

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
February 22, 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 7:00 PM. Stratmoen was absent.

II. Agenda Changes.

The table file was added.

III. Public Comment

Several parents who reside in the Keya Paha neighborhood asked the Board to reconsider the part of the Compañeros proposal that reassigns their students from Bridgewater to Greenvale Park Elementary School. Moving these students to Greenvale Park along with shifting Sibley area students currently attending Bridgewater back to Sibley would allow all 3 elementary schools to begin within minutes of one another. Administration agreed to review that aspect of the proposal with the Bus Company and report back to the Board.

Other parents raised questions about the lottery system, teacher quality, the transition plan, and issues with the logistics of and interaction between the Contemporary / Compañeros programs.

IV. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 8, 2010, were unanimously approved.

V. Announcements and Recognitions

- Congratulations to our middle school spellers who competed in the regional spelling bee competition: Maddi Miller, Rebecca Benjamin, Olivia Riggings, and Amber Barksdale.
- Bridgewater students raised \$2340.83 for Pennies for Patients.
- The NHS Gymnastics team won the Section 1AA team championships and is headed to the State Gymnastics meet. The following individuals qualified: Abby Stets, Rachel Henrickson, Sveta Mason, and Meghan Howell.
- The NHS Wrestling team is making its first ever state tournament trip as a team winning the Section 2AAA Championship.
- Morgan Zabel is the career Basketball point leader at NHS. She broke both the girls and boys records in the same game against New Prague.
- Northfield High School received a \$1,330 donation from the offensive line of the St. Louis Rams. This gift is to be used to support the Pure Performance Program in conjunction with the Brent Setterstrom Memorial fund.
- A large group of high school orchestra, band and choir students participated in the All-State event held at Orchestra Hall.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Compañeros Proposal Discussion.

The Compañeros discussion began with an overview of the work of the review committee over the last 18 months, a description of the proposals shared with the community in November/December 2009 and the modified proposal presented to the Board at its February 8th meeting. This was followed by a review of the questions about the proposal received from individual Board members and others, and answers to those questions as developed by committee members.

2. Financial Forecast and Budget Assumptions for the Development of the 2010-2011 Budget.

Tom Stringer presented the financial forecast model and highlighted the assumptions that will be used for the development of next year's budget. The Financial Advisory Committee of the School Board met on February 11 and reviewed the following topics:

- K-12 enrollment projections
- On-going cost containment measures in the General, Operating Capital and Debt Service funds
- The current biennium State aid funding
- The Governor's unallotments
- The recent AA+ Bond Rating
- Highlights from the State's November 2009 forecast. The February 2010 forecast is due out from the State of Minnesota in early March.
- General Fund forecast model thru 2016

The following budget assumptions are included in the current forecast:

- Stay the course in cost containment and reduction of expenses
- Stable/slight decline in K-12 enrollment
- No increase in the General Education revenue formula
- No increase in Federal revenue
- No increase in State special education revenue
- Operating referendum of \$1,180 per pupil thru 2013-14 with inflation
- A freeze in salary schedules and step increases
- Maintain a minimum of 5% of expenditures in the undesignated-unreserved fund balance
- Maintain the current teacher staffing ratio
- An annual contingency to address class size of \$150,000

No Board action was required

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. 2010-2011 School Year Calendar.

On a motion by Maple, seconded by Pritchard, the Board unanimously approved the 2010-2011 school year calendar as presented. It is anticipated that staff development using Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) on a weekly basis during regular school hours throughout the school year will be continued in the 2010-2011 school year although adjustments in the day, time and transportation may be modified based on feedback gathered in March. Iverson clarified that if the Board were to determine that the weekly PLCs cannot be maintained, the administration would recommend a biweekly or monthly 2 hour early release or late start block that would provide a more limited PLC opportunity. Since the District would not return to a less effective every other month full day workshop day that included PLC time, the calendar approved would not be affected since the number of student contact days would be unchanged.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Grant Application.

The two-year grant request to the Minnesota State Arts Board for \$18,600 was approved by the Board. Fourth Grade Teachers at Greenvale Park are submitting it for their project titled "Circus of the States."

2. Personnel Items.

a. Leaves of Absence

1. Karen Koester, Leave of Absence without pay, from May 3-14, 2010.
2. Cindy Huschle, FMLA Leave on an intermittent basis from 2/11/10 through 6/11/10.

- b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 - 1. Sandy Valek, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA 6.75 hrs./day, additional .25 hrs./day Supervisory Educational Assistant, total of 7.0 hrs./day, from 2/12/10 through 6/11/10, \$14.31/hr.
 - 2. Deb Edge, Supervisory Educational Assistant/Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, reduce .25 hrs./day Supervisory Educational Assistant and increase Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA 1 hr./day, total of 7.75 hrs./day, effective 2/12/10 through 6/11/10, \$14.99/hr.
 - 3. Martha Waddell, Supervisory Educational Assistant/Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, reduce .25 hrs./day Supervisory EA and add 1 hr./day as Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA + Bus, total of 7.75 hrs./day, from 2/12/10 through 6/11/10, \$14.57/hr.
 - 4. Betty Kline, Custodian at the High School, transfer to Custodial Engineer at Sibley Elementary, beginning 3/2/10, \$18.92/hr.
- c. Retirement / Resignation
 - 1. Wanda Larsen, Grade 3 Teacher at Sibley Elementary, retirement effective June 16, 2010.
 - 2. Michael Schlottman, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, resignation effective February 15, 2010.
- d. Appointments**
 - 1. John Garvey, Long-Term Substitute for 7th Grade U.S. History, beginning on or about March 5, 2010 for 12 weeks.
 - 2. Elisabeth Hurlbert, Assistant Boys Tennis Coach, Level H (step 1).

*Lane placement subject to verification by Professional Growth Committee.

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

3. Grant Application.

The Board approved a \$15,000 Parent Training Grant request to the MN Dept. of Education. If funded, PACER and Northfield Staff will provide a series of trainings during the 2010-11 school year for parents of children and youth with disabilities to more fully understand their role in the IEP process, and training for parents and teachers to improve communication and diminish misunderstandings.

VIII. Items for Information

There were no items for information.

IX. Future Meetings

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

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

X. On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 9:59 PM.

Ellen Iverson, School Board Clerk