

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
February 26, 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 7:05 p.m.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
Steve Hanks spoke to the Board about his concerns with the wind energy project. He is concerned about the potential loss to the School District, the high withdrawal cost and the rate of return.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Hargis, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 12, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - The Northfield School District proclaimed the week of March 5-9 as School Social Worker Week. Our district currently employs five School Social Workers.
 - The Raider Gymnastics team came in first at their section meet on February 16. That means that for the first time the Raider Gymnastics team competed at the State Meet, where they placed 6th overall. They are coached by first year head coach Melissa Cummins.
 - High Kick Dance Team finished 7th at their State Meet on Feb. 16.
 - Congratulations to Haley Ryan for winning the Regional Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. Spelling Bee Advisor is Amy Sieve.
 - The Boys Swimming and Diving Team finished second at their section meet against number one in the state, St. Thomas Academy. Their coach, Doug Davis, was named Section Coach of the Year.
 - Olympic style Wt Lifters earned their 3rd straight state title by scoring a record 59 points. School age wt lifts (16 & under) placed second. They are coached by Scott Sahli.
 - Congratulations to senior Bri Zabel who became the school's all time leading scorer Friday night in the girls' basketball victory over Hutchinson!
 - Nelson expressed thanks to the sponsor of the 9th grade Respect retreat.
 - All school art show at the Northfield Arts Guild through March 31.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Title I Presentation.
Director of Student Services Gary Lewis presented to the Board an update on the District's Title I program, which is currently supporting reading services and Reading Recovery at Greenvale Park and Bridgewater Elementary Schools.
 2. School District Involvement in Ice Arena Project.
Superintendent Richardson clarified for the School Board the School District's involvement with Ice Now, the group that is currently developing an ice arena project for the Northfield community. While the School District would continue to purchase ice time for the District's boys and girls junior varsity and varsity hockey programs, the District is not in a position to commit funds for the building of the arena.

3. February 19 Work Session and Plans for Additional Work Session.

Dr. Richardson reviewed the work of the School Board and Cabinet at the February 19th work session with the Board. At the work session class size and the impact of imbalance in class sizes within and between grade levels, classroom composition, choice programs at the elementary level and elective programs at the secondary level were addressed. There was a general discussion about possible short and long-term solutions. A follow-up work session is scheduled for Monday, March 5 at 7:30 PM in the Media Center at the High School.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. School Board Policies.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the following School Board policies as presented: Policy 503 - Student Attendance; Policy 504 - Student Dress and Appearance; and Policy 507 - Corporal Punishment.

2. 2007-2008 School Year Calendar.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hager, the Board approved the 2007-2008 school year calendar as presented.

3. Joint Powers Agreement - Minnesota Schools Wind Energy Cooperative.

On a motion by Hager, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the Resolution Approving Joint Powers Agreement. Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Hargis, Cirksena, Smith, Hager, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.' Then, on a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Hager, the Board appointed Superintendent Chris Richardson and Noel Stratmoen as the representatives for the Northfield School District on the Joint Powers Board.

4. Greenvale Park Elementary Community Garden Project.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board approved the Greenvale Park Elementary Garden Project for a first year of operation.

5. Resolution Regarding Structurally Balanced School District Budgets.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved the resolution incorporating financial projections showing that the proposed Agreement with the Northfield Public Schools Office Employees 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' 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 Smith, the Board approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

1. Gift Agreement.

The Board accepted the \$1000 gift from the Target Corporation to Bridgewater Elementary Kindergartners to be used for the Kindergarten Field Trip.

2. Financial Reports.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,198,396.33, payroll checks totaling \$1,719,918.16, bond payments totaling \$3,812,448.57 and the financial reports for January 2007.

3. Rejoice! Lutheran Church Revised Contract.

The Board approved the revised long-term contract with Rejoice! Lutheran Church. It was revised to provide for storage in the High School Auditorium for Rejoice! materials.

4. Overnight Student Field Trip Proposal.
The Board approved the Area Learning Center's request of an overnight student field trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area June 5 - June 9, 2007.
5. Community Services Advisory Council Appointment.
The Board appointed Marie Perry to the Community Services Advisory Council. Two council members resigned - Josh Hinnencamp and Efen Maldonado.
6. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments**
 1. Elizabeth Brewer, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School for 6.5 hours per day beginning February 26, 2007, Class III, step 1.
 2. Anne Erickson, Targeted Services Teacher for 1.25 hours per week at Sibley School for the period extending from February 26, 2007 through May 31, 2007, \$25.93 per hour.
 3. Ann Hehr, Targeted Services Teacher for 1.25 hours per week at Sibley School for the period extending from February 26, 2007 through May 31, 2007, \$25.93 per hour.
 4. Jacquelyn Allen, Special Ed Educational Assistant for 6.5 hours per day, Supervisory Ed Assistant for 0.5 hour per day at Greenvale Park beginning February 20, 2007, step 1 of Class III and Class I.
 5. Candace Hard, long-term substitute Teacher at the Middle School beginning February 12, 2007, through on or about April 1, 2007, BA-2.
 6. Michelle West, Food Service Associate I at the Middle School for 3.0 hours per day, beginning March 1, 2007, entry level wage. There are no benefits with this position.
 7. Jane Jirik, long-term substitute Special Education Teacher at the High School for the period extending from March 5, 2007, through June 5, 2007, BA lane, step 6*.
 - b. Leaves of Absence
 1. Shanessa Cepelcha, 4-8 weeks unpaid leave of absence beginning February 14, 2007.
 2. Terry Heil, medical leave for the 2007-08 school year.
 - c. Retirements/Resignations
 1. Jeanne Lygre, Title I Teacher at Greenvale Park, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Ms. Lygre has taught in the District for 29 years.
 2. Gayle Collins, High School Media Specialist, retirement effective on or about June 19, 2007. Ms. Collins has been with the district for 22 years.
 3. Elizabeth Brewer, Food Service Manager 1, resignation effective February 23, 2007. Ms. Brewer has taken another position in the district.
 4. Jane Jirik, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School, resignation effective March 2, 2007. Ms. Jirik has accepted a long-term teaching position at the High School.
 - d. The Board approved the agreement with the Northfield Public Schools Office Employees for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 school years.
 - e. The Board approved the change in the Non-Union Administrators Agreement for 7/1/06-6/30/08 relating to ALC Director/Student Services Specialist Position. The position is changing from .5 FTE Student Services Specialist / .5 FTE ALC Director to 1.0 FTE ALC Director and is effective January 1, 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.

7. Grant Request.

The grant request submitted to the MN Department of Education, Safe and Drug-Free Schools, for \$9186 was approved. This grant, which was awarded, will cover all costs related to four high school staff members attending a three-day training in the Link Crew program. The Link Crew program will then be implemented at the high school beginning with the 9th grade class during the 2007-08 school year. The goal of this program is to positively influence 9th grade connectedness and academic success. Because of the tight timeline for submitting this grant, it was not feasible to submit the grant request to the Board of Education in advance.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report - February 1, 2007.

2. 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 March 12, 2007, regular School Board meeting.

Policy 508	Extended School Year for Certain Students with Individualized Education Programs
Policy 510	School Activities
Policy 513.1	Determination of Legal Age of Students for School Admission
Policy 513.2	Early Entrance into Kindergarten

IX. Future Meetings

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 Smith, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board adjourned at 8:50 PM

Katy Hargis, Clerk