

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
March 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
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Quinnell, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 9, 2009, were unanimously approved. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the Special School Board meeting held on March 17, 2009, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
- Kidzsing performed on Saturday, March 7th at Bridgewater under the direction of all the general music instructors in the district as well as the directors of the Northfield Youth Choirs. The performers were students from Bridgewater, Greenvale Park, Sibley, Middle School, and the Northfield Youth Choirs. They sang for a packed house and were outstanding! Kudos to the Northfield Music Department!
 - On February 20th, the 7/8th grade orchestra participated in the MNSOTA Middle Level Orchestra Festival at Stillwater Junior High School. At the festival these students performed for two judges and worked with an excellent clinician. These students received a superior rating from both judges.
 - Head coach Scott Sahli will accompany Richie Sun and Kyle Rasmussen at the National Weightlifting competition this weekend in San Francisco.
 - Standing ovations have greeted the Rock n Roll Revival cast of over 115 students by sell out crowds at the Middle School Auditorium these past 2 weekends. The production is directed by Tom McKown with vocal coaching by Bob Gregory-Bjorklund and choreography by Shari Setchell.
 - Cheryl Strike, Mentoring Specialist for Connected Kids, was featured in the Northfield News' Unsung Heroes feature supplement on March 18. Congratulations and thanks to Cheryl for all she does for the mentoring project and the community.
 - The 2009 Distinguished Alumni have been named. They are Larry Christensen, class of 1946, and Eric Jorgensen, class of 1975. Mr. Christensen and Mr. Jorgensen will be honored at the Academics Award program on May 3rd.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
There were no items.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
- A. Items for Individual Action
1. 2009-2010 School Year Calendar.
Superintendent Richardson reviewed the elements in the proposed 2009-2010 school year calendar, specifically the after Labor Day start (state statute), the elimination of the current two-hour late start and early release days during the year, the elimination of end of trimester teacher work days, a proposed one-hour early release each Wednesday throughout

the school year to facilitate the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) for all teaching staff in every building and the addition of one student contact day to the length of the calendar.

Quinnell stated that while he supported PLCs, he was not supportive of PLCs being held during the student day.

Berthelsen expressed concern about the hardship on families if buses transport students to home or day care provider one-hour earlier on Wednesdays. Based on the concerns expressed by several Board members, Superintendent Richardson presented an alternate proposal: buses would arrive at school and leave school at the normal time on Wednesdays with elementary PLCs being held on Wednesday afternoons and secondary PLCs being held on Wednesday mornings. One-hour of free supervised time would be available for elementary students from the end of the shortened day until the regular dismissal time. A one-hour supervised time would be available on Wednesday mornings until the shortened day begins for middle and high school students.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Quinnell, the Board approved on a six to one vote the 2009-2010 calendar as presented with the alternate proposal of buses running at their regular time on Wednesdays. Voting 'aye' were Berthelsen, Maple, Cirksena, Iverson, Stratmoen and Nelson. Voting 'nay' was Quinnell.

2. Resolution To Approve Settlement of a Claim Pending Against the School District.

On a motion by Cirksena, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution Approving Settlement Agreement and Authorizing Signing of Agreement. Voting 'aye' was Berthelsen, Maple, Cirksena, Iverson, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'nay.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Financial Reports – February 2009.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,346,500.98, payroll checks totaling \$1,944,293.55, and the financial reports for February 2009. No bond payments were made in February 2009.

2. Grant Requests.

- Hand in Hand Preschool is submitting a request for 200 books to the Southeast Minnesota Initiative Fund and Capstone Publishers. These books would be given to families during the early literacy home visits.
- Community Services is submitting a grant request to WINGS for \$3864 to provide transportation, home visits and literacy materials to Family School participants.
- A \$25,000 grant request is being submitted to the Northfield Area United Way by Marnie Thompson, Jennifer Lompart, Beth Berry, Zach Pruitt, Susan Sanderson and Joan Lizaola on behalf of the project, Tacking Obstacles and Raising College Hopes (TORCH).

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments

1. Co-Curricular Assignments

- Leah Sand, one extra class (Phy Ed DAPE) second semester, every other day, no supervision.
- Deborah Seitz, Middle School Play/Musical Assistant Advisor - shared stipend.

- Corine Oian, Middle School Play/Musical Assistant Advisor - shared stipend.
- b. Increase or Decrease in Hours/Change in Position or Building for 2008-09
 1. Vicky Dilley, Special Ed Educational Assistant at the High School, reduce from 2.5 to 2.0 hours per day beginning March 16, 2009.
 - c. Leaves of Absence for 2009-10
 1. Kevin Dahle, 1.0 legislative leave of absence without pay for the second semester of 2009-2010.
 2. Amanda Heinritz, 0.2 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 3. Dana Holden, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 4. Anne Elizabeth McLaughlin, leave of absence without pay for 2009-10 for childcare purposes.
 5. Allison Meidt, 1.0 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 6. Katherine Norrie, 0.4 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 7. Brian Stevens, 0.2 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 8. Amanda Tracy, return from leave. 0.2 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 9. Lisa Weis, 0.5 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 10. David Bly, 1.0 legislative leave of absence without pay for second semester of 2009-10.
 - d. Leave of Absence Requests Recommended for Denial for 2009-10
 1. Linda Kovach, 0.3 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 2. Ellen Mucha, 0.2 leave of absence without pay for 2009-10.
 - e. Job Share Arrangement for 2009-10
 1. Continue job share arrangement for Gail Kohl (.75 FTE) and Connie Nelson (.25 FTE) for the 2009-10 school year.
 - f. Voluntary Reduction in Contract
 1. Amy Moeller, voluntary reduction in contract time from 1.0 to 0.5 FTE beginning with the 2009-10 school year.
 - g. Return from Leave of Absence 2009-10
 - Kristen Johnson, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2009-10
 - Kathleen Schuerman, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2009-10
 - Amanda Sieger, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2009-10
 - Deborah Winkelman, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2009-10
 - h. Retirements/Resignations
 1. Ruth McCarty, High School Special Education Teacher, retirement effective June 6, 2009. Ms. McCarty has taught at the High School for 29 years.
 2. Kathleen Plante, HR Administrative Assistant, retirement with last day July 14, 2009. Ms. Plante has been with the district for 29 years.
 3. Victoria Malecha, High School Food Service, resignation effective March 27, 2009.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
High School	52%	40%
Middle School	45%*	59%
Bridgewater	96%	97%
Greenvale Park	98%	92%
Sibley	98%	97%

* Note that the 2nd day of middle school conferences had to be rescheduled due to a snow storm.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 13, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, April 27, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

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

Diane Cirksena, School Board Clerk