

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting  
February 23, 2009  
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 pm. No one was absent.

II. Agenda Changes.

The table file was added.

III. Public Comment

Ray Coudret, High School Math Teacher and President of the NEA, and Staff Development Coordinator Heather Ryden spoke in support of dedicated, regular time for Professional Learning Communities.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 9, 2009, were unanimously approved.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

- The annual Regional Spelling bee took place in Rochester on February 17. Northfield Middle School sent three top spellers, Sam Carlson, Laura Bashor and Sarah Ludewig. Middle School spelling bee advisor, Amy Sieve, judged the competition.
- The Northfield Middle School speech team, coached by Denise Halvorson, wrapped up the 2009 season. The team participated in 4 regular tournaments and a trophy tournament. There were 22 middle school students involved in the speech team in several different categories.
- Area Learning Center student, Rolando Gomez, designed the logo for the state conference of the MN Association of Alternative Programs. He was awarded 1st prize and received a \$100.00 gift for his entrance. The design was on all T-Shirts and conference handouts.
- Girls Hockey received a #1 section seed and entered playoffs last Wednesday against Albert Lea. Unfortunately, they lost. Their head coach is Brent Bielenberg. This was the first time the girls have been the #1 seed in our section.
- The boys swimming & diving team, coached by Doug Davis, and the girls gymnastics team, coached by Melissa Cummins, are Missota Conference Champions this year. The Girls Gymnastics team went on and was #1 at sections.
- Science Olympiad, advised by Susan Singer, had 2 number one events at their recent Regional meet in Ecology and Fossils.
- Several other activities/functions were reported by Board members:
  - ✓ Orchestra Concert on February 19, including 3 small ensembles
  - ✓ Seventh and eighth grade orchestra festival in Stillwater on February 20
  - ✓ The Northfield Arts Guild is hosting an all school art show that includes the public and private schools
  - ✓ The High School Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is being revived. First meeting is February 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the lower cafeteria.
  - ✓ The League of Women Voters hosted a reception for all elected officials.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. 2009-2010 School Year Calendar Proposals.

Superintendent Richardson provided the Board with an update on the 2009-10 calendar proposals including preliminary results of the calendar survey, which was placed on the District website on Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and will continue to record survey results through Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Approximately 48% of the 970 individuals who have taken the survey prefer shortening the school day

to allow for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to meet while 45% prefer to maintain the current practice of two 2-hour late starts and two 2-hour early dismissals and 6% have no opinion. Of the 48% who approve of a shortened day, 28% prefer a one-hour late start and 20% prefer an early release. Information about the positive impact of PLCs, concerns about trying to fully implement PLCs without adequate meeting time each week, comparative data about instructional time and approaches other school districts are using to provide adequate time for PLCs was also shared with the Board by Dr. Richardson.

The Board decided to move the decision on the 2009-2010 calendar to March 23<sup>rd</sup> rather than March 9<sup>th</sup>. Administration was asked to develop a revised calendar recommendation based on the staff, parent, community and Board member input received. The Board asked that the revised calendar recommendation be presented to the Board on March 9<sup>th</sup> which will then allow two weeks for feedback.

## VII. Superintendent's Report

### A. Items for Individual Action

#### 1. Federal Advocacy Resolution.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved the Federal Advocacy Resolution that was shared by the Minnesota Association of School Administrators with every school district in the state. The purpose of this resolution is to send a clear message to federal and state leaders that the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) in its current form has many flaws that are negatively impacting students, schools and school districts. It asks for a major overhaul of the law prior to reauthorization of the act and if this is not completed, asks the Minnesota State Legislature and Governor to take steps to withdraw Minnesota from participation in NCLB.

### B. Items for Consent Grouping.

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

#### 1. Area Learning Center Trip to BWCA.

The Area Learning Center's application for its annual trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area was approved. It was resubmitted for approval because the date has been changed from June 7<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> to June 8<sup>th</sup> to June 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### 2. Financial Reports for January 2009.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,292,854.00, payroll checks totaling \$1,908,400.21, bond payments of \$4,406,308.15 and the financial reports for January 2009.

#### 3. Personnel Items.

##### a. Appointments\*\*

1. Erica Hubers, long-term substitute Special Ed Educational Assistant for 6.5 hours per day at Bridgewater from February 17, 2009 – June 5, 2009, Class III, step 1. There are no benefits with this position.
2. Debbie Foley, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow for 3.0 hours per day beginning March 2, 2009, step 1 on the wage scale for Site Assistants. There are no benefits with this position.
3. Amy Gleason, long-term substitute 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher at the Middle School from February 16, 2009 – June 5, 2009, BA-0.
4. Pam Haupt, Food Service Director, beginning March 9, 2009, 43-week year, annual salary of \$55,455.00 pro-rated for the remainder of the 2008-09 school year.
5. Aaron Stauffer, PLUS Program Site Assistant at Sibley from February 11, 2009 – May 29, 2009, step 2 of the wage scale for site assistants. There are no benefits with this position.
6. Joanne Clites, long-term substitute Reading Teacher at the Middle School from February 23, 2009 – April 7, 2009, BA-3. There are no benefits with this position.

7. Co-Curricular Assignments  
Jennifer Hall, Assistant Boys and Girls Track Coach  
Darrell Sawyer, 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Boys Tennis Coach  
Brent Bielenberg, Middle School Track Assistant  
Doug Davis, Head Girls Swimming Coach for 2009-10
  
- b. Leave of Absence
  1. Anne Erickson, FMLA/Childcare leave from on or about July 30, 2009 through the end of the 2009-10 school year.
  
- c. Increase or Decrease in Hours/Change in Position or Building for 2008-09
  1. Erin Novaha-Hall, PLUS Program Site Lead, transfer from Bridgewater to Sibley effective February 11, 2009.
  2. Hannah Johnson, transfer from PLUS Program Site Assistant, step 3, at Bridgewater to PLUS Program Site Lead, step 3, at Bridgewater, effective February 11, 2009. This is in addition to her Special Ed EA-PCA position.
  3. Susan Wunderlich, Special Ed Educational Assistant-PCA, transfer from Middle School to High School beginning February 23, 2009.
  4. Colleen DeWall, Special Ed Educational Assistant-PCA, transfer from Middle School to High School beginning February 23, 2009.
  5. Bonnie Klamm, PLUS Program Site Assistant, increase to 3 days per week and reduce hours to 1.25 hours per day from February 16, 2009 – May 29, 2009. This is in addition to her EA position.
  6. Nhung Bui, PLUS Program Site Assistant, change in position to 2 days per week at Greenvale Park and two days per week at Bridgewater, 1.5 hours per day from February 16, 2009 – May 29, 2009. This is in addition to her EA position.
  7. Kristin Basinger, PLUS Program Site Assistant, for 1.5 hours per day, 4 days per week from February 16, 2009 – May 29, 2009, step 3 of the wage scale for Site Assistants. This is in addition to her EA position.
  
- d. Retirements/Resignations
  1. Susan Chabot, Grade 1 Teacher at Sibley School, retirement effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year. Ms. Chabot has been with the district for 33 years.
  2. Kening Hu, High School Food Service, resignation effective February 2, 2009, will continue as a substitute.
  3. Alison Thrun, Early Ventures Site Assistant, resignation effective January 9, 2009. Ms. Thrun will continue as a substitute EA.

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

4. Grant Requests.

Community Services' two grant requests to the Northfield Area United Way were approved:

- Bridges to Kindergarten - \$15,841 request for a 3-week program at each school site.
- PLUS (Targeted Services and Enrichment Program) - \$34,811 requested. To support at-risk students in grades K-8 in out-of-school time programming that provides academic and enrichment activities in an effort to improve student achievement.

VIII. Items for Information

1. March 1 -7, School Social Work Week.

The Northfield School District proclaimed the week of March 1-7 as School Social Worker Week. School Social Workers are valuable members of school teams. They work with students, families, staff and the community to provide the necessary services for children to succeed in school. Our district currently employs six School Social Workers. They are Noreen Cooney at

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Sibley Elementary, Heather Ims at Bridgewater Elementary, Jennifer Josephson at Greenvale Park Elementary, Melissa Larsen at the middle school, Kari Prestemon at the high school and Shelley Hansen at Longfellow. They are highly educated individuals all holding Masters Degrees in Social Work and advanced levels of licensure. We appreciate the work our social workers do to advocate for children.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, March 9, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, March 23, 2009, 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 8:30 PM.

Diane Cirksena, School Board Clerk