

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
January 25, 2010
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. 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 Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the Organizational School Board meeting held on January 11, 2010, were unanimously approved. On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 11, 2010, were unanimously approved.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

- On January 19 approximately 24 Greenvale Park Elementary School students tested Lego robots they designed, programmed and constructed in an obstacle course as part of a Lego League Tournament competition at the school. Retired engineer, Jim Sipe, facilitated the teams. First Lego League is a global program created to get children excited about science and technology.
- The Northfield High School Music Listening team comprised of seniors, Sonja Wermager, Nick Benson, and Hannah France placed 2nd at the Regional Competition. They now advance to the State Music Listening contest held at Augsburg College on February 5th.
- The One Act Plays open on January 29th and 30th. The Play begins at 7:00 pm. Admission is \$6 for Adults and \$4.00 for Students.
- The Boys Swimming and Diving team won the Section 1AA True Team Championship on Saturday. They are now advancing to the True State Meet at the U of M this Saturday.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Sibley Elementary School Professional Learning Community (PLC) Report.

The Board viewed a DVD created by Middle School Media Specialist Amy Sieve that highlighted the work being done in the Sibley Fifth Grade PLC and how those efforts directly impacted the instruction of students in their classrooms. Sibley Staff Paula Baragary, Becky Gainey and Tania Will were featured, and they and Principal Scott Sannes answered questions from the Board about the work of their PLC.

2. Prairie Creek Community School Annual Report.

Caroline Jones, Director of Prairie Creek Community School, presented a review of Prairie Creek's seventh year of operation as a charter school under the sponsorship of the Northfield Public Schools. During the 2008-2009 school year, Prairie Creek's enrollment was 120 students in kindergarten through grade 5. This year, 178 students are enrolled. A highlight of the last school year was the celebration of Prairie Creek's 25th year of operation.

3. School District's Bond Rating.

Northfield Public Schools' bond rating was increased last week from an "A3" to an "AA+". This rating is a measure of the investment quality of the District's bonds, and is based on the financial strength and stability of the District. This rating upgrade places the District in an elite category. Only 5 other Minnesota school districts currently have a credit rating that high: Edina, Bloomington, Minnetonka, Rochester and Wayzata. It is one grade below an AAA,

the highest rating. The AA+ bond rating will help reduce the cost of refinancing current school debt. Kristin Hanson, Financial Advisor for Ehlers Inc., presented to the Board of Education and Administration of the Northfield School District a General Obligation School Building Refunding Bond in recognition of Standard & Poor's assignment of an AA+ credit rating to the District's Series 2010A Bonds. Accepting the plaque on behalf of the District was Business Manager Tom Stringer.

4. Schools for Energy Education (SEE) Program Update.

The Northfield Public Schools signed a two-year commitment to focus on making sustainable operational and behavioral changes in staff in order to reduce energy costs. Year one is complete and the results have been verified. Tom Mathieu from SEE reviewed the highlights for the first year, which were quite impressive. Overall, the District reduced its energy use by 9% in the first year, resulting in an approximate savings of \$71,644!

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Refunding General Obligation Bonds.

On a motion by Berthelsen, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Ratifying the Award of the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2010A. Voting 'yes' were Berthelsen, Maple, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments**

a. Appointments**

1. Clarice Grabau, Long-Term Substitute Middle School Youth Center Site Leader, beginning 1/25/10 through 4/5/10, \$15.54/hour.
2. Patrick Riley, Middle School Assistant Track Coach, Level I (step 1).

b. Leave of Absence

1. Kevin Dahle, was granted a 1.0 FTE Legislative Leave of Absence without pay from 1/1/11 through the end of the 2010-11 school year.

c. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Dennis Piper, Mail Delivery/Custodian, decrease from 8 hrs./day to Mail Delivery only, 5 hrs./day, effective 1/11/10.
2. Dan Warner, Temporary District Grounds Coordinator, transfer to Custodian Engineer at Sibley, effective 1/11/10 through 3/1/10.
3. Dan Warner, Custodian Engineer at Sibley, transferring to Head Custodian at Sibley, effective 3/2/10.
4. Lois Kelly, Speech/Language Assistant at Middle School, from 8 hrs./week to 14 hrs./week Speech/Language Assistant at Longfellow, beginning 1/26/10 through 6/11/10.
5. Margaret Colangelo, Site Specialist at Middle School, increase from 19 hrs./week to 20 hrs./week, effective 1/18/10 through 6/11/10.
6. Ashley Evans, Early Ventures Site Assistant at Longfellow, increase from 34.5 hrs./week to 37 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.

7. Anna Kelly, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow, decrease from 18.75 hrs./week to 16.5 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.
8. Charmane Olson, KidVentures Site Assistant at Bridgewater, increase from 13.5 hrs./week to 21 hrs./week, effective 1/4/10.
9. Amy Sherwood, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow, increase from 29 hrs./week to 32.25 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.
10. Elizabeth Stahly, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow, decrease from 30.25 hrs./week to 25 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.
11. Nicki Thompson, EarlyVentures and KidVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow, Sibley and Bridgewater, increase from 26 hrs./week to 26.75 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.
12. Crystin Voxland, EarlyVentures and KidVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow and Sibley, decrease from 40 hrs./week to 27.5 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.
13. Tammie Warner, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow, decrease from 39.25 hrs./week to 32.25 hrs./week, effective 1/15/10.
14. Shari Bridley, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA/Bus PCA, decrease from 36.55 hrs./week to 34 hrs./week, effective 1/25/10 through 6/11/09.

d. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations

1. Janet Freeman, FSA I at High School, termination effective 1/8/10.
2. BobbiJo Polzin, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School, resignation effective 1/20/10.

*Lane placement subject to verification by Professional Growth Committee.

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

2. Grant Application.

The Board approved a \$200 mini-grant request to Healthy Community Initiative to help purchase art supplies and food for an evening of the arts at Greenvale Park.

3. Financial Reports – October, November and December 2009.

The Board approved:

- Paid bills totaling \$2,307,933.99, payroll checks totaling \$2,010,768.20, bond payments of \$402.50 and the financial reports for October 2009.
- Paid bills totaling \$1,770,766.40, payroll checks totaling \$2,003,898.59 and the financial reports for November 2009. No Bond payments were made in November 2009.
- Paid bills totaling \$1,779,657.68, payroll checks totaling \$2,002,594.54 and the financial reports for December 2009. No Bond payments were made in December 2009.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Committee Assignments.

The Committee Appointments did not change from the October 12, 2009 appointments.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 8, 2010, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, February 22, 2010, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the Board adjourned at 8:15 PM.