

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

School Board Meeting  
October 8, 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. No one was absent.
- 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 September 24, 2007, were approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions.
  - The "Walk to School" event on October 3 went off without a hitch. There were plenty of adult volunteers and teachers helping out with this event. Dan Kust reported that they counted 133 students participating in the morning.
  - Four Northfield High School seniors have been named National Merit semi-finalists. They are Charles Behr, David Block, Joseph Cherney and Samuel Dunnewold. In addition, Northfield High School seniors Eric Emmons, Magdalene Kruse, Tom Pokorney and Ashley Tollefson have been named Commended Students. The success of all these talented seniors is a testimony to the great teachers and staff who work in this district and the solid support from our parents and community. As we did last year, we will be holding a reception for the National Merit Scholars and their families on Monday, December 10 right before the School Board meeting. The reception will start at 6:30 PM, which will then move the start of the Board meeting to 7:30 PM.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. Contingency Fund Update.  
Superintendent Richardson updated the Board on additional staffing provided to several buildings based on the October 3rd review of classrooms where student numbers or needs potentially required additional teacher or educational assistant support. This update was a follow up to an earlier presentation to the Board describing how the first 2.0 FTE were distributed to Greenvale Park, Bridgewater and the High School.
  2. Prairie Creek Community School Annual Report.  
Caroline Jones, Director of Prairie Creek Community School, presented a review of Prairie Creek's fifth year of operation as a charter school under the sponsorship of the Northfield Public Schools and an overview of this current school year. Currently, Prairie Creek has 120 students enrolled in grades K through 5. However, due to an expansion program that is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2009, they hope to enroll 180 students by adding three classrooms, and a gymnasium and performing arts center.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. School Board Policies.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board approved Policy 512 - School Sponsored Student Publications and Activities and Policy 518 - Do Not Resuscitate/Do Not Intubate Orders, as presented.

2. December 10, 2007, Regular School Board Meeting.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board approved a 7:30 PM start time for only the December 10, 2007, Regular School Board meeting to accommodate the reception for the District's National Merit Scholars.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Gift Agreement.

The Sibley Elementary School PTO has donated \$4600. \$4400 is to be used for classroom supplies by the teachers and \$200 is to help fund the kindness retreat.

2. Grant Requests.

- The Board approved a \$131,754 grant proposal to the MN Department of Human Services. Titled "Family, Friend and Neighbor Grant" this project will provide outreach and services to childcare providers and their families in four neighborhoods in Northfield and Faribault. These neighborhoods have a high population of low income, immigrant and refugee families.
- The \$60,000 grant request to the Office of Juvenile Justice/Department of Public Safety by the Tackling Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH) collaborative was approved. This grant request is in addition to a \$42,000 grant received by TORCH from the Department of Higher Education to support the goal of increasing the graduation rate and attendance at post-secondary institutions of Latino and first generation college students.
- The Board approved two grant requests to the Minnesota State High School League Foundation. One is for \$14,750 and would be used to subsidize fee waivers for student participation in athletic and art programs. The other request is for \$5,000 and would be used to support the activities of the RALIE program (**R**aider **A**ctivity **L**eaders **I**mproving **E**nthusiasm).

3. Financial Reports.

The Board approved the following:

- Paid bills totaling \$1,047,202.33, payroll checks totaling \$419,403.98, bond payments totaling \$1,433,450.65 and the financial reports for July 2007.
- Paid bills totaling \$1,648,405.57, payroll checks totaling \$483,138.50, bond payments totaling \$450.00 and the financial reports for August 2007.

4. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Judy Becker, Community Services Office Specialist, beginning October 4, 2007, Class III, step 2.
2. Sue Ann Lepinski, Food Service Associate I, High School, for 3.75 hours per day, beginning September 26, 2007, \$12.27/hour. There are no benefits with this position.

3. Katharine Clark, Early Childhood Family Education Educational Assistant for up to 5.0 hours/week, beginning October 2, 2007, Class II, step 1. There are no benefits with this position.
  4. Sarah Kriegler DuChene, .5 Title I Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary School beginning September 26, 2007, BA lane, step 2, pro-rated benefits.
  5. Diane Kinneberg, Independent Consultant Contract for up to 4 additional days at a daily rate of \$434.00.
  6. Co-Curricular Assignments
    - Rich Guggisberg, Head Girls Softball Coach
    - Darrell Sawyer, Geography Bee Coordinator
    - Noreen Cooney, Sibley Student Council Advisor
    - Jennifer Josephson, Greenvale Park Student Council Advisor
    - Lahna Tran/Nathan Truman, Bridgewater Student Council Advisors (split stipend)
    - Josh Holm, part-time Assistant Middle School Wrestling Coach (hourly)
  7. Stephanie Grundman, .5 Title I Teacher at Greenvale Park, beginning October 10, 2007, BA lane, step 3\*, pro-rated benefits.
- b. Decrease or Increase in Hours/Change in Assignment for Licensed and Non-licensed Staff
1. Laura Berdahl, Site Specialist at Greenvale Park, increase from 18 hours/40 weeks, to 20 hours/40 weeks effective 10/1/07.
  2. Sherri Senn, Preschool Teacher, increase from 183 to 187 days per year effective 10/9/07.
  3. Sara Line, Preschool Teacher, increase from 183 to 187 days per year effective 10/9/07.
  4. Sarah Yantzer, Preschool Teacher, increase from 183 to 187 days per year effective 10/9/07.
  5. Sherri Goehring, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 6.5 to 6.75 hours per day effective 9/4/07.
  6. Barbara Schetnan, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 6.5 to 6.75 hours per day effective 9/4/07.
  7. Sarah Corbin, Special Ed Educational Assistant, increase from 6.5 to 6.75 hours per day/4 days per week effective 10/9/07.
  8. Joyce Mode, Special Ed Educational increase from 6.5 hrs/day, 1 day/week, to 6.75 hrs/day, 1 day/week beginning 9/9/07.
  9. Terri Quint, Educational Assistant, transfer to Bridgewater, 6.5 hours per day, beginning October 10, 2007.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Gene Wilson, FMLA Leave from September 13, 2007, through December 6, 2007.
  2. Emileana Graupmann, childcare leave of absence from on or about January 23, 2008 through March 21, 2008.
  3. Cindy Keogh, on unpaid leave of absence August 27, 2007 through September 18, 2007, and unpaid leave of absence from September 19, 2007 through December 19, 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. Enrollment Report - October 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 October 22, 2007, regular School Board meeting. Policy 513 - Student Promotion and Retention, Policy 520 -

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Student Surveys, Policy 520.1 - Research Involving Students, Employees and/or District Data and Policy JFCB to be replaced by Policy 526 - Hazing Prohibitions.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, October 22, 2007, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,  
Northfield High School Media Center

**Tuesday, November 13,** 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting,  
Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Cirksena, the Board adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk