

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

School Board Meeting  
December 11, 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 7:30 p.m. 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 Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on November 27, 2006, were approved. Then, on a motion by Hargis, seconded by Stratmoen, minutes of the Truth in Taxation Hearing held on December 5, 2006, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
  - Bridgewater School held its annual Reader's Digest Word Power Challenge on Nov 28. Fourth grade winner was Evan Pak and fifth grade winner was Will Bollum.
  - The high school choirs, under the direction of Dwight Jilek, will present their Winter Concert, "Traditions", on Dec. 16 at 7:30 pm at Skinner Chapel, Carleton.
  - TIES Exceptional Teacher Awards were presented to Elementary Art Teacher Jeremy Holien and High School Media Specialist Gayle Collins at the Education Technology Conference on December 5. The TIES Exceptional Teacher Award was established to recognize teachers in TIES member districts who model the best in using technology in their classroom and engaging students in learning.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. P.S. Minnesota.  
Superintendent Dr. Richardson has been working with P.S. (Public Schools) Minnesota over the last several years in their efforts to complete three major projects. First, to complete the work of the Governor's School Finance Taskforce by identifying the cost per student necessary to allow students to achieve local, state and federal standards. Second, to use other accepted methodologies to verify the accuracy of the cost per student identified in the approach used by the School Finance Taskforce. Third, to create a framework for a school funding formula that will provide sufficient levels of resources, rationally linked to student achievement, so that students will have a reasonable chance to achieve those standards. On December 1, 2006, P.S. Minnesota presented to Legislators and Educators the work of P.S. Minnesota in completing these three projects. Using the information presented at that meeting, Dr. Richardson provided the Board of Education an overview of the framework for a new Minnesota education funding formula.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - A. Items for Individual Action
    1. School Improvement Plans.  
On a motion by Hager, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board approved the seven site improvement plans submitted by building or program staff for the 2006-07 school year.

2. Certify Final 2006 Payable 2077 Tax Levy.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board certified to County Auditors the 2006 payable 2007 Final Certified Net Tax Levy in the amount of \$13,088,801.15.

3. Schools for Equity in Education 2007 Legislative Platform.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Hager, the Board endorsed the 2007 Legislative Platform of Schools for Equity in Education.

4. Early Ventures Child Care Center.

Hargis removed this item from the Consent Agenda. On a motion by Hager, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved on a 6 to 1 vote that the Early Ventures Child Care Center enrollment be expanded to any family regardless of whether their child is enrolled in an educational program at Longfellow. Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen, and Nelson. Voting 'no' was Hargis.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

Hargis pulled item #4, Early Ventures Child Care Center, from the Consent Agenda. See item #4 under Items for Individual Action.

Then, on a motion by Hager, seconded by Smith, the Board approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

1. Gift Agreements.

The Board accepted the following gift agreements:

- The Northfield Booster Club has donated \$15,553 to be used as follows:

Balls, Pucks, Shots, Discs	\$6,400.00
Middle School Tennis Court Windscreen	\$1,500.00
Sideline Tarps for Memorial Field	\$2,000.00
Diving Scoring Consoles	\$750.00
Weight Room - Equipment and T-shirts	\$1,300.00
Equipment Bags	\$586.00
Volleyball Nets	\$386.00
Batting Box Foundations	\$250.00
3 Video Camcorders, Tapes and Tripods	\$1,836.00
Gymnastic Leotards	\$545.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$15,553.00</b>

- The First National Bank of Northfield has donated \$2000 to be used to purchase a new softball pitching machine.
- Target has donated \$2500 for support of the Math Bags Initiative, Reading Achievement and School Safety Handbooks at Bridgewater Elementary School.

2. Cooperative Sponsorship.

The cooperative sponsorship with ARTech for speech for the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years was approved.

3. Growing Up Healthy Planning Project Grant Independent Contractor Agreement.

The Board approved the Contract for Independent Contractor for Janet Lewis-Muth to coordinate the Rice County Growing Up Healthy Planning Project Grant. Payment for Ms. Lewis-Muth's services will come from grant funds.

4. Early Ventures Child Care Center.

See item #4 under the Items for Individual Action.

5. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Amber Iwanski, Special Ed Educational Assistant at Sibley School for 4.75 hours per day, beginning December 4, 2006, Class III, step 1, pro-rated benefits.
2. Co-Curricular Assignments  
Bill Nelson, Assistant Boys Baseball Coach (Hourly)  
Laura Marks, Assistant Weight Lifting Coach (Hourly, \$10.00/hour to maximum of \$250) Funded by summer fees.  
Mark Johnson, Head Boys Tennis Coach
3. Amanda Schrader, Targeted Services Instructor, 4.0 hours per week (includes prep time), Tuesdays & Thursdays at Bridgewater, at an hourly rate of \$25.93.
4. Hannah Basinger, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow School for up to 1.5 hours per day beginning January 2, 2007, step 1. This is in addition to her Special Ed Educational Assistant position.
5. Christina Trump, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow School for up to 5.0 hours per day beginning December 4, 2007, step 1, pro-rated benefits.
6. Matt Wojick, Student Site Assistant at Greenvale Park for up to 2.5 hours per day beginning December 4, 2006, \$7.35 per hour. There are no benefits with this position.
7. Laura Velasquez, Student Site Assistant at Sibley School for up to 2.5 hours per day beginning November 20, 2006, \$7.35 per hour. There are no benefits with this position.

b. Increase in Hours for Non-Licensed Employees

1. Michael Berger, Bridgewater Site Leader, increase from 2.5 to 5.0 hours per day beginning December 1, 2006, (2.5 hours as long-term substitute for 2006-07). His afternoon Site Assistant hours at Greenvale Park will be reassigned for the remainder of the 2006-07 school year.
2. Katie Lewis, Site Assistant at Greenvale Park, add 4.5 hours per week, beginning January 2, 2007, due to staffing needs.

c. Leaves of Absence

1. April Ostermann, FMLA leave from on or about January 2, 2007, through March 16, 2007.
2. Beth McClune, FMLA leave from December 6, 2006 through December 15, 2006.
3. Linda Kovach, .5 leave of absence for the 2006-07 school year.
4. Lisa Weis, childcare leave from on or about March 2, 2007, through June 5, 2006, and a leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.
5. David Bly, leave of absence without pay from January 3, 2007 – June 5, 2007.

d. Resignations

1. Mike Allen, Assistant Boys Baseball Coach (Hourly)
2. Ellen Haberoth, Word & Design/Web Support Specialist, resignation effective December 29, 2006.

e. Two Personnel Policies and Practices documents for the period July 1, 2006 through July 30, 2008 were approved:

- Personnel Policies and Practices for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant, and
- Personnel Policies and Practices for the Non-Union Administrators

f. Seniority List

1. 2006 Seniority List for Licensed Staff was approved.

\*Lane placement subject to verification by the Professional Growth Committee

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report for December 1, 2006.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, January 8, 2007, 7:00 PM, Organizational School Board Meeting followed by the Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

Monday, January 22, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board adjourned at 8:50 PM

Katy Hargis, Clerk