

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

November 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 7:40 PM. The meeting started late due to the reception for National Merit Scholars that preceded the Regular School Board meeting. Northfield High School has 3 semi-finalists and 7 commended scholars. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
There was no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, the minutes of the October 24, 2011, Regular School Board meeting were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Nelson announced Dr. Chris Richardson was selected as the MN Superintendent of the Year by the MN Association of School Administrators.
 - Greenvale Park students raised \$788.80 in Trick or Treat for UNICEF donations.
 - Bridgewater Elementary held its annual Veteran's Day Assembly on November 11. The students sang songs, read poems and provided information about our Veterans and those who are currently serving in the armed forces.
 - Congratulations to the District Band Programs as they held their first concert on November 7 at the High School! Directors Dr. Jenni, Mr. Beck, Mr. Freier, and Mrs. Williams did an outstanding job of directing the bands to honor the Civil War era. The finale was played by band members from 5-12th grade.
 - Congratulations to the students that participated in the 2011 Fall Chess Tournament on Saturday, November 5 hosted by South Central Service Cooperative and Mankato Community Education/Recreation at Mankato East High School. Students were awarded by grade level and also as division champions. Peter Hillmann from Sibley Elementary School placed second at the second grade level and second in the primary division.
 - Thanks to the overwhelming support of students, staff and the community, LACE for the cure raised over \$16,000 to fight breast cancer. This strong support has solidified the Lace for the Cure tradition for Raider Girls Soccer.
 - West Side Story has been a huge success with all performances selling out including the added performance on Thursday, November 10th. This performance sold out in less than 24 hours.
 - The week of November 14 is National College Application week. Northfield High School is one of 15 pilot sites across the state for this new initiative through the Department of Education. The week will culminate in a visit by Assistant Commissioner of Education, Elia Bruggeman on Monday, November 21st. The week is being sponsored by the TORCH team.
 - The TORCH program was awarded a grant through the Department of Higher Education to support a financial literacy program. The TORCH team is partnering with Faribault schools to improve the financial literacy and debt management skills of low income and minority Rice County youth, thereby preparing the students to make sound financial decisions in their pursuit of post-secondary education. The grant award was for \$18,000 and will support a coordinator for this new initiative called Dollars and Sense.
- VI. Item for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. School Improvement Plan Report – Northfield High School.
Principal Joel Leer presented Northfield High School's continuous improvement plan to the Board.

2. FY 2011 Audit Report.

Craig Popenhagen, Principal with Larson Allen LLP, presented the results of the 2010-11 fiscal year. Comments focused on the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the Schedule of Federal Awards. A full report was not brought to Monday night's Board meeting for review because the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has not provided the Fiscal Compliance Table required to finalize the audit. Because no changes in the financial data presented is anticipated, the Board proceeded with acceptance of the audit report.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. FY 2011 Audit.

On a motion by Maple, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously accepted the 2010-2011 audit report as presented.

2. Resolution Canvassing the Results of the Special Election.

On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously adopted the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of the School District Special Election held November 8, 2011, on the question of revoking the existing referendum revenue authorization of the school district and approving a new authorization for taxes payable in 2012 thereafter (question 1) with a 'yes' vote of 3497 and a 'no' vote of 2343. And on the question of renewing the capital project levy authorization of the school district for taxes payable in 2014 and thereafter (question 2) with a 'yes' vote of 3660 and a 'no' vote of 2166. Question 2 was contingent upon the passage of Question 1. Question 1 having carried and Question 2 having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, Question 2 is hereby declared to have carried.

Voting 'yes' was Fossum, Maple, Stratmoen, Quinnell, Pritchard, Iverson and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

3. Refunding General Obligation Bonds.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Awarding the Sale, Determining the Form and Details, Authorizing the Execution, Delivery, and Registration, and Providing for the Payment of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2011A. Voting 'yes' was Stratmoen, Quinnell, Pritchard, Iverson, Maple, Fossum and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

4. American Education Week Proclamation.

American Education Week is November 13 - 19. On a motion by Maple, seconded by Pritchard, the Board unanimously approved the American Education Week Proclamation as follows:
WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility and equality; and
WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and
WHEREAS, education employees - be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians - work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and
WHEREAS, schools are community linchpins, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders, and elected officials in a common enterprise;
Now, therefore, the Board of Education of the Northfield Public Schools, do hereby proclaim November 13 - 19 as the 90th annual observance of American Education Week.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Gloria Serrano, PLUS Site Assistant at Greenvale, 8 hrs./week beginning 11/1/11 through 4/26/12, Step 1, \$11.03/hr.
2. Ruth McCarty, Homebound Instructor, beginning 10/3/11 through 11/9/11, MA60-14.

3. Ryan Pietsch, Head Girls Softball Coach at the High School, beginning 3/12/12, Level C, step 4.
 4. Brittany Rathbun, Assistant Girls Softball Coach at the High School, beginning 3/12/12, Level F, step 1.
 5. Tyler Faust, Middle School Wrestling Coach (1 week), beginning 11/14/11 through 11/18/11, Level H, step 1.
 6. Dan Dupay, Middle School Wrestling Coach (less 1 week), 11/21/11 through 1/14/12, Level H, step 1.
 7. Brienne Meyer, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA long term substitute at Bridgewater, from 11/17/2011 through 12/22/2011, Class III Step 1.
- b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Lois Kelly, Educational Assistant at ALC, increase 10 hours/week as Speech/Language Assistant at Sibley Elementary, beginning 11/7/11 through 6/1/12, \$20.84/hr.
 2. Renae Christenson, 1.0 FTE Speech/Language Teacher at Sibley, overload assignment (no supervision) beginning 10/1/11 through 11/4/11.
 3. Lacey Neuman Bissonnette, Educational Assistant at NCRC for 5 hours/week, increase up to 9 hours/week beginning 10/28/11, Class I hours - \$12.59/hr., Class II hours - \$12.85/hr.
 4. Lacey Neuman Bissonnette, KidVentures Site Assistant at Bridgewater for 1.5 hrs./day, 2.5 hrs./day KidVentures Site Leader position at Bridgewater, increase 1 hr. P.M. position and transfer to Greenvale, beginning 11/2/11, Step 1, \$11.03/hr.
 5. Bonnie Klamm, Educational Assistant at Sibley, increase 2.5 hours/week as PLUS Site Assistant at Sibley, beginning 10/24/11 through 4/26/12, Step 4, \$11.91/hr.
 6. Kristin Basinger, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, increase 3.75 hours/week as PLUS Site Assistant at Bridgewater, beginning 10/24/11 through 4/26/12, Step 4, \$11.91/hr.
 7. Kelle Edwards, Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park, increase 6 hours/week as PLUS Site Assistant at Greenvale, beginning 10/31/11 through 4/26/12, Step 1, \$11.03/hr.
 8. Mark Thornton, PT Assistant Football Coach (hourly) to Assistant Football Coach, Level E, step 10.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Judy Becker, FMLA leave of absence, beginning 10/3/11 for up to 480 annual hours.
 2. Jerry Jarvis, intermittent FMLA leave of absence, beginning 11/9/11 for up to 60 work days.
 3. Elizabeth Stahly, requesting unpaid leave of absence, beginning 1/30/12 through 5/18/12.
- d. Resignations/Retirement
1. Debra Kropf-Mastin, Educational Assistant at Greenvale, resignation effective 11/11/11.
 2. Lois Kelly, Educational Assistant PCA at Sibley, resignation effective 11/11/11.
 3. Heather Silvis Carlin, ECFE Teacher, resignation effective 11/18/11.
 4. Daryl Robinson, Greenvale Park Head Custodian, retirement effective 12/30/11.

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

2. Two-Year Lease Agreement with Northfield Gymnastics Club.
The District has leased space at the Gymnastics Club for the High School gymnastics team since 1994. Funding is provided by the lease levy. Last year's lease for the time period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, was \$6050.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Letter of Support for Consideration of Complete Streets Policy for Northfield.
City Council Member Betsey Buckheit had requested that the School District consider writing a letter of support for the City Council's consideration of a Complete Streets policy. While The District clearly understands that the decision about and implementation of a complete streets policy rests with the City, the District believes that a policy of this nature would facilitate consideration of all users of these streets with the long term effect of making transportation options for our students, parents and staff safer and easier to use. The District also believes that a Complete Streets policy would allow the consideration of how a school's location within a neighborhood affects the needs for sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalks and pedestrian signage and

signals. The support letter shared with the Board reflects these concepts. Superintendent Richardson solicited feedback about the proposed letter. The only feedback came from Fossum. He suggested using “bike paths” instead of “bike lanes.”

2. Enrollment Report – November 1.
 3. Enrollment Options Report.
Student Information Systems Specialist Christine Neset provided the 2011-2012 Enrollment Options Report. The Northfield Public Schools has 262 students attending our schools from other school districts this school year compared to 282 last year. 776 Northfield students are attending school elsewhere, including other public schools (164), charter schools (254), home schools (123) and non-public schools (235). This compares to 792 students last year.
- IX. Future Meetings
Monday, November 28, 2011, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, December 12, 2011, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, January 9, 2012, 7:00 PM, Organizational School Board Meeting followed by the Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk