

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

School Board Meeting  
April 23, 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. Berthelsen was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.  
The following parents spoke in support of special education teacher Kimberly Hicks: Heidi and Merrill Cole, Heather Payne, Rebekah Nuebel and Sara Robinson-Coolidge.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.  
On a motion by Hargis, seconded by Cirksena, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on April 9, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
  - Middle School Jazz Band had a wonderful concert on April 17.
  - On April 20 the two high school jazz bands put on a Swing Dance at the Ballroom for the community. Ethan Frier and Mary Williams did a terrific job and are to be commended for their success.
  - Thank you to the parents of Juniors who hosted the after prom party on April 21.
  - Thank you to Ron Nuebel and the Meierbachtols for the years of service to the students of this School District.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. Proposed 2007-08 Dental Budget.  
Tom Stringer presented the proposed 2007-08 Self-Insured Dental budget. Our strategy to switch to a self-funded model in 2005-06 has continued to provide the District with reserves that will stabilize costs to both the District and employees. We will recommend not increasing the funding rates for 2007-08.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - A. Items for Individual Action
    1. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions.  
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board approved the Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions as listed below. Voting 'yes' was Hargis, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. Berthelsen was absent.

0.4 FTE	Industrial Technology	High School
0.1 FTE	Art	High School
0.2 FTE	Speech/Language Pathology	District
    2. Resolution Proposing to Place Licensed Staff on Unrequested Leave of Absence.  
On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board approved placing Lois Kelly, Speech/Language Pathologist for 0.5 FTE on unrequested leave of absence effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. This action was taken with the understanding that Ms. Kelly will be offered a 0.3 FTE contract for the 2007-08 school year. Voting 'yes' was Hargis, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. Berthelsen was absent.

3. Resolution for Termination and Non-Renewal of Probationary Licensed Staff.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the Board adopted the Resolution related to the termination and non-renewal of teaching contracts of the probationary licensed teachers listed below effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year. Voting 'yes' was Hargis, Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. Berthelsen was absent.

Alison Flugum	Grade 4/5 Companeros	1.0 FTE
David Gilmore	ALC Teacher	0.67 FTE
Mindy Waltz Bach	Social Studies Teacher	0.7 FTE

4. School Board Policies.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board approved Policy 505 - Distribution of NonSchool Sponsored Materials on School Premises by Students and Employees and Policy 511 - Student Fundraising, as presented.

5. Leave of Absence and Sabbatical Request.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Smith, the Board denied Patsy Ophaug's request for a leave of absence without pay for April 14 - May 2, 2008. Voting to deny the request was Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. Voting to grant the request was Hager and Hargis. Then, on a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board was unanimous in denying Patsy Ophaug's sabbatical request for the 2007-2008 school year.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

Hager pulled from the Consent Grouping the Leave of Absence and Sabbatical Requests made by Patsy Ophaug. See item #5 under Items for Individual Action.

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

1. Instrument Rental.

This proposal to reinstate the Instrument Rental Agreement that was in place for many years in the District, but has not been actively enforced in recent years, was approved. The payment of instrument rental for band and orchestra instruments loaned to secondary students by the School District will provide funds for repair and upkeep of the existing school inventory of instruments as well as provide funds for the replacement of instruments that are no longer serviceable. Scholarships will be available for those who apply and are eligible. Students who are asked to play an additional instrument in addition to one they are privately renting or own will not be required to rent the school instrument.

2. Financial Report - March 2007.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,524,531.21, payroll checks totaling \$1,754,669.32, bond payments of \$2,942.50 and the financial reports for March 2007.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Patrick Riley, Science Teacher at the High School beginning August 27, 2007, MA60-6\*, contingent on obtaining Minnesota teaching license.
2. Edwin Mercado, Special Education Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park for 6.75 hours per day beginning April 11, 2007, step 1 of the Class III wage scale for Educational Assistants.

b. Leaves of Absence Recommended for Approval for 2007-08

Amy Moeller, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
David Bly, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for second semester of the 2007-08 school year.  
Eric Swan McDonald, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.

Kathleen Schuerman, 0.4 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Kristen Cade, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Andrew Gilbertson, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Linda Kovach, 0.3 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Pamela Charlton, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Anne Elizabeth McLaughlin, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Katie Parks, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Amy Pfefferle, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Amanda Sieger, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Dawn Jandro, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Stephen Cade, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Ellen Mucha, 0.2 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Katherine Norrie, 0.4 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Deb Reynolds, 0.4 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Kim Slegers, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Amanda Tracy, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.  
Deborah Winkelman, 0.2 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.

- c. Leave of Absence Requests Recommended for Denial for 2007-08
  - Heather Ims .2 Leave of Absence Without Pay for the 2007-08 school year.
  - Patsy Ophaug, Leave of Absence Without Pay, April 14 – May 2, 2008. (Removed from Consent Agenda - see item #5 under Items for Individual Action.)
  
- d. Sabbatical Request Recommended for Denial for 2007-08 (Removed from Consent Agenda - see item #5 under Items for Individual Action.)  
Patsy Ophaug
  
- e. Job Share Arrangement
  - 1. Continue job share arrangement for Gail Kohl (.75 FTE) and Connie Nelson (.25 FTE) for the 2007-08 school year.
  
- f. Voluntary Reduction
  - 1. Burton Fleming, ALC Teacher, voluntary reduction from 1.0 to .25 FTE beginning with 2007-08 school year.
  
- g. Retirements/Resignations
  - 1. Abigail Meierbachtol, Middle School Mathematics Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Ms. Meierbachtol has taught in the district for 21 years.
  - 2. Stephen Meierbachtol, Middle School Mathematics Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Meierbachtol has taught in the district for 31 years.
  - 3. Ronald Nuebel, High School Social Studies Teacher, retirement effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year. Mr. Nuebel has taught in the district for 38 years.
  - 4. Laura McManus, Elementary Teacher, resignation effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.
  - 5. Lisa Malecha, Community Services Home Visitor, resignation effective June 1, 2007.
  - 6. Kimberly Hicks, Special Ed Teacher, resignation effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.
  - 7. Cynthia Austin, Mathematics Teacher, resignation effective at the end of the 2006-07 school year.

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\*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

IX. Future Meetings

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

Tuesday, May 29, 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 8:20 PM

Katy Hargis, Clerk