

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
August 27, 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, Hargis and Smith were absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on August 13, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions.
 - Superintendent Richardson introduced the new Greenvale Park Elementary School Principal, David Craft. Mr. Craft comes to Northfield from Albert Lea, where he was the Principal at Sibley Elementary School.
 - The Dakota Prairie Adult Basic Education Consortium received the Program of Excellence Award for our Adult Basic Education program by the MN Department of Education.
 - Middle School Youth Center Director Pam Roberts and two Middle School students spoke about their very successful "Green is Good" youth recycling campaign done in cooperation with Waste Management and the City of Northfield.
 - Healthy Community Initiative received a federal "Drug-Free Communities" grant. The grant is for \$100,000 for the first year with the opportunity to renew annually for up to four more years. HCI is one of three grantees in the State of Minnesota. The school district is a funding partner in HCI.
 - 25 On the Rise was a special insert to the July 28th issue of the Northfield News. Three staff members were highlighted: Sibley Elementary School Principal Scott Sannes, High School English Teacher Troy Cohrs, and Third Grade Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary School Elizabeth Larson. A current Middle School student, Karl Amundson, was also featured, as well as four 2007 graduates - Joe McGowan, Anna Schier, Isaac Tut and Matt Yak.
 - Thank you to all of the district custodians for the fine job of preparing the buildings for the school year. Also, thank you to the staff working in the Bridges to Kindergarten program for its work in preparing the incoming kindergartners and their families for the school year and the educational system. The participation has been outstanding. The Bridges to Kindergarten program is funded by the Northfield United Way.
 - Superintendent Richardson reported on the possible upcoming teacher settlement.
 - Eighty-seven districts (1/4 of the school districts in the State) are going to try and pass an operating levy this fall.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Update on Drug Prevention Efforts.
High School Principal Joel Leer provided an overview of the three key drug prevention efforts that are being initiated this fall as the District continues to expand its drug prevention efforts. These include expanded drug counseling time for the high school and ALC, review and potential revision of the drug

prevention portion of the high school health curriculum and parent and staff education in cooperation with Thad Monroe, our School Liaison Officer.

2. Key Communicators Network.

Director of Community Services Hannah Puczko presented the Plan for organizing and maintaining the School District's Key Communicator Network. This plan is the result of the work of the Community Relations Asset Mapping Task Force and is a part of the Community Services Site Improvement Plan.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution Regarding Christopher Columbus Day.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Cirksena the Board approved the following Resolution Regarding Columbus Day.

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.44, Subdivision 5, and Minnesota Statutes, 120A.42 gives the district an option of determining whether Christopher Columbus Day shall be a holiday, then

BE IT RESOLVED, that Christopher Columbus Day on October 8, 2007, shall not be a holiday.

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

2. Changing the Date of the November 12, 2007 School Board Meeting.

Since the official observation of Veterans Day will be on Monday, November 12, 2007, the District is not permitted to hold the School Board meeting that evening. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board approved moving the November 12, 2007, School Board meeting to Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

3. Transportation Contract with Benjamin Bus 2007-09.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board approved the School Bus Transportation Contract with Benjamin Bus Inc for 2007-09. The contract continues to maintain the savings of approximately \$180,000 from the 2005-06 Program Based Budget reductions and provides for an increase in rates for 2007-08 based on the Consumer Price Index increase of 2.60% as called for in previous contracts. In addition, Benjamin Bus has agreed to raise the excess fuel clause base from \$1.24 per gallon to \$1.50 which will save the district approximately \$20,000 annually.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Ventures Program Parent Handbook.

The parent handbook for KidVentures that was developed by staff in conjunction with the parent advisory council was approved. As with all the District handbooks, it will be reviewed and updated annually.

2. Professional Service Agreement with Omada, Inc.

The Board of Education approved a "Professional Service Agreement with Omada, Inc" in the amount of \$30,000 to provide chemical health intervention and prevention services all day Thursdays at Northfield High School and Monday and Tuesday mornings at the Alternative Learning Center.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Margaret (Peggy) Fink, 0.5 long-term substitute Special Education Resource Room Teacher at the High School for the 2007-08 school year, BA-7*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
2. Patricia Parlin, Alternative Learning Center Director, beginning August 24, 2007, \$70,138 + \$1,500 masters stipend, pro-rated for 2007-08.
3. Rose Brison, Food Service Associate I at the High School for 3.75 hours per day beginning August 27, 2007, \$12.27/hr. There are no benefits with this position.
4. Karen Adams, Food Service Associate I at the Middle School for 3.0 hours per day beginning August 27, 2007, \$12.27/hr. There are no benefits with this position.
5. Peggy Sheehy, Food Service Associate I at the High School for 3.75 hours per day beginning August 27, 2007, \$12.27/hr. There are no benefits with this position.
6. Brenda Starin, Food Service Associate I at the High School for 3.0 hours per day beginning August 27, 2007, \$12.27/hr. There are no benefits with this position.
7. Brianne Clark, Site Assistant for EarlyVentures at Longfellow for 40.0 hours per week beginning August 27, 2007, step 1 - \$10.50.
8. Allison Boran, Site Assistant for EarlyVentures at Longfellow for 40.0 hours per week beginning August 27, 2007, step 2 - \$10.77.
9. Christina Trump, Site Assistant for EarlyVentures at Longfellow for 40.0 hours per week beginning August 27, 2007, step 1 - \$10.50.
10. Mary Jo Arndt, ECFE Parent Education for up to 35 hours per week, up to 160 annual days, beginning August 30, 2007, step 1 - \$20.35 per hour, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
11. Co-Curricular Assignments for 2007-08. The list of recommended co-curricular assignments for 2007-08 was approved.
Derrick Skogland, transfer from Middle School Boys Soccer Coach to Middle School Girls Soccer Coach
Scott Wopata, Middle School Boys Soccer Coach
12. Ann Schmidt, Food Service Associate II at the High School for 3.5 hours per day at \$13.17 per hour, and Food Service Associate I at the NCRC for 3.25 hours per day at \$12.27/hr. Both positions begin August 27, 2007.
13. Kathleen Lockner, .5 Grade 3 Teacher for the 2007-08 school year, MA-6*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
14. Shannon Johnson, .25 Art Teacher at the ALC for the 2007-08 school year, BA-0*, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.
15. Kelli Meyer, Early Childhood Family Education Parent Educator, beginning September 12, 2007, pending renewal of Minnesota teacher license, step 1 - \$20.35 per hour, subject to revision when negotiations for 2007-08 are completed.

b. Decrease or Increase in Hours/Change in Assignment for Non-licensed Staff

1. Michael Berger, KidVentures Site Leader, reduce from 26.25 to 13.5 hours per week effective September 4, 2007
2. Shari Malecha, Temporary Acting Food Service Manager at the Middle School for 8.0 hours per day beginning August 27, 2007, until position is filled.
3. Jane Johnson, Educational Assistant, decrease supervision hours from .50 to .25 hour/day beginning 9/4/07.
4. Sherri Goehring, Educational Assistant, increase supervision hours from .25 to .50hour/day beginning 9/4/07.

c. Increase in Contract Time for Licensed Staff

1. Debra Reynolds, 0.2 FTE long-term substitute Basic Chemistry Teacher, contingency fund dollars for 2007-08.

2. Kristen Lindholm, 0.2 FTE long-term substitute English Teacher, contingency fund dollars for 2007-08.
- d. Leave of Absence
 1. Kimberly Rohr, FMLA leave from August 22, 2007 through approximately October 3, 2007.
 2. Lindsey Downs, leave without pay revised to 9/19/07-11/19/07.
 - e. Resignation/Retirements
 - Ryan Paulson, resignation with last day of work August 24, 2007.
 - Mary Vogt, resignation with last day of work August 24, 2007.
 - Michelle West, resignation effective August 18, 2007.
 - Aaron Stauffer, assignment as MSYC Site Assistant ended at the end of 2006-07.
 - Jacquelyn Allen, resignation effective August 15, 2007.
 - Priscilla Rotunda, CE Secretary, declined position.
 - Patricia Rogne, ECFE Educational Assistant, resignation effective August 26, 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. Minnesota Education Summit on Friday, September 21, 2007.

Information about the sixth annual Minnesota Education Summit was distributed. Board members were asked to please contact Donita by Wednesday, September 5 if they intend to attend, so that the District can get a group discount.

IX. Future Meetings

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

Monday, September 24, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,
Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk