

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

March 12, 2012

Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Board Chair Ellen Iverson called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education to order at 7:00 PM. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
Stratmoen made a correction to item VII.A.1. "The Board unanimously approved 'postponing' (instead of 'tabling') the 2012-2013 school year calendar until the March 12, 2012, meeting ..."
On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Quinnell, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 27, 2012, were unanimously approved, as corrected.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - For the 18th year, Northfield German students participated in the National German Exam Competition. Competing this year were 40 students and again this year, many Northfield students placed very well.
 - There were 17 students from Northfield High School who earned trips to the DECA State Tournament which ran Sunday through Tuesday, March 4-6.
 - On March 9 the Northfield High School's Jazz 1 and Jazz 2 performed at the annual Swing Dance at the Northfield Ballroom. These groups get together before school to practice and are conducted by Music Teacher Ethan Freier, who is not only a great jazz conductor but an accomplished jazz singer as well. This year's Swing Dance may have broken a record for attendance. Dancers ranged in age from toddlers to grandparents. Nelson added that Elizabeth Bade sang with the Jazz Band as well.
 - The 7th and 8th Grade Orchestras participated in the 2012 Minnesota String and Orchestra Teacher's Association Middle Level Orchestra Festival at Stillwater Junior High School on Friday, February 24. At the festival, students performed for other middle school students, listened to other middle school orchestras, participated in a clinic with a string teacher, and received a rating from 2 judges. The 7th Grade Orchestra received an excellent and superior rating and the 8th Grade Orchestra received 2 superior ratings.
- VI. Item for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. ARTech External Visitation Team Report.
The School District's sponsorship contract with ARTech expires on June 30, 2012. ARTech has completed a self-evaluation and responded to specific questions included in the District's Charter School Renewal Process. Director Ryan Krominga provided an overview of the renewal process as well as information about the results of the completed self-study. Dr. Celia Smith and Caroline Jones presented the findings of the evaluation and, based on these findings, recommended that the Northfield School District sponsorship contract with ARTech be renewed for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2012, and continuing to June 30, 2017. State statutes require the District to review this evaluation and provide a review and comment on ARTech's performance. Once the District has completed its review, the administration will recommend to the Board that they vote to renew District sponsorship for the next five years. It is anticipated that the actual vote to approve renewal will be done in April.
 2. Proposed 2012-2013 Debt Service Budget.
Debt Service Fund accounts for the School District's outstanding bonded indebtedness for past building construction and major capital projects. Revenues represent property tax levies, state credits, and a minor amount of interest. Expenditures represent principal and interest payments on bonds previously sold. Stephanie Shawback, Director of Business Services, presented a summary of the proposed 2012-13 Debt Service Budget.

3. Presentation of Proposed Staffing Modifications and Additions.

Following up on the presentation at the February 27, 2012 Board meeting previewing proposed staffing and program enhancements, Superintendent Richardson, Director of Student Services Gary Lewis, and Matt Hillmann, Director of Technology and Human Resources, presented details about the implementation of Response to Intervention (RTI) and transformative technology as key components in supporting the District's continuous improvement model. Details of the proposed staffing modifications needed to support these implementations were also presented with a request to bring them forward for Board action on March 26, 2012.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. 2013 – 2015 District Technology Plan.

On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved the 2013-2015 District Technology Plan as presented.

2. 2012 – 2013 School Year Calendar.

Maple moved and Stratmoen seconded the approval of the 2012-2013 calendar as recommended by the meet and confer committee. The motion was defeated on a 5 to 2 vote. (While there wasn't a roll call vote, Fossum, Nelson, Pritchard, Quinnell and Iverson voted against the motion. Maple and Stratmoen voted in favor of the motion.)

Then, Stratmoen moved and Pritchard seconded the approval of the 2012-2013 calendar with a shortened winter break and a June 4 end date. Fossum moved and Pritchard seconded to amend the motion to include as a holiday, President's Day on February 18, 2013, and to end school on June 5. The amendment failed. (Fossum was the only one who voted in favor of the amendment.) The Board then approved on a 6 to 1 vote the 2012-2013 school year calendar with a shortened winter break and a June 4 end date. (While there wasn't a roll call vote, Fossum, Nelson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Iverson voted for the motion. Maple voted against the motion.)

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Grant Requests.

- School Readiness is submitting a \$5,000 request to WINGS to support services for children qualifying for School Readiness services during the school year.
- ECFE, in partnership with Dakota Prairie ABE, is requesting \$4,346 from WINGS to support the Family School (transportation, home visits and children's books).

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Kimberley Anderson, Long-Term Substitute French Teacher beginning 3/1/12 through 3/16/12, BA-0.
2. Paul Bell, Director of Buildings and Grounds beginning 3/26/12, \$75,058/year (pro-rated to 70 days for the 2011-12 school year - \$20,130.60.)
3. Teresa Hasse, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Sibley, 6 hrs./day beginning 3/26/12 through 6/1/12, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
4. Laura McManus, Long-Term Substitute Grade 5 Compañeros Teacher at Greenvale, beginning on or about 4/7/12, MA-7.
5. Kelly Maroney, Recreation Coordinator Substitute, for up to 4 hours/week beginning 4/9/12 through 5/11/12, \$13.08/hr.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Tyler Faust, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, increase from 4.58 hrs./day to 5.75 hrs./day beginning 2/23/12 through 6/1/12.
2. Elizabeth Gephart, Supervisory Educational Assistant for 2 hrs./day, transfer to Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA and increase to 6.75 hrs./day beginning 2/23/12 through 6/1/12, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.

3. Linda Wasner, Special Ed Educational Assistant for 5 hrs./day, adding 5 hrs./week as Middle School Youth Center Site Assistant beginning 3/5/12 through 5/15/12, Step 1, \$11.03/hr.
 4. Michelle Tranberg, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA for 6.25 hrs./day, increase .25 hrs./day as Supervisory Educational Assistant to 6.5 hrs./day beginning 3/7/12 through 6/1/12, Class I, step 4, \$13.58/hr.
- c. Leave of Absence
1. Stephen Cade, FMLA leave of absence beginning 3/5/12 through 3/17/12.
- d. Retirements/Resignations
1. Mary Vellani, Speech/Language Pathologist, retirement effective end of the 2011-12 school year.
 2. Anna Jungers, Early Ventures Site Assistant, resignation effective 3/6/12.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report – March 2012.

2. High School World Language Enrollment.

A memorandum from High School Principal Joel Leer regarding enrollment in specific areas of the world language program was distributed to the Board in the Table File. This will be an item for discussion at the March 26th Board meeting.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, March 26, 2012, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, April 9, 2012, 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 10:00 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk