

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Meeting
February 14, 2011
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Board Chair Kari Nelson called the regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education to order at 7:00 PM. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes.
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment.
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes.
Quinnell moved and Pritchard seconded that the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 24, 2011, be approved. Nelson moved that the minutes be amended so that the questions posed by Mr. Coudret and answered by him are placed in quotation marks to clarify that these are Mr. Coudret's questions and answers. Pritchard seconded. The minutes of the January 24, 2011, School Board meeting were then unanimously approved as amended.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions.
 - The second grade class at Greenvale Park has received Legacy Field Trip Support Funds from the Minnesota Historical Society to offset their transportation costs to the Mill City Museum later this Spring. These funds are made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.
 - In January, 113 Northfield High School music students participated in the Region 1AA Solo & Ensemble Contest. Students performed solos, and/or ensemble pieces. Our music students received 81 superior ratings and 23 excellent ratings. A few highlights include the "Best in Site" winners - the Madrigal Singers, Victoria Erickson & Kat Middeldorp (both for solos and as a duet), Connor Fink, Rachel Crippen and Spencer Johnson. Also congratulations to the following orchestra students for their fine performances: Emily Bristol (viola & string duet), Muriel Carpenter (double bass), Eve Grabau (violin & string duet), Ian Iverson (double bass), Cameron Judge-Becker (violin), Parker Ousley (cello), Sarah Sneider (cello) and Chen Ye (violin).
 - The Northfield High School Music Listening Teams last month upheld its long tradition of top performances. Ten teams from six different high schools participated in Northfield's region, and at the end of five rounds, Northfield placed first and second. Northfield Team One — seniors Sara Larson, Anastasia Campion and Elena Ondich earned 74 points. Northfield Team Two — senior Martha Meyer and juniors Dana O'Donnell and Stephen Cox earned 63 points. Because only one team may represent a school at the State contest, Team One advanced to state. Northfield is the 2010 state champion. Both squads are coached by Karen Madsen.
 - Eight Northfield High School students captured gold at the regional Science Olympiad competition, while NHS took first and second in the wind power category. Both of our squads qualified for state. Only the Maroon Team, which placed second, moves forward as competition rules allow only one team from each high school can participate at state. Susan Singer serves as coach for Science Olympiad.
 - We are pleased to announce that all five National Merit Semi-Finalists have now advanced to the Finalist level of the competition. These students are Atticus Christensen, Merrill Lutsky, Lily O'Hara-Brantner, Haley Ryan and Lauren Wustenberg.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. An Update on What It Will Take to Balance the State's Budget.
Superintendent Richardson provided an update on the presentation he provided to the Board last spring about the State of Minnesota's current \$6.2 billion dollar budget deficit and the magnitude of additional cuts, shifts and new taxes needed to achieve a balanced budget for the 2011-13 biennium as required by the Constitution. The Superintendent also shared an update about education bills currently moving through the Legislature and their potential impact on the School District.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Community Services Budget Revisions.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Quinnell, the Board unanimously approved the revised FY 2011 Community Services budget with projected revenues of \$1,824,980.00 and expenditures of \$1,770,774.00 resulting in an anticipated positive fund balance of \$24,852.00 as of June 30, 2011.

2. Resolution Requiring the Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding Programming and Staffing for Next Year.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to make recommendations for additions and reductions in program and for adding or discontinuing positions. Voting 'yes' was Fossum, Maple, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Debra Pack, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the High School, 6.75 hrs./day, beginning 2/2/11, Class III, step 3, \$13.94/hour.
2. Gretchen Lilly, Middle School Office Specialist, 4 hrs./day, beginning 2/4/11, Class III, step 1, \$16.15/hour.
3. Rhonda Stanley, Instructional Educational Assistant at Greenvale, 2 hrs./day, beginning 2/7/11 through 6/10/11, Class II, step 1, \$12.85/hour.
4. Amanda Story, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Longfellow, 7 hrs./week, beginning 2/8/11 through 6/10/11, Class III, step 3, \$13.94/hour.
5. Sarah McGivern, PLUS Site Assistant at Greenvale, 8 hrs./week, beginning 2/10/11 through 4/28/11, Step 1, \$11.03/hour.
6. Jessica Jessen, 1.0 FTE Long-Term Substitute Media Specialist at Sibley, beginning on or about 3/19/11 for twelve work weeks, BA-0.
7. Amy Gerdesmeier, Site Assistant at Sibley KidVentures, 11.75 hrs./week, beginning 2/14/11, Step 1, \$11.03/hour.
8. Michelle Steele, Middle School Boys Tennis Assistant, Level 1, step 10.
9. Co-Curricular assignments for February were approved.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Jason Hallen, Instructional Educational Assistant at the High School, decrease from 3 hrs./day to 2 hrs./10 min./day, beginning 1/31/11 through 6/10/11.
2. Nicki Thompson, Long-Term Substitute Site Leader at Greenvale, 5.35 hrs./day, transfer to Site Assistant at EarlyVentures and Sibley, 7 hrs./day beginning 11/1/10.
3. Lindsay Wright, .25 hrs./day Supervisory/6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Middle School, decrease Supervisory hours from .25 hrs./day to 0 hrs./day, beginning 1/19/11 through 6/10/11.
4. Lindsay Wright, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Middle School, decrease to 4 hrs./day beginning 1/27/11 through 6/10/11.
5. Angie Nielsen, .5 hrs./day Supervisory/4.0 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant at Greenvale, increase to 2.5 hrs./day Supervisory/4.0 Special Ed Educational Assistant, beginning 1/28/11.
6. Jane Ehlers, School Nurse at Sibley, increase from 7 hrs./day to 7.5 hrs./day beginning 1/31/11 through 6/13/11.
7. Kathleen Malecha, 2 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Bridgewater, increase to 3.25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, beginning 1/3/11 through 6/10/11.
8. Kelle Edwards, 5.75 hrs/day Special Ed Educational Assistant ending 6/10/11 and 1.25 hrs./day Supervisory Educational Assistant ending 6/10/11. Change to 3.25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant through 6/10/11; 2.5 hrs. Special Ed Educational Assistant on-going hours; 1.25 hrs./day Supervisory Educational Assistant ending 6/10/11.

9. LaDonna Miller, 5.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant ending 6/10/11 and 1.25 hrs./day Supervisory Educational Assistant ending 6/10/11. Change to 3.25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant through 6/10/11; 2.5 hrs. Special Ed Educational Assistant on-going hours; 1.25 hrs./day Supervisory Educational Assistant ending 6/10/11.
 10. Dianne Peterson, .91 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA Bus, increase 65 min./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA Bus at Sibley, beginning 2/8/11 through 6/10/11.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Karen Johnson, intermittent FMLA leave of absence beginning 2/16/11 for up to 480 annual hours.
 2. Bonnie Pape, amending childcare leave of absence from 10/25/10 through 3/1/11 to 10/25/10 through 2/9/11.
 3. Maggie Goldade, childcare leave of absence beginning on or about 6/2/11 through 6/13/11.
- d. Resignation
1. Gregory Wahlberg, Middle School Youth Center Site Assistant, resignation effective 2/3/11.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. 2011-2012 School Year Calendar.

A copy of the 2011-12 School Year calendar as recommended by the District Meet and Confer Committee, which met on February 2, 2011, was given to the Board. The calendar maintains 174 student contact days, responds to the issues identified by parents and staff, and reflects the interests identified by the District during the calendar development process. Nelson asked that the 2012 commencement date and time be noted on the calendar. The Board will take action on the proposed 2011-2012 school year calendar at its meeting on February 28, 2011.

2. Budget Reduction Teams.

A list of the members of each Budget Reduction Team, including when and where they are scheduled to meet, was given to the Board. Approximately 120 people (parents and staff) are involved on the five teams. The agenda for the District Budget Review Committee was reviewed. This Committee will meet on March 2, from 3:45 PM – 9 PM. Superintendent Richardson encouraged Board members to attend as observers. A Public Hearing is scheduled for March 16 at 7 PM. The Board will make its decision regarding budget reductions at its April 11 meeting.

3. Educational Assistant Recognition Week, February 28 – March 4, 2011.

Governor Mark Dayton has proclaimed the week of February 28 – March 4 as Educational Assistant Recognition Week. Buildings will recognize the contributions of educational assistants during the week of February 28.

4. Enrollment Report – February 2011.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 28, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, March 14, 2011, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk