

**NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**School Board Minutes**

School Board Meeting  
April 12, 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. Berthelsen was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment  
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes  
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 22, 2010, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
  - Eighty students from across south central Minnesota and beyond participated in the Spring Chess Tournament on March 27 sponsored by South Central Service Cooperative and Mankato Community Education / Recreation. There were 3 students from Northfield who competed – Grace Hillmann, Jackson Hillmann and Peter Hillmann. Peter placed third at the kindergarten level. Congratulations!
  - Sibley Elementary School held their 6th Annual Beyond Words event on April 8. Beyond Words is a school-wide celebration of arts and literacy. Becky Gainey, Sibley's Literacy Coach, again coordinated the event. Roughly 1000 people attended the event, which included many activities for students as well as art work and poetry displayed by every student in the building. Each classroom created a gift basket to be part of a silent auction that evening. The auction raised \$1,575 and all of the proceeds went to the Northfield CAC's Food Shelf.
  - Stratmoen reported that the all Northfield schools art show at the Northfield Arts Guild is excellent.
  - Maple thanked Ethan Freier and the Jazz Bands for the fun swing dance.
  - Director of Buildings and Grounds Kevin Larson presented an award to the Middle School and Sibley Elementary School for outstanding achievement in energy reduction. These two buildings reached a 10% reduction in energy consumption in 2009.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. Middle School History Day Student Documentary, "War Dogs: Our Country's First Defense."  
The School Board viewed a ten-minute documentary titled, "War Dogs: Our Country's First Defense". This documentary was produced by sixth grade Middle School students Kyle Betcher and Skip Varley for the History Day regional competition last month.
  2. Middle School Professional Learning Communities Report.  
This DVD presentation showed Middle School PLCs in action. It was the sixth in a series of monthly informational reports on the implementation of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in the Northfield Public Schools. Middle School Principal Jeff Pesta and staff members Greg Sumner, Rose Turnacliff and Amy Sieve were present to answer questions.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
  - A. Items for Individual Action

1. Elementary Specialists Proposal.

On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the implementation of the elementary specialists proposal for the 2010-2011 school year partially funded by the reduction of the Contingency Fund from 3.0 to 2.5 FTE.

2. Food Service Prime Vendor Bid Award.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved awarding the prime vendor food and non-food supplies contract to Reinhart Food Service, Rogers for the school year July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011 with the option to renew for up to three additional years upon mutual agreement from the distributor and District.

3. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions and that the following programs and positions be discontinued or reduced. Voting ‘yes’ was Maple, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted ‘no.’ Berthelsen was absent.

<u>FTE</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Building</u>
.6	Math	Middle School
.2	Industrial Technology	Middle School
.1	Spanish	Middle School
.1	French	Middle School
.4	Physical Education	Middle School
.2	English	Middle School
1.4	Sixth Grade	Middle School
.2	FACS	High School
.3	Business Education	High School
.2	Language Arts	High School
.1	Science	High School
.2	Social Studies	High School

4. Revocation of School District Primary Election.

On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Revoking the School District Primary Election System. Voting ‘yes’ was Maple, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted ‘no.’ Berthelsen was absent.

5. Closed Session for the Preliminary Consideration of Allegations or Charges Against An Employee.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Quinnell, the Board unanimously approved going into a closed session for the Preliminary Consideration of Allegations or Charges Against an Employee.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Grant Request.

A \$1600 grant request from Community Services to the Rice County Public Health Improvement Plan to “teach gardening skills and nutritional and biological concepts” to students was approved.

2. Gift Agreements.

- Knecht’s Nurseries and Landscapes has donated 14 trees valued at \$1400. These trees were placed on the High School Campus as well as at Greenvale Park Elementary School.

- American Excavating, Inc. donated the use of its heavy equipment to construct the playground at Sibley Elementary School. The value of this donation is \$1850.
- The Northfield Sertoma Club has donated \$700 to be used for listening stations at Sibley Elementary School.

3. Bids for Data Wiring at Northfield High School.

The Board approved advertising and seeking bids for data cabling work at the High School this summer. This project will be presented and recommended in the capital outlay budget. The actual bid results will be presented at a future meeting for a final Board award.

4. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Karna Hauck, Long-Term Substitute High School Art Teacher, from on or about April 16, 2010 through June 14, 2010.
2. Liz Rohach, Dance Team Coach (Winter), Level C, step 1.
3. Community Services Instructors for Summer, 2010.
4. Kelly Johnson, Elementary Compañeros Teacher, beginning 8/30/2010, MA-15, step 6.
5. Thomas Malecha, Custodian at the High School, Tues.-Sat., beginning 4/8/10, Step 2, \$14.17/hr.

b. Leaves of Absence

1. Annie Oftedahl, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Greenvale Park, was granted an unpaid Leave of Absence from 9/7/10 through 12/17/10.
2. David Bly, 1.0 FTE legislative leave of absence without pay from 1/4/11 through 6/13/11.
3. Angie Ekern, .5 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.
4. Mark Ensrud, 1.0 FTE unpaid leave of absence for nine weeks, beginning in the fall of 2010.
5. Anne Erickson, 1.0 FTE leave of absence for the 2010-11 school year.
6. Nancy Fox, 1.0 FTE FMLA childcare leave of absence for the first semester of the 2010-11 school year.
7. Anne Elizabeth McLaughlin, 1.0 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.
8. Allison Meidt, 1.0 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.
9. Katherine Norrie, .4 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.
10. Katie Parks, .5 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.
11. Brian Stevens, .2 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.
12. Amanda Tracy, .2 FTE leave of absence without pay for the 2010-11 school year.

c. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Shelly Kruger, Special Ed Educational Assistant 2.0 hrs./day and Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA 4.0 hrs./day to Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA 7.0 hrs./day, effective 4/6/10, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
2. Patrick Bullard, Custodian at High School, Tues.-Sat., changing to Custodian at High School, Mon.-Fri., effective 4/8/10.
3. Mandy McWilliams, transferring from Food Service Associate II to Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the High School, 6 hrs./day, beginning 4/21/10, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
4. Amy Klein, Instructional Educational Assistant 4 hrs./day/Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA 10 hrs./week, transferring to Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the High School, 7 hrs./day, beginning 4/19/10.
5. Alexis Bloch, All Star/PLUS Student Site Assistant, increase from 4 hrs./week to 8 hrs./week, from 4/12/10 through 6/11/10.

- d. Retirements and Resignations
  1. Barbara Ekstrand, School Psychologist at Sibley and Middle School, retirement effective June 14, 2010.
  2. Janette Stromley, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective June 14, 2010.
  3. Paul Wegner, Industrial Technology Teacher at the High School, retirement effective June 30, 2010.
  4. Margaret Hogan, PLUS Site Assistant at Middle School/Site Assistant All-Star Hour at Greenvale Park, resignation effective April 2, 2010.
  5. Lacey Dorman, KidVentures Site Assistant, resignation effective April 5, 2010.
  6. Blayr Gilitiuk, PLUS Site Assistant at Bridgewater/Site Assistant All-Star Hour at Sibley, resignation effective April 9, 2010.
  7. Jeanne Duke, Site Assistant at Greenvale Park, resignation effective March 31, 2010.
  8. Mandy McWilliams, Food Service Associate II at the High School, resignation effective April 20, 2010.
- e. Returns from Leave of Absence 2010-11
  1. Dana Holden, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2010-11 school year.
  2. Marilynn Neuville, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2010-11 school year.
  3. Deb Thomforde, return to .7 FTE beginning 2010-11 school year.
  4. Lisa Weis, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2010-11 school year.
- f. Job Share Arrangement for 2010-11
  1. Continue job share arrangement for Gail Kohl (.75 FTE) and Connie Nelson (.25 FTE) for the 2010-11 school year.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Volunteer Proclamation.  
The Volunteer Proclamation provided by Community Services was read. Public School Volunteer Week is April 18 – 24, 2010.
2. Enrollment Report – April 2010.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 26, 2010, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center  
Monday, May 10, 2010, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. Closed Session

At 8:15 PM the Board went into a closed session to consider allegations or charges against an employee. At 8:55 PM, on a motion by Stratmoen, seconded Maple, the Board approved coming out of closed session. Then, on a motion Quinnell, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved amending the agenda to add a Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of a Teaching Contract at the close of the 2009-2010 School year.

On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Pritchard, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Relating to the Termination and Non-Renewal of the Teaching Contract of Susan M. Mwarabu at the close of the 2009-2010 school year and to continue Ms. Mwarabu on paid administrative leave through the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year. Voting 'yes' was Iverson, Maple, Nelson, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. No one voted 'no.' Berthelsen was absent.

XI. Adjournment.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 9:12 PM.