

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
February 12, 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. Hager and Stratmoen were absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
Six community members (Steve Lawler, Lisa and Curt Olson, Caroline Ticarro-Parker, Mary Beth Youngblut and Greg Kneser) expressed their concern for large class sizes, especially in the third grade Contemporary classrooms at Greenvale Park. Lisa Olson requested a full-time aide be placed in Becker's classroom from now until the end of the school year at an estimated cost of \$6000.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 22, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - The Dance Team is Missota Conference Champs and they qualified for state competition by placing second in high kick and third in jazz funk at sections competition. They are coached by Dana Holden.
 - The Boys Swim team and the Gymnastics team are also Missota Conference Champs. The Gators are coached by Doug Davis and the gymnastics team is coached by Melissa Cummins.
 - Anthony Jacobs, Northfield High School senior, signed his letter of intent to play football next year at the University of Minnesota, where he will receive a full scholarship.
 - A. J. Gersemehl qualified for the State Alpine Ski meet this week. Bill Sonnega is the head coach.
 - The artwork of seven of our high school students has been selected for inclusion in the prestigious 2007 Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards exhibition. The students are Alyssa Palmquist, Abigail Connly, Chelsea Findlay, Lindsey Klinkhammer, Agnes Malleike, Julien Babel and Ian Sheppard. Congratulations to these students and to their teachers - Katherine Norrie, Chris Holmquist and Christie Clarke - for fostering an environment of creativity and artistic expression throughout the Northfield Public Schools.
 - The Middle School Spelling Bee was held on February 6th. Six students from each grade qualified to participate. The winners are: Haley Ryan - First Place, Elena Ondich - Second Place, Hannah Morris - Third Place, Elia Read - Fourth Place, and Rachel Lepinski - Fifth Place. Amy Sieve is the Spelling Bee Advisor.
 - Greenvale Park students raised \$4616.00 for Pennies for Patients, which benefits the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.
 - The High School One-Act plays were a success.
 - The Music Listening Team placed seventh at State.
 - Cirksena expressed thanks to Director of Student Services Gary Lewis for educating Board members and the legislature about Special Education funding through his article in MSBA's Journal.
 - Nelson expressed the sympathy of the Board and School District to former School Board member Jean Boardman and family on the death of Jean's spouse, Shelby Boardman.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Overview of Preparation for February 19 School Board Work Session on Class Size and Companeros.
Dr. Richardson provided an overview of the key issues that will be discussed at the February 19th Board work session and the work of the Cabinet in developing options for the Board's consideration in response to those key issues. This presentation prepared Board members for a more in-depth discussion at the work session and provided an opportunity for the Board to ask questions and request additional information to support that work session discussion.
2. Review Joint Powers Agreement to Develop and Implement Wind Turbine Project.
Dr. Richardson provided the School Board with an overview of the development of the Wind Energy Joint Powers Agreement that must be approved by the Board at its February 26th meeting. This is the first step that must be completed now that all 14 school districts have been notified by the Internal Revenue Service that they are eligible to issue CREBS bonds for wind energy projects. The Joint Powers Agreement was developed to provide a single entity that would control the development and implementation of the 14 school district wind turbine project in cooperation with Johnson Controls. Formation of the Joint Powers Agreement should ensure maximum efficiency and minimum time commitment of district administration and Board members since a single Joint Powers Board with representatives from each district will be responsible for making both development and operational decisions as they work with Johnson Controls and other vendors. Johnson Controls also provided the Board with a letter that reiterates that there will be no out of pocket costs to any district for the development of the plan and that Johnson Controls guarantees that the project will be financially viable. Financially viable means that the project will positively cash flow annually and will completely pay for itself within the term of the CREBS financing. Further, Johnson Controls has agreed to have a third-party independent review of the cash flow proformas and if the proformas are not completed by the May 31st deadline or do not demonstrate financial viability, the district may withdraw from the agreement and will owe nothing to Johnson Controls. All districts must make a decision about joining the Wind Energy Joint Powers Agreement by March 1, 2007.
3. Financial Forecast and Budget Assumptions for the Development of the 2007-08 Budget.
The Financial Advisory Committee of the Board met on February 5, 2007 and reviewed the forecast. Superintendent Richardson presented the forecast to the Board and highlighted comments from the advisory group. The Advisory Committee affirmed the Board's concern about the volatility of special education costs and the unpredictability of the state aid revenues. The forecast includes the impact of the operating referendum passed in fall 2006 and projects that the District could operate for four to six years without significant budget cuts. Improvement in state funding above the assumptions should be held in reserve to protect the District from making further reductions earlier than planned. The following budget assumptions are included in the forecast:
 - Stable enrollment
 - State General Education formula increase of 2%
 - No increase in Federal Aid revenue
 - No increase in Special Ed revenue
 - Operating referendum of \$1,180 per pupil beginning in 2007-08 thru 2013-14
 - Aggregate increase in expenditures of 4%
 - Maintain a minimum fund balance of 5% of expenditures
 - A staffing ratio at the same level as 2006-07

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Board Policy 501 - Weapons.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board approved School Board Policy 501 - Weapons as presented.

2. Agreement Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield School District Regarding Community Services Recreation Program.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Berthelsen the Board approved the Agreement Between the City of Northfield and the Northfield School District Regarding Community Services Recreation Program for the time period July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2010.
3. Resolution Requiring the Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding Programming and Staffing for Next Year.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board authorized the administration to make recommendations for additions and reductions in program and for adding or discontinuing positions. Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Hargis, Cirksena, Smith and Nelson (Hager and Stratmoen were absent.) No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Student Activity Accounts.
The Board approved the transferring of money from the Middle School Student Award Account into a payroll account to cover the cost of a stipend for directing the Geography Bee and for supervising the Middle School Fitness Center. No school funds will be used to pay these stipends.
2. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments**
 1. Dawn Knutson, Early Childhood Special Ed Educational Assistant at Longfellow School for 13.0 hours/week (3.25 hrs/day, M-Th), and 13.75 hrs/week to accompany student on bus (1.5 a.m., 1.25 p.m.), beginning January 30, 2007, Class III, step 1, pro-rated benefits.
 2. Patrick Schmitz, Housekeeper at Bridgewater Elementary School for 3.5 hours per day beginning January 27, 2007, step 2 of the wage scale. There are no benefits with this position.
 3. Nicole Pettersen, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow for up to 40 hours per week, beginning January 19, 2007, \$10.22/hour.
 4. Crystin Voxland, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow and KidVentures at Bridgewater for up to 23 hours /week, beginning January 23, 2007, \$10.22/hour, pro-rated benefits.
 5. Mia Parisian, Site Assistant, KidVentures at Bridgewater for up to 21 hours/week beginning January 19, 2007, \$10.22/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
 6. April Haenni, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow for up to 28 hours per week, beginning January 23, 2007, \$10.22/hour, pro-rated benefits.
 7. Elizabeth Stahly, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow for up to 18.5 hours per week, beginning January 22, 2007, \$10.22/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
 8. Allison Devney, Student Site Assistant, Bridgewater Targeted Services for up to 4.0 hours per week beginning January 4, 2007. There are no benefits with this position.
 9. Ronald Oeljenbruns, Head Custodian at Sibley Elementary School beginning February 15, 2007, step 3 of the wage scale for Head Custodians.
 10. Co-Curricular Assignments
Leah Sand, 9th Grade PT Assistant Softball Coach (Hourly)
Sam Wold, Assistant Boys Tennis Coach
 11. Aaron Stauffer, Middle School Youth Center Site Assistant for 12 hours per week beginning February 5, 2007, \$10.22/hour. There are no benefits with this position.

- b. Increase in Contract Time/Change in Hours
 - 1. Darcy Seurer, Social Studies Teacher at the ALC, increase 0.3 FTE beginning January 22 through June 5, 2007.
 - 2. Kathie Smestad, Instructional Educational Assistant at the ALC, increase from 6.0 to 7.0 hours per day, beginning January 23, 2007.
- c. Leave of Absence
 - 1. Lynn Tchida, Intermittent FMLA leave from 1/29/07 – 2/9/07.
- d. Retirements/Resignations
 - 1. Karen Montgomery, High School Physical Education Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Ms. Montgomery has been with the district for 33 years.
 - 2. Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin, Community Services Site Specialist, GVP, resignation effective January 31, 2007.
 - 3. Cheryl Bristol, Special Ed Educational Assistant, Greenvale Park, resignation with last day of work January 31, 2007.
 - 4. Amy Blom, 9th Grade Assistant Softball Coach (Hourly), resignation effective 1/25/07.
 - 5. Sam Wold, 6-8 Grade Boys Tennis Coach, resignation effective 2/1/2007.
 - 6. Marilee Sander, Girls Track Coordinator, resignation effective 2/9/2007.
 - 7. Katie Lewis, resignation from Early Ventures position, effective February 16. Ms. Lewis will continue with her Site Assistant position at Greenvale Park.
 - 8. Lynn Tchida, Family Services Coordinator, resignation effective February 12, 2007.
- e. Discontinuance of Employment
 - 1. Robert Helgren, Substitute/Auxiliary Custodian, employment discontinued effective February 2, 2007.
- f. Change in Assignment
 - 1. Tamera Johannsen, Special Ed Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park School, voluntary reduction in hours from 6.5 to 4.5 hours per day beginning February 12, 2007.

*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. School Board Policies.

The Board Policy Review Committee presented the following policies for review and comment. Discussion and final action by the School Board on these policies is scheduled for the February 26, 2007, regular School Board meeting.

Policy 503 Student Attendance

Policy 504 Student Dress and Appearance

Policy 505 Distribution of Non School-Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees

Policy 507 Corporal Punishment

2. 2007-2008 School Year Calendar.

The calendar being recommended by the Meet and Confer Committee, as well as background information about the calendar proposal, was given to Board for its review. The Board will act on the recommendation of the Meet and Confer Committee at the February 26, 2007, school board meeting.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 19, 2008, 7:00 PM, School Board Work Session, Northfield High School Media Center

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

Monday, March 12, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

No Board meeting on Monday, March 26

Monday, April 9, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

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