

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
January 22, 2007
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. 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 Berthelsen, the minutes of the Organizational School Board meeting held on January 8, 2007, were approved. Then, on a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 8, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - Congratulations to the Middle School Math Team in taking first place in the Wasioja North Division! The team was very successful this year -- they took first place in all five meets! Math Team advisor is Reggie McDonald.
 - Congratulations to Merrill Lutsky on winning the Middle School Geography Bee in December! Also, congrats to Amelia Ousley who is the first runner up! Geography Bee Advisor is Darrell Sawyer.
 - The NHS Boys Swimming and Diving team finished 2nd in the State in the Minnesota True Team Swimming and Diving Championships on January 20. The Coach is Doug Davis.
 - After having taken first place, the Music Listening Team now moves on to regional competition.
 - Tom Stringer introduced the new Director of Buildings and Grounds, Kevin Larson.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Proposed Fifth and Seventh Grade Environmental Field Trips for 2007-2008.
Over the last two years, administrators have met with fifth grade staff concerning the ongoing viability of the fifth grade residential environmental learning program conducted at Wolf Ridge and most recently, Eagle Bluff. After considerable discussion with elementary and middle school administrators and staff, the consensus was to develop a proposal to modify the fifth grade environmental experience by substituting multiple day-long field trips for the current overnight component and focus the overnight residential environmental learning experience at the seventh grade level. Elementary Principals Scott Sannes, Diane Kinneberg and Jeff Roland and Middle School Principal Burt Bemmels presented the coordinated proposal for fifth and seventh grade to the Board. The proposal will be taken under consideration by the Board of Education for the next month to provide adequate time for the community to share their thoughts concerning this proposal with the Board. This proposal will be placed as an item for individual action at the March 12 Board Meeting.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Items for Individual Action
 1. 2006-2007 Revised Budgets.
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved 2006-2007 revised budgets as presented.

2. Resolution Proposing Discharge of an Employee.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Berthelsen the Board approved the Resolution Proposing Discharge of an Employee. Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Hargis, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Financial Reports.

The Board approved the following:

- Paid bills totaling \$1,165,893.06, payroll checks totaling \$1,752,571.62, bond payments totaling \$402.50 and the financial reports for October 2006.
- Paid bills totaling \$1,246,769.06, payroll checks totaling \$1,786,922.54 and the financial reports for November 2006. There were no bond payments made in November 2006.
- Paid bills totaling \$1,511,356.67, payroll checks totaling \$1,802,100.53 and the financial reports for December 2006. There were no bond payments made in December 2006.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Stacey Duarte, long-term substitute Grade 5 Teacher at Bridgewater for the period beginning January 10, 2007, through March 16, 2007, BA-0*.
2. Co-Curricular Assignment
Craig Johnson, one extra class (Science) for second semester, no supervision.
3. Cheryl Barnes, .25 Elementary Teacher for Grade 3 & 5 Math at Greenvale Park Elementary School beginning January 19, 2007 through May 11, 2007, BA-6*. There are no benefits with this position.
4. Gretchen Heil, long-term substitute Grade 1, beginning on or about March 3, 2007 through June 5, 2007, pending issuance of license, BA-0*.
5. Michael Berger, Supervisory Educational Assistant at Bridgewater Elementary School for 2.75 hours per day beginning January 4, 2007, Class I, step 1. There are no benefits with this position. This is in addition to his Site Assistant and Site Lead positions.
6. Kathryn Johnson, ECFE Early Childhood Education for up to 17 hours per week, beginning January 22, 2007, \$20.35 per hour. There are no benefits with this position.
7. Sara Line, ECFE Early Childhood Educator for up to 6.0 hours per week, and Hand in Hand Preschool Teacher for up to 18 hours per week, beginning January 22, 2007, \$20.35 per hour.
8. Darcy Seurer, .375 Social Studies Teacher at the ALC beginning January 22, 2007, BA-0*.

b. Leave of Absence

1. Christie Clarke, leave of absence without pay for the second semester of the 2007-08 school year.

c. Building Transfer

1. Anne Balluff, Special Ed Teacher, transfer from Greenvale Park to Bridgewater effective January 22, 2007, due to changes in student population.

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- d. Retirement / Resignation
 1. Charles Black, High School Chemistry Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Black has been with the District for 23 years.
 2. Amy Sherwood, resignation from Early Ventures hours, last day of work was January 3, 2007. Ms. Sherwood will continue with her Educational Assistant hours.

- e. Increase in Hours/Change in Assignment
 1. Linda Anderson, COTA, increase 0.2 FTE effective January 29, 2007.
 2. Natalie Eckstein, Hand in Hand Preschool Teacher, increase from up to 16 hours per week to up to 37 hours per week, beginning January 22, 2007. Ms. Eckstein will be resigning from the ECFE Early Childhood Education Teacher position and the KidVentures site assistant position.

*Lane placement subject to verification by the Professional Growth Committee

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

3. Gift Agreement.

The Board accepted a \$1000 gift from Mark and Shelagh Setterstrom to be used by the Northfield High School football team.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report for January 2, 2007.

2. Board Policy.

The Board Policy Review Committee met and are presenting Policy 501-Weapons for review and comment. Over the next two weeks, Board members and individuals may react to this policy. Discussion and final action by the School Board on Policy 501-Weapons is scheduled for the February 12, 2007, regular School Board meeting.

3. School Board Work Session.

Administration requested that the School Board hold a work session to discuss several current District educational issues. This work session will be held Monday, February 19 beginning at 7:00 PM in the High School Media Center.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 5, 2007, Finance Advisory Committee Mtg, District Office Conference Room

Monday, February 12, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

Monday, February 26, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

X. On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board adjourned at 8:15 PM

Katy Hargis, Clerk