

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting  
April 13, 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 7:05 pm. Cirksena was absent.

II. Agenda Changes.

The table file was added.

III. Public Comment

The following individuals spoke about Chinese 3 and their desire for high school administration to offer the course during the 2009-2010 school even though projected enrollment for this class is 13 students: Sari Zach, Martha Meyer, Merrill Lutsky, Neil Lutsky, Ruthie Stein and Kathie Bowe.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 23, 2009, were unanimously approved.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

- Nine sixth grade students who participated in the Regional History Day competition on March 19 are advancing to the State History Day competition on May 2. This year's theme is "The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies." All participants did an awesome job despite being delayed by the bus accident that occurred while they were traveling to Mankato.
- At last the April 10 Section Speech meet that was hosted by Northfield High School, Svea Drentlaw qualified to compete at the State speech meet on April 17-18. Her advisor is Jody Saxton-West.
- Board members Kari Nelson and Ellen Iverson attended Q-Comp training.
- Nelson thanked the League of Women Voters for hosting a program on current educational issues.
- Several building activities were highlighted: Sibley's Beyond Words event, Greenvale Park's Art program and the March District Orchestra Concert.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Sibley Project Overview, Design Update, Timeline and Next Steps.

Based on the School Board's approval in January to proceed with the design phase of the Sibley Elementary School project, members of the Project Design Team presented the progress of the Team's work at the completion of the "Preliminary/Schematic Design". The completion of this phase of project design is critical in that the outcome sets the footprint for the new addition and confirms the scope of remodeling and repurposing work that will occur within the existing Sibley Elementary building.

In the course of this preliminary design phase, the Project Design Team considered at least a dozen iterations of drawings from the architect before settling on the one presented. Throughout this phase of design evolution, the Project Design Team kept mindful the needs, recommended solutions and design guidelines contained in the *Facilities Study* presented to the Board last November. Specifically, the Project Design Team has made every effort to adhere to the guidelines expressed in the "Statement of Need" portion of that study.

Additionally, this project would maximize the use of special education federal stimulus dollars in the remodeling of portions of the existing Sibley building to support Low Incidence and Autism classroom needs. In doing so, the total cost of the project that will be funded by the capital budget will be significantly reduced.

The next step will be for the construction consultant, Independent Consulting Services (ICS), to return to the School Board in May with the final design and project budget. At that time, the Board will be asked to approve advertising for bids in late May or early June.

2. Proposed 2009-2010 Dental Budget.

Director of Business Affairs Tom Stringer presented the proposed 2009-10 Self-Insured Dental Budget. The strategy to switch to a self-funded model in 2005-06 has continued to provide the District with reserves that have stabilized costs to both the District and employees. There is no rate increase proposed for next year due to sufficient reserves. No Board action was required.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions as follows:

<u>FTE</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Building</u>
1.25 FTE	Title I	Bridgewater
.2 FTE	FACS	High School
.1 FTE	Industrial Technology	High School
.4 FTE	Science	Middle School
.4 FTE	Math	Middle School
.6 FTE	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade English/ Language Arts	Middle School

As part of this motion, the Board also approved allocating .4 FTE from the 2009-2010 District contingency fund to be used by the High School to support Chinese 2 and 3 and German 1, so that the High School FTE allocation is not impacted by maintaining these two World Language programs. In addition, the Board approved a work session / task force to discuss and determine parameters for supporting the World Language programs and other electives. Voting 'yes' were Berthelsen, Maple, Iverson, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no'. Cirksena was absent.

2. Resolution for Termination and Non-Renewal of Probationary Licensed Staff.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution related to the termination and non-renewal of the probationary licensed teachers listed below effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Kathleen Feltes	Grade 1	1.0 FTE
Jennifer Hall	Grade 5	1.0 FTE

Voting 'yes' was Berthelsen, Maple, Iverson, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no'. Cirksena was absent.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Community Service Instructors for Summer 2009.
2. Danielle Dasheur, Special Ed Educational Assistant – PCA at the High School, 1.5 hours per day from March 23, 2009 – June 5, 2009, Class III-PCA, step 1. This is in addition to her busing position. There are no benefits with this position.
3. Co-Curricular Assignments for 2008-09.
4. Roger Jenni, Evaluator for Connected Kids Mentoring Grant, stipend of \$4,000 per year for 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11.

5. Tracy Crooks, Food Service Associate I at the High School for 3.75 hours per day, beginning April 13, 2009, entry level hourly rate for FSA I. There are no benefits with this position.
- b. Voluntary Reduction in Contract Time
  1. Angela Ekern, voluntary reduction in contract time from 0.7 to 0.5 FTE beginning with the 2009-10 school year.
- c. Leaves of Absence for 2009-10
  1. David Bly, leave of absence without pay for the first semester of the 2009-10 school year. This is in addition to his second semester leave of absence without pay, which has been approved.
  2. Troy Deden, leave of absence without pay from April 6, 2009 – June 5, 2009.
  3. Rhea Mehrkens, leave of absence without pay for the 2009-10 school year.
  4. Debra Thomforde, 0.2 leave of absence without pay for the 2009-10 school year. (Will be 0.5 FTE for the 2009-10 school year.)
  5. Mary Momberg, FMLA childcare leave full-time from on or about September 1, 2009 through on or about October 14, 2009 and 0.5 FTE from on or about October 14, 2009 through on or about November 4, 2009.
- d. Change of Assignment/Hours
  1. Lori Christophersen, transfer from 6.25 hours per day Educational Assistant– Production Room to Accounting Support Technician for 7.5 hours per day from April 26, 2009 – July 1, 2009, Class III, step 6.
- e. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
  1. Barbara Schetnan, High School Special Ed Educational Assistant, retirement effective August 31, 2009. Ms. Schetnan has been with the district since 1981.
  2. Beverly Steberg, Accounting Specialist, retirement effective June 30, 2009. Ms. Steberg has been with the District for over 32 years.
  3. Katherine Jacques, Companeros Teacher at GVP, resignation effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year.
  4. Marcia Thomas, Middle School Food Service Worker, termination effective March 27, 2009.
  5. Carol Benson, Music Teacher at Greenvale Park, retirement effective at the end of the 2008-09 school year. Ms. Benson has been with the district for 24 years.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report – April 1, 2009.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 27, 2009, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center  
Monday, May 11, 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 9:10 PM.