

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
August 13, 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. Berthelsen and Hager were 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 Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on July 9, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements.
 - Superintendent Richardson introduced the new Northfield Middle School Principal, Jeff Pesta. Mr. Pesta comes to Northfield from White Bear Lake, where he was the Associate Principal at Sunrise Park Middle School.
 - Two of our National Merit Semi-finalists that were named last fall have received National Merit Scholarship Awards. They are Paul Carpenter, son of Scott Carpenter and Anne Maple, and Catherine Lyon, daughter of David Lyon and Anne Lyon. Congratulations to these two young people.
 - The Rice County Growing Up Healthy planning project has been invited to apply for a three-year implementation grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield of MN. This project focuses on early childhood development, access to healthcare and safe environments for young children. There are several county-wide partners including the Community Services Division, Public Health, Social Services, HealthFinders, Rice County Family Services Collaborative, HCI, CAC and others.
 - The Community Services Division has received word from the Southern MN Initiative Foundation that its request for an Americorps member for 2007-08 has been approved. The Americorps member will be assigned to the Northfield Early Childhood Initiative and the Northfield United Way to work on issues related to early literacy. Community Services will host the member.
 - Board Chair Kari Nelson encouraged parents to watch for information about the Parent Communications Network and to sign-up to become a part of this network when the opportunity is presented.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Contingency Fund Update.
At an August 3rd Superintendent's Cabinet meeting, 1.5 FTE was funded by the \$150,000 contingency fund based on need. (.5 FTE @ GVP, 4th grade; .5FTE @ BW, 3rd grade; .5 FTE @HS, AP and Basic Classes.) Will revisit after school has started to see if the remaining 1.5 FTE will be used.
 2. Update on Village School Litigation.
Superintendent Richardson reviewed with the Board the recent decision by the Minnesota Court of Appeals to affirm the District's right to close the Village School. The case is now closed and no further appeals are expected. Any "leftover money" that the Village School may have will be used to pay down the mortgage on the building.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Board Policy 630 - District Web Page.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hargis, the Board approved Policy 630 - District Web Page, as presented.

2. Amended Language for the Wind Turbine Joint Powers Agreement.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the amended language for the Wind Turbine Joint Powers Agreement as presented. The revised copy of section 4.1 would be as follows:

4.1 - No other Member Project Development.

Each Member party to this Agreement hereby agrees that it will take no action to issue any Project Financing Instrument, including, without limitation, any CREBs, or proceed with the development or construction of the Project, or any other wind energy conversion system, except through or in partnership with the Cooperative until occurrence of the earliest of the following dates: (1) the Cooperative disbands; (2) the Member withdraws from the Cooperative as permitted herein; or (3) the Project reaches commercial operations and is capable of generating electric energy on the terms and in accordance with the agreements and contractual arrangements binding upon the Cooperative and the Project.

3. Resolution Providing for Public Hearing on Property Tax Levy.

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Hargis, the Board adopted the following Resolution.

RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District No. 659, Shall meet in the Media Center at the Northfield High School, 1400 Division Street, Northfield, MN on Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the school district's 2007 payable 2008, property tax levy. This date does not conflict with the county hearing dates.

In the event the School Board is unable to complete its deliberations on this matter at the hearing on the original date specified, the hearing shall be continued and the Board shall meet in the Media Center at the Northfield High School, 1400 Division Street, Northfield, MN on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:00 o'clock p.m. to continue the hearing. This date does not conflict with the applicable county hearing dates.

Voting 'yes' were Hargis, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

4. Award of Group Health, Dental, LTD and Life Benefits Renewals for 2007-08.

a. Life and LTD (Long Term Disability Insurance.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board adopted the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 accept the ING proposal to provide Life and Long-Term Disability Insurance.

Life Rates

Basic: \$0.14 per thousand per month
A D&D: .02 per thousand per month

Long Term Disability

Rate: \$0.439 per hundred per year

Voting 'yes' were Hargis, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

b. Dental Insurance

On a motion by Smith, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board adopted the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 continue Delta Dental's plan to provide self-funded Dental Insurance for a 12 month period from September 1, 2007 to August 30, 2008 at the following rates:

Single: \$38.07 per month

Family: \$112.21 per month

(Included in the rates are administration fees of \$6.35 per employee per month. Administrative fees are guaranteed for a two-year period.)

Voting 'yes' were Hargis, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

c. Health Insurance

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Hargis, the Board adopted the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 accept the BCBS proposal to provide Health Insurance for a 12 month period from September 1, 2007 to August 30, 2008 at the following rates:

\$1,000/3,000 CMM Plan (Increase of 12.2%)

Single: \$ 444.50 per month

Family: \$1,203.50 per month

\$500/1,000 CMM Plan (Increase of 7.2%)

Single: \$ 487.50 per month

Family: \$1,321.00 per month

\$1,500/3,000 Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) (Increase of 9.0%)

Single: \$ 441.00

Family: \$1,193.50

Voting 'yes' were Hargis, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

5. Resolution Discharging an Employee or in the Alternative, Terminating the At-Will Employment of an Employee.

On a motion by Hargis, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved the "Resolution Discharging an Employee or in the Alternative, Terminating the At-Will Employment of an Employee."

Voting 'yes' were Hargis, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Student Activity Account.

The Board approved the transfer of money from the Speech student activity account into a payroll account to cover the cost of community experts to work with the Northfield High School Speech team.

2. Cooperative Sponsorship Agreements.

The Board approved two cooperative sponsorships with ARTech. One is for Boys Soccer and the other is for Girls Swimming and Diving. These Agreements will be in effect for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years.

3. Financial Reports - June 2007.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,333,781.60, payroll checks totaling \$4,214,075.98, bond payments totaling \$4,500 and the financial reports for June 2007.

4. Gift Agreements.

Three gift agreements were accepted.

- \$21,025 from the Northfield Booster Club.
- \$1,000 from the Softball Association.
- \$10,047.76 from the Northfield Wrestling Club to help purchase new wrestling mats for the high school wrestling room. The total cost of the mats is \$15,047.76. The remaining balance of \$5,000 is coming from the Northfield Booster Club. No school funds are being used to complete this purchase.

5. Community Services Advisory Council Appointments.

The following people were appointed to the Community Services Advisory Council for three years (9/07-8/10). Chris Bussman, Angela Koch, and Tresa Mazurek.

6. CSMR Athletic Training Contract for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

The contract with the Center for Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (CSMR) for the 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years for \$14,630 each year, was approved.

7. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. David Craft, Greenvale Park Elementary Principal, 47 weeks, beginning August 1, 2007, at an annual salary for 2007-08 of \$96,083.
2. Kari Gorr, Ventures Coordinator. Kari has been in this position during the transition phase and will remain in this position at a salary of \$41,145.75 effective July 1, 2007.
3. Karna Hauck, 1.0 long-term substitute Art Teacher from January 21, 2008 through June 5, 2008, MA-10, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
4. Matthew Nohava, Workstation Specialist, full-time, beginning August 1, 2007, \$14.50/hour.
5. Jerilyn Wiederholt, Special Ed Educational Assistant for 6.5 hours per day at the High School beginning September 4, 2007, Class III, step 1.
6. Burton Bemmels, Mathematics Teacher at the Alternative Learning Center beginning with the 2007-08 school year, MA-13.
7. Christa Anderson, Bridges to Kindergarten Teacher, 3.5 hours/day, for 6 days between 8/1/07-8/23/07, \$25.93/hour.
8. Rachel Basinger, Jamie Becker and Courtney Beumer, Temporary Student Site Assistants for 5.0 hours/day from 7/2/07 – 8/9/07, \$7.55/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
9. John Williams, Summer Ventures Site Assistant for 2.5 hours/day, from 7/9/07 – 8/9/07, \$10.50/hour. There are no benefits with this position.
10. Joann Nelson, Adult Enrichment and Facilities Coordinator, beginning August 1, 2007, at a pro-rated salary of \$38,665.42 for 239 days in 2007-08.
11. Ryan Pietsch, Physical Education Teacher at Sibley and Bridgewater Elementary Schools, beginning with the 2007-08 school year, BA-0*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
12. Kristin Lindholm, .2 Language Arts at the High School for the 2007-08 school year, MA-6*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
13. Anna Clift, .5 Orchestra for High School and Middle School, pending approval of MN limited license.

14. Gao Hong, .4 Chinese Teacher, for the 2007-08 school year, pending issuance of a community expert license, BA-6*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
 15. Rose Turnacliff, 0.2 FTE long-term substitute English Language Arts Teacher at the Middle School for the 2007-08 school year, MA-9, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
 16. Kathleen Hofmann, increase from 0.25 MS/0.1 HS to 0.35 MS/0.1 HS FACS Teacher beginning with the 2007-08 school year, MA-11, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
 17. Debra Thomforde, 0.1 FTE long-term substitute Reading Teacher at the Middle School for the 2007-08 school year, BA30-15, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
 18. Gretchen Heil, Long-term Substitute Kindergarten Plus Teacher at Sibley School from 8/28/07 – 10/17/07, BA-0, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed. There are no benefits with this position.
 19. Julie Healy (Greenvale Park) and Christine Oatis-Skinner (Sibley), Educational Assistants for Bridges to Kindergarten for 3.5 hours/day + 4.0 hours prep time, from 8/1/07-8/23/07, Class II, step 1. There are no benefits with this position.
 20. Anders Loven-Holt, Summer Ventures/Summer Ventures Plus for 35 hours /week from 7/26/07-8/24/07, \$10.50/hr. There are no benefits with this position.
 21. Kathleen Feltes and Sara Line, Bridges to Kindergarten Program Teacher, 3.5 hours per day/6 days, during the period of 8/1/07 – 8/23/07, targeted services pay scale.
 22. Karyl Maier, ESL Teacher at the Middle School beginning with the 2007-08 school year, MA15-6*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
 23. Robert Aakre, Temporary Custodian from August 21, 2007 – approx. November 9, 2007, step 2 of the wage scale for custodians.
 24. Priscilla Rotunda, Community Services Secretary, beginning August 27, 2007, Class III, step 3.
 25. Diane Kinneberg, Independent Consultant Contract for up to 10 days at a daily rate of \$434.00.
 26. Co-Curricular Assignments for 2006-07
 - Joan Lizaola, Minority Liaison for TORCH Grant for the 2006-07 school year, stipend \$1,000.
 27. Co-Curricular Assignments for 2007-08
 - Alison Flugum, part-time Assistant Cross Country Coach
 - Michelyn Baker, Head Girls Swimming Coach
 - Rachel Kovala, 6th Grade Volleyball Coach PT Assistant (Hourly)
 - Mike Wardwell, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach (Shared Stipend)
 - Alex Mitchell, Assistant Boys Soccer Coach (Shared Stipend)
 - Alison Flugum, Assistant Boys/Girls Cross Country Coach
 - Andy Dimick, part-time Assistant Cross Country Coach
 - Shelby Miller, Assistant Girls Swimming Coach - Diving (split stipend)
 - Alyssa Germeroth, Assistant Girls Swimming Coach – Diving (split stipend)
 - Cody Mitchell, 6th Grade Boys Soccer Coach
- b. Transfers and Increases in Hours for Non-licensed Staff
- Blair Boran, Site Assistant, increase from 20.0 to 35.0 hours per week effective July 2, 2007.
 - Shari Bridley, Special Ed EA at Longfellow, increase from 3.0 to 3.5 hours on Fridays for a total of 31.5 hours per week, beginning with the 2007-08 school year.
 - Kathryn Stordahl, Special Ed EA at Longfellow, increase from 3.0 to 3.5 hours on Fridays for a total of 31.5 hours per week, beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

- Pamela Roberts, Site Leader – Summer Ventures Plus, increase from 26 to 30 hours per week, effective June 25, 2007.
 - Jayne Tischler, transfer from 3.5 FSA II and 3.75 FSA I to 6.25 FSA II at the High School beginning August 20, 2007.
 - Diane Wendt, ECFE Educational Assistant, increase from 8.0 to 12.0 hours per week, beginning August 30, 2007.
 - Shari Bridley, Educational Assistant for Bridges to Kindergarten Program, 3.5 hours per day, 8/14/07-8/24/07, Class II, current step.
- c. Building Location Changes for Licensed Staff
- Renae Trebelhorn, transfer from Greenvale Park to High School
 - Lori Peterson, transfer from Greenvale Park/High School to Greenvale Park
 - Bridgette Tisdale, transfer from Bridgewater/Greenvale Park to Greenvale Park
 - Kelli Vogel, transfer from Bridgewater to Greenvale Park
- d. Leaves of Absence
- Karna Hauck, 0.3 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year.
 - Allen Sauter, FMLA leave beginning August 13, 2007, for up to 12 weeks.
- e. Leave of Absence Request Recommended for Denial for the 2007-2008 school year.
- Jeremy Holien, 0.25 leave of absence without pay for the 2007-08 school year was not granted.
- f. Resignations
- Bruno Theisen, ESL Teacher, resignation effective June 27, 2007
 - Kathryn Johnson, ECFE Early Childhood Teacher, resignation effective July 23, 2007.
 - Allison Tunseth, ECFE Family Educator, resignation from day hours effective July 23, 2007, will remain on staff for possible evening and weekend hours.
 - Patricia Schilling, Nurse at Greenvale Park, resignation effective July 31, 2007.
 - Diana Dargen, School Site Specialist at Greenvale Park, resignation effective July 20, 2007
 - Lindsey Downs, declined Bridges to Kindergarten summer position.
 - Natalie Eckstein, School Readiness Teacher in the Hand-in-Hand Preschool Program, effective August 3, 2007.
 - Dan Hurley, ALC Director, resignation effective August 29, 2007.
 - Burton Fleming, ALC Teacher, retirement effective August 10, 2007.
- g. Approval of Request for Participation in the TRA Part Time Teacher Program for Shelley Hansen.
- The Board authorized participation in the TRA Part Time Teacher Program whereby a teacher who qualifies can personally purchase TRA service credit at no cost to the District.
- h. Voluntary Reduction of Contract Time
- Jeremy Holien, was granted a voluntary reduction in his contract time from 1.0 to 0.75 FTE beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

*Lane placement subject to verification by the Professional Growth Committee

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

8. Grant Request

The Board approved a \$14,000 Service Learning Planning Grant request to the MN Department of Education to plan and implement service learning into the high school.

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VIII. Items for Information

1. Workshop Schedule for K-12 Licensed and Non Licensed Staff.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, August 27, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,

Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, September 10, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,

Northfield High School Media Center

Friday, September 21, 2007, Minnesota Education Summit, Minneapolis Convention Center

- X. On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Hargis, the Board adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk