

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

Special School Board Meeting
December 22, 2008
Northfield High School Media Center

I. Call to Order.

Chairperson Kari Nelson called the special meeting of the Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 pm. Berthelsen was absent because of the poor driving conditions.

(In attendance: Katy, Kari, Diane, Noel, Paul, Wendy, Chris Richardson, Donita Delzer, Ellis Lysne, David Henke, Dusty Budd, Scott Sannes, Jeff Quinnell, Ellen Iverson, Anne Maple, Hannah Puczko, Griff Wigley, Julie Pritchard and Gary Benson – ICS)

II. Agenda Changes.

The table file was added.

III. Public Comment

Griff Wigley (1133 Heritage Drive)

Thanked Superintendent Richardson for appearing on Locally Grown's podcast. Initially, he thought the expansion plan was a good plan and that the existing Board should make the decision regarding it. However, after reading comments on Locally Grown and learning that the state's economic forecast could be worse yet, he is concerned that the legislature might be forced to cut K-12 funding, which may mean laying off of staff and the district could then have empty classrooms. Therefore, he thinks it would be more prudent for the Board to wait and let the new Board make the final decision about whether or not to move ahead with construction in February or March when there is more economic information available.

Ellen Iverson – new Board member (901 St. Olaf Avenue)

She stated that the current Board should make the decision about the expansion project. She attended the work session and the public hearings and believes that the plan is well thought-out and that the Board has carefully deliberated the project.

Anne Maple – new Board member (602 Prairie Street)

She encouraged the current Board to move forward with the project. She feels that when the community was asked to approve the capital projects levy, adequate and equitable elementary facilities is exactly what the community had in mind about how these dollars should be used.

Jeff Quinnell – new Board member (1828 Coolidge Court)

He has not heard a compelling argument for not moving forward with the elementary construction project.

IV. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Elementary Construction Project.

Superintendent Richardson summarized his revised recommendation for an addition at Sibley Elementary School. Hager indicated that most of his concerns were answered with Dr. Richardson's new recommendation. However, Hager asked if the addition was big enough. Does it allow room to grow? What would be the cost of going even larger? Superintendent Richardson's said that the size of the addition was tied to enrollment projection and the amount of dollars available to do the project. However, a larger addition could be considered once the design phase begins.

Hager moved and Cirksena seconded the approval of the design phase of the Sibley addition project to include submitting the project to the State for review and comment, engaging architectural and

engineering professionals to design the addition and remodeling project, and completing construction documents and project bid specifications.

Hager initially wanted to amend the motion to include that the project could be halted if the economic conditions worsened, but withdrew the amendment when it was explained that the Northfield Board of Education will need to follow the statutory process and will need to approve the solicitation of bids and the awarding of bids. At those two points in the process, the Board could decide to halt the process.

On a roll call vote of 5 'yes' votes and 1 'no' vote, the Board approved the motion. Voting 'yes' was Hager, Cirksena, Smith, Stratmoen and Nelson. Voting 'no' was Hargis. Nelson indicated that in a phone conversation she had with Berthelsen (who was unable to attend the meeting due to bad driving conditions) that he supported the project.

2. Workers' Compensation and Property Liability Insurance.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hargis, the Board unanimously awarded Workers' Compensation Insurance to Liberty Mutual and the Property and Liability Insurance to Indiana Insurance Company.

V. Future Meetings

Monday, January 12, 2009, 7:00 PM, Organizational School Board Meeting followed by

Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, January 26, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

The Board and those in attendance thanked Paul Hager, Katy Hargis and Wendy Smith for serving on the school board with a rousing applause.

VI. On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Smith, the Board adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Kari Nelson, School Board Chair