant, Community Services Division, beginning September 26, 2006, \$7.17 per hour, subject to revision when negotiations for 2006-07 have been completed. There are no benefits with this position.
 5. Wendy Trebelhorn, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School for 6.5 hours day, beginning October 9, 2006, Class III, step 2 of the wage scale for Educational Assistants.
 6. Michelle Tranberg, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School for 4.5 hours per day, beginning October 2, 2006, Class III, step 1 of the wage scale for Educational Assistants, pro-rated benefits.
 7. Co-Curricular Assignments
Reggie McDonald, 6th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Mark Johnson, 7th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Rich Guggisberg, 8th Grade Girls Basketball Coach
Mary Williams, High School Band Activity Assignment
Dwight Jilik, High School Vocal Music Activity Assignment
Roger Jenni, Elementary Band Activity Assignment
Mary Williams, District-Wide Band Activity Assignment
Paul Beck, Middle School Band Activity Assignment
Ethan Freier, Middle School Band Activity Assignment
Cathy Penning, Middle School Vocal Music Activity Assignment
Paul Ousley, Orchestra Activity Assignment (50% stipend)
Zachery Pelletier, Orchestra Activity Assignment (50%) Stipend
Karen Madsen, Music Listening Coach
Holly Fischer, Sibley Vocal Music Activity Assignment (33% stipend)
Kristin Hummel, Bridgewater Vocal Music Activity Assignment (33% stipend)

- Carol Benson, Greenvale Vocal Music Activity Assignment (33% stipend)
8. Jayne Tischler, Food Service Associate II at the High School for 3.5 hours per day beginning October 9, 2006. This is in addition to her 3.5 hour per day FSA I position for a total of 7.0 hours per day.
 9. Sarah Bennetts, 7.0 hours per day Special Ed/0.5 hours per day Supervisory Educational Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary School, beginning October 11, 2006, Class III and I, step 1.
 10. Molly Eroglu, Special Ed Educational Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary School for 7.0 hours per day, beginning October 11, 2006, Class III, step 1.
 11. Targeted Services Instructors.
 - * Christa Anderson: 4.0 hours per week (includes prep time), Tuesdays & Thursdays at Bridgewater, at an hourly rate of \$25.93.
 - * Lahna Tran: 4.0 hours per week (includes prep time), Tuesdays & Thursdays at Bridgewater, at an hourly rate of \$26.52.
 - * Kristi Huettl: 4.0 hours per week (includes prep time), Tuesdays & Thursdays at Bridgewater, at an hourly rate of \$25.93.
- b. Change in Hours for Non-Licensed Staff
1. Kristin Basinger, increase Special Ed Educational Assistant hours from 4.0 to 4.75 hours per day, beginning September 25, 2006. Ms. Basinger is also a 2.0 hr. Instructional EA for a total of 6.75 hours per day.
 2. Martha Boughton, increase Special Ed Educational Assistant hours from 6.0 to 6.5 hours per day beginning September 25, 2006. Ms. Boughton is also a .5 hr Supervisory EA for a total of 7.0 hours per day.
 3. Emelyn Osborn, decrease Special Ed Educational Assistant hours from 6.0 to 5.5 hours per day beginning October 2, 2006. Ms. Osborn is also a 1.25 Supervisory EA for a total of 6.75 hours per day.
 4. Marcia Thomas, Food Service Associate II at the Middle School increase from 4.25 to 6.0 hours per day effective October 9, 2006.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Sara Mikkelson, childcare leave from on or about December 13, 2006 through June 5, 2007.
 2. Anne McLaughlin, childcare leave from on or about March 3, 2007, through June 5, 2007.
 3. Kathleen Sutherland, FMLA leave from October 25, 2006 through December 5, 2006.
- d. Resignations
1. Julie Bubser, Secretary at Sibley School, resignation with last day of work October 6, 2006.
 2. Louis Rohr, Community Services Ventures Assistant, resignation.
- e. The Board approved the Master Agreement between Independent School District No. 659 and the Northfield Principals Association for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years.

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

8. Overnight Trip Request - High School Activities.

In June, the Board approved the list of co-curricular overnight trips for the 2006-2007 school year. An addition to that list - an overnight trip for the Girls Hockey team to Austin, MN for a tournament on December 27 and 28 - was approved. The team will cover all expenses. No school funds will be used.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report - October 1, 2006.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, October 23, 2006, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

Monday, November 13, 2006, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

X. On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Smith, the Board adjourned at 8:35 PM

Katy Hargis, Clerk