

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
March 10, 2008
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Chairperson Kari Nelson called the regular 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 no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
On a motion by Smith, seconded by Cirksena, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 25, 2008, were approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions.
 - The KidzSing Festival was held at Bridgewater on March 8. The choirs from Sibley, Greenvale Park, Bridgewater, and the Middle School joined the Northfield Youth Choirs for a concert called Sing Around the World.
 - The boys swim team is Missota Conference champions and competed at the State Class AA tournament for the first time. They are coached by Doug Davis.
 - The Middle School Orchestra had a concert on March 6, and the High School Choir had a concert at Boe Chapel at St. Olaf on March 8.
 - The High School Science Olympiad team placed second in state competition.
 - The all Northfield schools art show at the Northfield Arts Guild was wonderful!
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Prairie Creek Community School Sponsorship Report.
The School District's sponsorship contract with Prairie Creek Community School expires on June 30, 2008. As a condition for contract renewal, Prairie Creek Community School was required to hire an independent team of evaluators and report the results of this team's evaluation to the Northfield Board of Education prior to any action that would extend the sponsorship. Deborah Appleman, a member of the Evaluation Team, presented the findings of the evaluation to the School Board and, based on these findings, recommended on behalf of the team, that the District's sponsorship contract with Prairie Creek Community School be renewed for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2008, and continuing to June 30, 2011. Caroline Jones, the Director, reported that the school currently has an enrollment of 120 students, but with the upcoming expansion of the building, hopes to add an additional 60 students (10 per grade, K-5) beginning in the fall of 2009.

State statutes require the District to review and comment on Prairie Creek's performance and then forward that analysis to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for their review and comment. Once MDE has completed their review, the District would receive authorization to vote on renewing District sponsorship of Prairie Creek for the next three years. This means that the actual vote on renewal will be done in May or June.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Items for Individual Action

1. Elementary Intra District Transfer Guidelines.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Hager, the Board approved modifying the intra district transfer guidelines, so that an approved intra district transfer is for one year only.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Grant Applications.

- Approved two \$5,000 grant requests to coordinate and facilitate service learning within the Northfield School District. The grant requests are to WINGS and the Northfield United Way.
- Approved two \$5,000 grant requests for the “Where Everyone Belongs (W.E.B.): The Boomerang Project”. The grant requests are to WINGS and the Grace Whittier Fund. W.E.B. is a fifth to sixth grade transition program under the auspices of The Boomerang Project.
- Approved a \$500 grant request to WINGS for Tattered Pages.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

1. Cindy Moe, Food Service Associate I at Bridgewater School for 3.0 hours per day beginning March 6, 2008, at \$12.27 per hour. There are no benefits with this position.
2. Susan Sanderson, Independent Consultant Contract for up to 13 hours/week at a rate of \$22.17 during the period of March 3 – 20, 2008.
3. Joanne Clites, full-time, long-term substitute Grade 3/5 Companeros at Greenvale Park from February 18, 2008 through April 30, 2008, BA-2. There are no benefits with this position.
4. Laura McManus, long-term substitute Grade 3/5 Companeros at Greenvale Park, one-day per week from February 22, 2008 through April 30, 2008. There are no benefits with this position.
5. Co-Curricular Assignments
Nate Basinger, 6th-8th Grade Assistant Track Coach
Pam Maldonado, Assistant Girls Softball Coach – 9th Grade
6. Lois Kelly, Community Services Building Supervisor for up to 10 hours per week, beginning March 13, 2008, \$9.00 per hour. This is in addition to her Speech Language Assistant position. There are no benefits with this position.
7. Lisa Webster, Receptionist/Maintenance Secretary, District Office, beginning March 14, 2008, Class III, step 2.

b. Increase/Decrease in Hours/Change in Assignment for Staff

1. Vanessa Grave, Supervisory Educational Assistant at Longfellow/Hand in Hand Preschool for 8.75 hours per week beginning March 5, 2008, Class I, step 1. This is in addition to her KidVentures Site Leader position.
2. Joshua Holm, Decrease in hours from 7.25 to 6.5 hours per day beginning November 12, 2007 due to coaching position. Hours will return to 7.25 when coaching position ends.

c. Leaves of Absence

1. Nate Knutson, FMLA leave from on or about March 6, 2008 and extending for three weeks.
2. Katherine Jacques, extend FMLA childcare leave through April 30, 2008.
3. Leah Sand, FMLA leave beginning February 26, 2008 through April 22, 2008.
4. Lisa Nelson, FMLA leave from March 17, 2008 – April 4, 2008
5. Dana Pemrick, FMLA leave, change to begin February 22, 2008 through June 5, 2008.

d. Retirements/Resignations

1. Jane Gambucci, retirement effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Ms. Gambucci has taught for 21 years at Sibley School.
2. Patti Lueck, retirement effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Ms Lueck has taught in the Northfield School District for 26 years.
3. Glee Stark, retirement effective at the end of the 2007-08 school year. Ms. Stark has taught in the Northfield School District for 28 years.
4. Leah Sand, resignation from Assistant Girls Softball Coach position.

e. Position Proposal

The Board approved the position of PLUS Program Coordinator. This position is being created for the purpose of leading, coordinating, implementing and supervising the PLUS program, which is a collaboration of Targeted Services and Community Services afterschool and summer enrichment programs.

*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. High School Senior Obligations.

High School Principal Joel Leer presented a revised procedure for the high school regarding participation in the graduation ceremony. This revision is in response to the increasing number of graduating seniors who have not paid fines for damaged or lost books. The revised procedure, which is common in other school districts, is to not allow students who have outstanding fines or fees to participate in the graduation ceremony until those fines and fees are paid. The High School administration believes that instituting this procedure will result in most, if not all fines and charges, being paid so that students can participate in the graduation ceremony. Feedback from the School Board included: (1) be sure this change in procedure is well communicated / give ample notice; (2) institute a hardship waiver process / safety mechanism. The Board asked Principal Leer to come to the April 14th meeting with the plan for putting this new procedure in place.

2. Companeros Review Process.

Superintendent Richardson reported that the first meeting of the Companeros Review Team is an all-day meeting on Thursday, March 13.

3. Wind Turbine Update.

The alternative financing option that had been proposed by the Wind Turbine Cooperative was not approved. Superintendent Richardson said that they are exploring a change in legislation, and will keep the Board apprised.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 28, 2008, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield HS Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Berthelsen, the Board adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Katy Hargis, Clerk