

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

May 9, 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 PM. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
Frank Balster, a parent that has two children who attend Bridgewater Elementary School, asked the Board to reconsider moving Special Education Teacher Mary Momberg and Social Worker Heather Ims to the Middle School.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Maple, seconded by Iverson, the minutes of the April 25, 2011, Regular School Board meeting were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - The middle school's record number of State History Day qualifiers also came away with the highest number of students earning recognition ever. Bonnie Hoekstra, Alaina Falck, Andrea Turnheer, Amelia Weir, Jake Rossmiller, Luke Schewe, and Jackson Hillmann were all awarded an honorable mention distinction for their projects.
 - Northfield Middle School will be recognized by the Minnesota Department of Education and the Center for Academic Excellence with a Promising Practice Award. The award is based on the progress of the Middle School's Site Improvement Team's Climate Goal to reduce disciplinary referrals and keep students in the classroom learning with their peers.
 - Middle School 6th grade teacher Chris O'Neill talked about the March 11 earthquake and subsequent tsunami devastation in Japan with his sixth-grade social studies classes. He also read to them an article about the Paper Cranes for Japan Project. The project, which is a joint effort of DoSomething.org and Students Rebuild, encouraged students from around the world to fold 100,000 origami cranes to help their peers in Japan. For each crane folded, the Bezos Family Foundation would donate \$2 to Architecture for Humanity, an organization that helps rebuilding efforts in disaster areas. Mr. O'Neill challenged his students to make 100 cranes per class in one week's time. When the week was finished, the three social studies classes had folded, packed up and mailed 1600 paper cranes, essentially sending \$3200 to help people in Japan.
 - Several NHS music students will be participating in the 2012 All-State Music Ensembles. These students were selected from over 1,800 student auditions. They will participate in a one-week camp in August and at the annual MMEA Midwinter Clinic in February 2012. Congratulations to these 2012 All-State Musicians: All-State Orchestra: Emily Bristol, viola; Muriel Carpenter, double bass; Eve Grabau, violin; Devyn Gardner, clarinet. All-State Band: Stephen Cox, bass clarinet; Reggie Young, tenor sax; Jenna Otto, French horn; Seth Hanson, trombone – alternate; Wes Braker, tuba – alternate. All-State Choir: Max Nygren - Tenor I; Spencer Johnson - Tenor II; Sullivan Ojala-Helmbolt - Bass II; Connor Rowley - Tenor II; Mark Lewis - Bass I; Peter Duba – Alternate.
 - Congratulations to junior Katie Moors! She came in 2nd in state and 10th in the nation for the Stock Market Game's essay contest! Katie participated in the Stock Market Game through the Business Finance class.
 - NHS senior Atticus Christensen was named a National Merit Scholarship winner. Atticus will receive a \$2,500 scholarship that can be used at any accredited U.S. college or university. Atticus was one of 5 national merit semi-finalists at Northfield High School.
 - This week is Nurse's Appreciation Week. Thank you to all of our nurses!
 - Stratmoen attended the Spring HS Theater production of "Lie, Cheat, and Genuflect". It was an amazing performance by 8 very talented performers.
 - John Sletten, NHS Class of 1950, was recognized May 1 as the 2011 winner of the NHS Distinguished Alumnus Award. Presented at the annual Academic Awards program, the award is

intended to honor NHS alumni who have made significant contributions in service, vocation and avocation to their community, society or humanity.

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Self-Funded Health Insurance Presentation.

The District's Benefits Advisory Committee has reviewed recent health insurance renewal proposals and is recommending the District pursue a self-funded health insurance plan. Tim Moore, a District consultant with Corporate Health Systems, provided details on the selected self-funding plan as well as background regarding self-funding concepts. Areas specifically addressed included risks associated with self-funding and tools utilized to mitigate risk and protect employees and employers. Matt Hillmann, Director of Human Resources and Technology, provided information related to the history of the District's current insurance plan structure and long-term benefits to employees and the District. Stephanie Shawback, Director of Business Services, presented funding strategies that would allow for implementation of the self-funded plan. Administration requested the School Board's consideration of this proposal and to take action at the May 23, 2011 Regular School Board meeting.

2. Proposed Operating Capital and Health & Safety Budgets for 2011-12.

Stephanie Shawback and Matt Hillmann presented the proposed 2011-12 Capital and Health & Safety budgets. These budgets are part of the District's General Fund, but require separate accounting and fund balance reserves. A comprehensive preliminary budget for all funds will be presented for approval in June; however, because of the short timeline to complete projects in the summer months before school starts in the fall, administration requested approval of the operating capital portion of the budget at the May 23, 2011 meeting.

3. Results From Bridgewater's First Grade Flexible Grouping.

Bridgewater Principal Nancy Antoine illustrated the benefit of flexible grouping by presenting charts that showed the growth in the reading level of first graders from the beginning of the year to April.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Item for Individual Action

1. Request to Transfer Property from the Northfield School District to the Cannon Falls School District.

The District received a request dated May 3, 2011 from Jake and Amy Halling to transfer property currently in the Northfield School District to the Cannon Falls School District. Their property is located south of the intersection of Minnesota Highway 19 and Minnesota State Highway 56 on the east side of Minnesota State Highway 56 and has been part of the Northfield School District since consolidation in the mid 1900's. According to Halling's request, they did not verify with Goodhue County, Northfield School District or Cannon Falls School District when purchasing the property which school district their property is located, although it is clear the Hallings knew they were in the Northfield School District when they requested to open enroll their oldest child into the Cannon Falls School District on March 24, 2010. State statute requires that the School Board of the District in which the area proposed for detachment lies must consent to the petition to detach the property. Because consent to this petition would result in the detachment of property that would reduce the total property valuation of the Northfield School District and result in increased taxes for the remaining property owners in the Northfield School District, it is never in the best interest of a school district to allow the detachment of property. Failure of the purchaser to exercise due diligence in determining the school district in which property is located before making a purchase should not be a reason to modify school district boundaries that have been in place for decades.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple the Board unanimously denied the petition by Jake and Amy Halling dated May 3, 2011, to detach property at 35670 Highway 56 Boulevard, Dennison, MN from the Northfield School District and annex the land to the Cannon Falls School District.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

Superintendent's Recommendation: On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously approved the following items listed under the Consent Grouping.

1. Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement Setting IV Special Education Programs. This Agreement replaces the current Day Treatment Agreement between Faribault Public Schools and Northfield Public Schools and reflects the new facility for the program, as well as an expansion of Level IV services.
2. Grant Request.
A grant request from Early Childhood Family Education to SMIF was approved. They are requesting a stipended volunteer from AmeriCorps to assist them with their Family School. In return, ECFE and Hand in Hand will pay a \$1500 stipend to SMIF.
3. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments*
 1. Janet Gannon, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Sibley, 6.75 hours/day beginning 5/4/11 through 5/30/11, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hour.
 2. Karna Hauck, .30 FTE Elementary Art Teacher/.45 FTE Long-Term Substitute Elementary Art Teacher at Sibley, beginning 8/30/2011 through 6/4/12, MA-10, subject to revision after the 2011-13 contract is settled.
 3. Stephanie Mahal, .80 FTE Occupational Therapist at Sibley / Middle School beginning 8/30/11, MA-2, subject to revision after the 2011-13 contract is settled.
 4. Nicki Thompson, SummerVentures Site Instructor at Longfellow, up to 7 hours/week Mon.-Fri., beginning 6/13/11 through 8/26/11, \$12.67/hour.
 5. Crystin Voxland, SummerVentures Site Instructor at Longfellow, up to 7 hours/week Mon.-Fri., beginning 6/13/11 through 8/26/11, \$12.67/hour.
 6. William Kaul, Summer Maintenance & Grounds Worker, beginning 5/2/11 through Fall 2011, \$12.00/hour.
 7. Jessica Jessen, High School Dance Team Assistant Coach, Level F, step 1.
 8. Community Services Summer Instructors for 2011 were approved.
 9. Kyle Eastman, Long-Term Substitute Choir Teacher at the High School, beginning 8/29/11 through 6/2013, MA-6, subject to revision after the 2011-13 contract is settled.
 10. Lucinda Laabs, Child Nutrition Associate II at Middle School, 5 hours/day beginning 6/14/11 through 8/26/11, \$14.00/hour.
 11. Shari Malecha, Child Nutrition Associate II at Middle School, 3.75 hours/day beginning 6/20/11 through 7/28/11, \$14.00/hour.
 12. Jeffrey Fowler, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/9/11 through August, 2011, \$9.25/hour.
 13. Jared Stowe, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/9/11 through August, 2011, \$10.00/hour.
 14. Matthew Bettinger, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/16/11 through August, 2011, \$9.25/hour.
 15. Allison Lyman, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/23/11 through August, 2011, \$9.25/hour.
 16. Leif Bade, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 5/26/11 through August, 2011, \$9.25/hour.
 - b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 1. Sarah Dimick, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA / Bus PCA at Sibley, decrease 1.33 hours/day Bus PCA beginning 4/25/11 through 6/10/11.
 2. Dianne Peterson, Special Ed Educational Assistant Bus PCA, decrease 50 minutes/day beginning 4/20/11 through 6/10/11.
 3. Angela Timperley, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Bridgewater, increase to 2.5 hours/day beginning 4/25/11 through 6/10/11.
 4. Anne Balluff, Special Education Teacher, increase to 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at the High School beginning 8/30/11.

5. Cliff Casteel, Special Education Teacher, transfer to .5 FTE Special Education at the High School / .5 FTE Special Education at the ALC beginning 8/30/11.
 6. Peggy Fink, Special Education Teacher, increase to 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at the High School beginning 8/30/11.
 7. Heather Ims, School Social Worker at Bridgewater, transfer to Middle School beginning 8/30/11.
 8. Roanne Johnson, Special Education Teacher at Sibley, transfer to Greenvale Park beginning 8/30/11.
 9. Kasha Kluczny, Special Education Teacher at Bridgewater / Sibley, transfer to Sibley beginning 8/30/11.
 10. Melissa Larsen, School Social Worker at Middle School, transfer to Bridgewater beginning 8/30/11.
 11. Mary Momberg, Special Education-EBD Teacher at Bridgewater, transfer to Special Education-DCD Teacher at Middle School beginning 8/30/11.
 12. Ashley Northrup, School Psychologist at Bridgewater/Greenvale Park, transfer to Middle School/Greenvale beginning 8/30/11.
 13. Melissa Reed, School Psychologist at Middle School/Sibley, transfer to Bridgewater/Sibley beginning 8/30/11.
 14. Lori Peterson, Special Education Teacher at Greenvale Park, transfer to Middle School beginning 8/30/11.
 15. Michelle Sickler, Grade 6 Teacher at Middle School, transfer to Grade 5 Teacher at Greenvale Park beginning 8/30/11.
 16. Rich Guggisberg, Grade 6 Teacher at Middle School, transfer to Grade 3 Teacher at Sibley beginning 8/30/11.
 17. April Ostermann, Grade 5 Teacher at Bridgewater, transfer to Grade 5 Teacher at Sibley beginning 8/30/11.
 18. Monika Burkhead, Grade 5 Teacher at Greenvale, transfer to Grade 6 Teacher at Middle School beginning 8/30/11.
 19. Rhea Mehrkens, Grade 3 Teacher at Sibley, transfer to Grade 6 Teacher at Middle School beginning 8/30/11.
 20. Linda Kovach, Elementary GATES Teacher at BW/GVP/Sibley, transfer to Grade 6 Teacher at Middle School beginning 8/30/11.
 21. David Kamis, 1.0 Art Teacher at Middle School, transfer to .7 FTE Art Middle School / .3 FTE Art at ALC beginning 8/30/11.
 22. Dave Piper, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 6/14/11 through August, 2011, \$10.00/hour.
 23. Ann Schmidt, Summer Grounds & Maintenance Worker, beginning 6/14/11 through August, 2011, \$9.25/hour.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Cathy Bennetts, FMLA leave of absence from 4/18/11 through 4/27/11.
 2. Molly Viesselman, FMLA leave of absence from 5/10/11 through 5/31/11.
- d. Resignation
1. Melissa Coleman, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, resignation effective 5/2/11.

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Tenure Status 2011-12

Ruben Alvarez, Paula Baragary, Allison Bartron, Mairin Born, Lynn Broberg, Ryan Driscoll, Jill Heasley, Kelly Johnson, Kasha Kluczny, Ashley Northrup, Corrine Oian, Jaime Rausch, Melissa Reed, John Sand, Anthony Seidl, Melissa Spitzack, Amy Tacheny, Steve Taggart, Lisa Weis

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Third Year Probationary Status

Angela Blewett, Natalie Dimberg, Carrie Duba, Ann Dybvik, Robert Garcia, Darren Lofquist, Anne Morrissey, Mary Schmitt, Leslee Swenson, Kate Woodstrup

Advancement of Licensed Staff to Second Year Probationary Status

Paul Bernhard, Marisela Casper-Sanchez, Maggie Goldade, Amanda Kunkel, Stephanie Mahal, Jacklyn McKay, Annie Oftedahl, Kathryn Shorma, Sarah Van den Akker

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Proposed Language Addition to the Procedures for Policy 902, Use of School District Facilities and Equipment.

Director of Community Services Hannah Puczko requested that the Board consider approving a language addition to Facility Use Policy 902 at the May 23rd meeting. Typically, the Board does not approve procedures to policies. However, since this proposed language addition involves fees, administration felt it was appropriate that the Board approve this addition.

2. Enrollment Report – May 2011.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, May 23, 2011, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Sunday, June 5, 2011, 2:00 PM, Graduation, Memorial Field
Monday, June 13, 2011, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. Adjournment – On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the Board adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk