

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
April 9, 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.
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 12, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
Hannah Puczko and Linda Oto spoke about the Connected Kids Mentoring Project. Connected Kids is a grant-funded initiative of the Community Services Division with the Northfield Mentoring Coalition. Adult volunteers are paired one-on-one with students in grades 3-8. Mentors provide friendship, encouragement and academic support one hour a week after school year round. Connected Kids has made a total of 67 mentor matches involving 134 youth and adults combined.

Middle School Teacher Krista Betcher and students participating on the Middle School Science Olympiad team spoke about their successful year winning first place at the regional competition in February and taking second place at the state competition in March.

Congratulations to the 6th Grade Team 1 winners at Regional History Day on March 22nd! The following students will be competing at State History Day on April 21: Jenna Dixon, Danni Barr, Lauren Pryor, Conrad Christensen, Jay Larsen, Sean Elwood, Hannah Morris, Mari Arneson, Jamie Herman, Sara Ludewig, Maria Olson, Kirsten Buck and Annika Fredrickson!
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Proposed 2007-2008 Trust Fund Budget.
Tom Stringer presented information about the 2007-08 Trust Fund Budget. The Trust fund accounts for all donations made to the District for specified purposes. The majority of the activity is for student scholarships. No action was required by the Board at this meeting.
 2. Long Term Instructional Issues Report.
The Board of Education was given a five page document that outlined the options being considered in addressing the impact of class size at the elementary and secondary levels as well as how programmatic choices and availability of resources might change the dynamics for students in Northfield. Four options were presented with the pros and cons of each option described and the cost of implementing that option estimated in detail. Two of the options involved the development and implementation of a "magnet" building that would house the full Compañeros program of approximately 475-500 students including Compañeros kindergarten. A third option looked at capping the Compañeros numbers to insure that enough students remained to create more balanced Contemporary classroom numbers. The final option developed a District contingency fund that would allow District and building administration to assign staffing resources to a building or grade level based on established classroom criteria.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Proposed Solution to Class Size Issue.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hager, the Board approved the establishment of a \$150,000 district contingency fund to provide staffing support on a yearly basis to the buildings and classrooms demonstrating the greatest need due to class size and other quantifiable variables describing need. Funds will be distributed using a building instigated application process with approval by the building principal and Superintendent of Schools until the funds are depleted for the year. The fund will be returned to its original \$150,000 level for distribution in the following year.

2. School Board Policy.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved Policy 506 - Student Discipline as presented.

3. Resolution Awarding the Sale of Refunding Bonds.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Sale of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2007A; Covenanteeing and Obligating the District to be Bound By and to Use the Provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to Guarantee the Payment of the Principal and Interest on the Bonds. Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Hargis, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

4. Resolution Accepting The Resignation and Retirement of an Employee.

On a motion by Hager, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved the Resolution Accepting the Resignation from employment effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year and notice of retirement of Rona Ray Springer and that administrative proceedings concerning Ms. Springer's employment initiated by the School Board at its meeting on January 22, 2007, are terminated. Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Hargis, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Finance Report - February 2007.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,283,864.95, payroll checks totaling \$1,787,631.19 and the financial reports for February 2007. There were no bond payments in February 2007.

2. Grant Applications.

The following grant applications were approved.

- A \$4000 grant request to WINGS submitted by District Health Nurse Elizabeth Bade to amplify four classrooms at Greenvale Park Elementary School.
- A \$5000 grant request to WINGS submitted by the Summer Ventures Plus staff to help support this program, which will extend the day for students enrolled in the summer Targeted Services program at the elementary and middle school levels. Summer Ventures Plus is also requesting \$39,500 from the United Way.
- ECFE, Community Services and the Adult Basic Education Consortium have submitted a \$10,500 grant request to the United Way for The Family School, a family literacy program.
- The Bridges to Kindergarten program is requesting \$400 from Healthy Communities Initiative Intergenerational Grant and \$17,069 from the Northfield Area United Way to

support this three-week program at each elementary school. This program seeks to prepare at risk students for successful kindergarten learning experiences.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. James Murray, Auxiliary/Substitute Custodian, beginning April 9, 2007, step 2 of the wage scale for custodians.
2. LuCinda Laabs, Food Service Manager II at the High School beginning March 27, 2007, at an hourly rate of \$15.62.
3. Kathy Bussert-Pleschourt, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School for 4.0 hours per day, March 21, 2007 – June 5, 2007. Class III, step 1 of the wage scale for Educational Assistants.
4. Diana Dargen, Community Services School Site Specialist at Greenvale Park for average of 20 hours per week for 36 weeks, not to exceed 720 hours per year, beginning March 22, 2007, at an hourly rate of \$12.08.
5. Co-Curricular Assignments
Glen Lloyd, MS Track and Field Coach (Hourly)
Bjorn Carlson, 6th-8th Grade Boys Tennis Coach

b. Change in Assignments for Non-licensed Staff

1. Gilbert Ross, Food Service Manager II, transfer from High School to Middle School effective 3/14/07.
2. Shelia Sumner, Instructional Educational Assistant at the High School, add 3.0 hours per day for TORCH Grant for a total of 6.5 hours per day from March 19, 2007 through June 5, 2007.
3. Jeff St. Martin, second shift leader at the Middle School, annual stipend of \$400, beginning 10/1/05.
4. Christine Belsheim, Special Ed Educational Assistant/Job Coach, increase from 4.0 to 6.0 hours per day beginning March 12, 2007, through June 5, 2007. This is in addition to her Site Assistant position for Community Services.

c. Leave of Absence

1. Diane Frederick, FMLA leave beginning March 14, 2007.

d. Retirements/Resignations

1. Diane Kinneberg, Bridgewater Principal, retirement effective June 15, 2007. Ms. Kinneberg has been with the district since 1995.
2. Burton Bemmels, Middle School Principal, retirement effective June 30, 2007. Mr. Bemmels has been with the district for 9 years.
3. Rona Rae Springer, Middle School Special Education Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.
4. Tamera Johannsen, Greenvale Park Special Ed Educational Assistant. Her last day of work was March 23, 2007.
5. Carol Leahy, Bridgewater Special Ed Educational Assistant. Her last day of work will be April 13, 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. Instrument Rental.

2. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
High School	40%	52%
Middle School	58%	69%
Bridgewater	99%	98%
Greenvale Park	95%	96%
Sibley	98%	98%

3. School Board Policies.

The Board Policy Review Committee presented the following policies for review and comment. Over the next two weeks, Board members and individuals may react to these policies. Discussion and final action by the School Board on these policies is scheduled for the April 23, 2007, regular School Board meeting.

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

Policy 511 Student Fundraising

4. Minnesota Community Education Association 2007 Legislative Platform.

5. April 1st Enrollment Report.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 23, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, May 14, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

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

Katy Hargis, Clerk