

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting  
May 10, 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.
- II. Agenda Changes.  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment  
Ray Coudret, President of the Northfield Education Association, thanked the Board for their vision regarding Professional Learning Communities. Teaching staff are now able to do things they would never be able to do otherwise. Mr. Coudret stated that the School District has realized a return on its investment in PLCs.
- IV. Approval of Minutes  
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on April 26, 2010, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions  
There was a moment of silence in honor of Jenny Lamont, a Greenvale Park teacher, who passed away last weekend.
  - Congratulations to High School German Teacher Deborah Winkelman on being selected as one of the top 14 Minnesota German teachers at St. John's University and the College of Saint Benedict's recent German Awards Banquet.
  - On May 2<sup>nd</sup> over 200 Northfield High School juniors and seniors were honored for their academic performance having achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher. That same afternoon over \$70,000 in scholarships were awarded to seniors who are pursuing advanced study. And finally, the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award was given to Sarah Johnson, who graduated from Northfield High School in 1974.
  - Congratulations to James Hores who is a senior at the Area Learning Center, for winning the "Peoples Choice" and "Best in Show" awards at the Arts ala Carte event at Northfield High School on April 23<sup>rd</sup> for his drawing entitled, "Jesse Waltman."
  - Twenty-two students from our 6th grade Amistades team attended a 2-day overnight field trip recently at "The Forest," a new facility of Concordia Language Villages near Marine On St. Croix, April 27-28<sup>th</sup>. They learned a lot of Spanish and about the cultures of Latin American countries and Spain. This trip is a more affordable opportunity for Northfield students.
  - Congratulations to all Northfield students who participated in State History Day on Saturday, May 1! From the middle school, Katie Wagner received an honorable mention for her individual documentary on Louis Braille. Skip Varley and Kyle Betcher received an honorable mention for their group documentary on War Dogs. The participation of all these middle school students in History Day demonstrates the growth that the middle school has made in enrichment opportunities for its students.
  - The Tattered Pages bookstore, housed in the Middle School Media Center, has enjoyed another huge success with its "Third Annual Mother's Day Sale". Close to 500 books were sold, with coupons, and beautifully gift wrapped for our students to give as Mother's Day gifts to their moms, grandmas, aunts, and friends. Additionally, the Minnesota Middle School Association has awarded Amy Sieve and The Tattered Pages a grant in the amount of \$500.00 to be used for purchasing books, for the bookstore, in Spanish.
  - On April 27th Sibley Elementary School hosted an open house for the 60-plus students who will be transferring to Sibley next fall from Bridgewater Elementary School. During the school day, nineteen fourth and fifth grade students acted as tour guides and led small groups of the future Sibley students

through the building. Later that evening, those future students were invited back to Sibley where they acted as tour guides for their families. Well over half of the Sibley teaching staff was there for the evening event to welcome the transferring students and their families.

- Bridgewater held an Earth Day Assembly on April 23rd. The students performed skits and sang songs honoring our Earth and all that it has provided for us. During the week, students did various activities from the "Trash Free Tuesday Lunch Challenge" to the "Great Garbage Grab" where students collected over 550 pounds of trash from the grounds at Bridgewater, the High School and the middle school.
- The fifth grade band students went on tour last Thursday with Mr. Jenni and Mr. Beck. The students traveled to Hudson, Wisconsin and performed for two elementary schools. They went to the Como Park Zoo for entertainment, and back to Northfield for a 3:00 p.m concert as well as a 6:40 p.m. concert in conjunction with the 4th and 5th grade choir for the parents.
- On April 29th, Bridgewater held the Go Green Family Night & Learning Fair. Student projects were displayed for parents to view. A third grade Garage Sale was held with all proceeds going to the Prairie's Edge Humane Society. The Cafe' was also open and run by third grade entrepreneurs.
- A huge Thank You to the Bridgewater PTO for providing treats for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week!
- May 6-12 is National Nurses Week. Thank you to all of the nurses that care for our students every day from the tooth that came loose to the scraped knees from running too fast at recess!
- Our Raiders Softball team participated in the Lourdes Softball Classic in Rochester on Saturday, May 1. This tournament benefited a Lourdes student who is dealing with bone cancer. Each team that participated in the tournament did something to raise funds. Northfield raised money by decorating jars and collected change at school and raffled Twins tickets resulting in \$800 raised. The Northfield Raiders were the champions.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Proposed Dental Insurance Budget for 2010-2011.

Director of Business Affairs Tom Stringer presented the proposed 2010-11 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. The proposed budget includes an increase in annual plan benefits of \$200 as well as an increase of \$250 in the lifetime cap for orthodontics. There is no rate increase proposed for next year due to sufficient reserves. No Board action was required at Monday's meeting.

2. Proposed Community Services Budget for 2010-2011.

The Community Services Advisory Council approved the recommendation of the Community Services 2010-2011 Preliminary Budget that was presented to the School Board. The budget reflects total revenues of \$1,790,921 and expenditures of \$1,744,543 with an anticipated June 30, 2011 fund balance of \$63,952.00. The budget reflects the elimination of the current School Site Specialists, which will be replaced by a small allocation of funds to each elementary school and the middle school to support the school's individual plans for volunteer involvement at each school. The budget also reflects the anticipated Agreement with the City of Northfield and the school district for the administration of the community's recreation program. It is anticipated that the City's contribution will be reduced considerably due to its financial situation.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Professional Learning Communities for 2010-2011 School Year.

Pritchard said parents need specifics on how PLCs are impacting their children. Iverson agreed and asked administrators for more incremental measurements of PLC work.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Pritchard, the Board unanimously approved the Professional Learning Communities Plan for 2010-11 as presented:

1. Maintain Wednesday for the PLC day.
2. Move to a one-hour late start for all students K-12 so that both elementary and secondary staff work in their PLCs each Wednesday morning.
3. Run buses one hour late each Wednesday so as to arrive at each building shortly before school starts. Since there will be no early bus transportation, there will be no supervised activities for students except those that are currently provided through the Kid Ventures program. A \$2.00 per week alternative for parents requiring supervision during the PLC hour will be available through the Kid Ventures program.

B. Items for Consent Grouping.

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

1. Financial Reports.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,550,674.98, payroll checks totaling \$1,978,375.53, bond payments of \$1,236.25 and the financial reports for March 2010.

2. Student Activity Account Transfer for Dance Team.

The Board approved the transfer of up to \$1800 from the Dance Team Student Activity Account during the 2010-2011 school year into a payroll account to pay for an additional dance team coach (JV assistant coach). No school funds will be used to pay this stipend.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*\*

1. Kathryn Shorma, Grade 1 Compañeros Teacher at Sibley Elementary, beginning 8/30/10, BA-0.
2. Laurie Taschler, Recreation Programming Intern for Community Services, beginning approximately 6/1/10 through 8/27/10, \$13.08/hour.
3. Kevin Dahle, LTS Social Studies Teacher at the High School, beginning on or about 6/6/10 through 6/14/10, MA-17.
4. \*Correction: Kelly Johnson, Elementary Compañeros Teacher, beginning 8/30/10, \*MA-30, step 6. (not MA-15-step 6)
5. Allison Bartron, Long-Term Substitute Grade 1 Teacher at Sibley Elementary, beginning 8/30/10, BA-0.
6. Becky Gainey, Long-term Substitute Grade 4 Teacher at Sibley Elementary, from 8/31/2010 through 6/13/11, MA-9.
7. Emily Peterson, Summer Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/10/10 through August, 2010, \$10.00/hr.
8. Jared Stowe, Summer Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/10/10 through August, 2010, \$9.75/hr.
9. David Piper, Summer Maintenance Worker, beginning 6/15/10 through August, 2010, \$10.00/hr.

b. Leave of Absence

1. Dana Jans, KidVentures Site Lead at Greenvale, leave of absence, from on or about 8/20/10 through 10/31/10.

c. Return from Leave of Absence 2010-11

1. Amanda Heinritz, return to 1.0 FTE beginning 2010-11 school year.

- d. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
  1. Ann Hehr, .5 FTE Media/.5 FTE Grade 5 at Sibley, transferring to 1.0 FTE Media Specialist at Sibley, effective 8/31/10.
  2. Beth Revels, Long-term Substitute Food Service I at Greenvale, 3.75 hrs./day from 4/19/10 through 6/11/10, \$13.55/hour.
  3. Rose Brison, transfer from 3.75 hrs./day Food Service I at the High School to 5.75 hrs./day Temporary Food Service II at the High School, effective 5/3/10 through 6/11/10, \$14.50/hour.
  4. MaryDee Kuklok, Deaf/HH Teacher, additional 45 min./day, 3 days/week for 24 days, from 4/15/10 through 6/11/10, \$41.24/hour for an additional 18 hours.
- e. Retirements/Resignations/Terminations
  1. Kaci Rendahl, Occupational Therapist, resignation effective 6/14/10.
  2. Jayne Tischler, Food Service Associate II at the High School, resignation effective 4/30/10.
  3. Sandra Valek, Supervisory/Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, retirement effective June 11, 2010.

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Tenure Status 2010-11

Stephanie Grundman, Jacie Haroldson, Heather Livesay, Ryan Pietsch, Patrick Riley, Katherine Seifert, Abby Swanson

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Third Year Probationary Status

Ruben Alvarez, Paula Bargary, Allison Bartron, Elizabeth Foster, Jill Heasley, Kasha Kluczny, Ashley Northrup, Corrine Oian, Heather Olivier, Jamie Rausch, John Sand, Anthony Seidl, Melissa Spitzack, Amy Tacheny, Lisa Weis

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Second Year Probationary Status

Angela Blewett, Natalie Dimberg, Carrie Duba, Ann Dybvik, Roberto Garcia, Darren Lofquist, Anne Morrissey, Leslee Swenson

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Revisions to Policy and Procedures 902 – Use of School District Facilities and Equipment.  
The Community Services Advisory Council is recommending the changes in fees to the School Board for approval. The fees that have been changed are 1) those that were not rounded up to the next even dollar amount, or 2) were not consistent for space. The application fee is raised from \$20 to \$30 in order to cover the annual cost of the scheduling software fees. Only the fees are required by the facility policy to be approved by the School Board. The Board will act on these proposed changes at its May 24, 2010 meeting.
2. State Deficit Article from MSBA Journal.
3. Enrollment Report – May 2010.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, May 24, 2010, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center  
Monday, June 14, 2010, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. Adjournment.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 8:45 PM.