

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

April 9, 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 no one.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Nelson, seconded by Quinnell, minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on March 26, 2012, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Congratulations to 8th grader Jack Morrison who won this year's Middle School Geography Bee in December. He qualified for the State Geography Bee by scoring as one of the top 100 participants on the National Geographic Society's written exam. On March 30th, Jack participated in the State Geography Bee, which was held on the campus of St. Cloud State University.
 - The Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council (SEMAC) has approved Northfield Public Schools Community Services Division's grant request of \$6,500 for expenses related to Books and Stars 2012. Books and Stars is a partnership between Northfield Public Schools Community Services Division and the Northfield Public Library to bring an art or cultural experience into the community while promoting literacy and having library resources available. Books and Stars will be held on Wednesday evenings, beginning in June 6.
 - Greenvale Park held its fourth annual Evening of the Arts on April 3. The event was meant to not only highlight student projects, but also to provide an opportunity for students and parents to stop at stations throughout the school and make watercolor butterflies, origami, pen wraps and get a balloon animal. The evening also included performances by students in the fifth grade orchestra, fifth grade choir and the readers' theater performed during the evening. The evening was collaboration between fine arts and classroom teachers.
 - Bridgewater students participated in an annual Spring Break Read-a-Thon with prizes for all students who participated. Students who met their grade level goal received a Mini Murphy from Papa Murphy's Pizza. One student per grade level was selected to dine with the principal for lunch. The grade level class that read the most minutes earned a pizza party compliments of Papa Murphy's Pizza. Those classes were: Ms. Wisdorf's morning class, Sra. Siefert's first grade class, Sra. Born's second grade class, Sra. Larson's third grade class, Mrs. Schuster's fourth grade class, and Mrs. Kohl and Mr. Rauk's fifth grade classes (their classes were only 10 minutes apart, so they were both recognized). Thank you to the Parrish family at Papa Murphy's and their support of reading!
 - Bridgewater will be celebrating Earth Day on April 20th. This is a great opportunity for the students to learn different ways to care for our earth.
 - April 16-20 is Severe Weather Awareness Week. There will be a tornado drill in each building on Thursday, April 19th to practice where students and staff would go in case of an actual tornado.
 - Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 15-21. We are fortunate to have many great volunteers that help in many ways every day. Thank you volunteers!
 - Administrative Professional Appreciation Week is April 22-28. Thank you to all of our District administrative professionals for all they do.
 - Northfield Patch is partnering with Greenvale Park, one of the schools working with HCI, to highlight students and their "sparks." Patch's first video highlighted GVP fifth grade student Ariana Beeby, which was posted on March 20, 2012.
 - U.S. Figure Skating Online featured the collaboration between the Northfield Skating School and Community Services in its "Club Spotlight."

- Pritchard attended the Drug Awareness graduation ceremony at Sibley and thanked Police Officer Thad Monroe for his commitment to this project and EconoFoods for providing refreshments.

VI. Item for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Professional Learning Communities Presentation – Sibley Elementary School.

Sibley Elementary School Principal Scott Sannes introduced Sibley's First Grade teachers Amanda Sieger, Gretchen Heil, Judi Vitito, and Katie Shorma and then showed a DVD produced by Middle School Media Specialist Amy Sieve. The presentation spotlighted the First Grade PLC by showing how differentiating instruction is tied to flexible grouping using enrichment or remediation activities.

2. Fees for Student Activities for 2012-2013.

During this school year the Activities Advisory Committee (AAC) has been discussing and researching how Waiver Fees are administered. Currently, students who qualify for Free and/or Reduced Lunch, or those having other financial hardships, are able to have 100% of their Activity Fee waived. The AAC is recommending the following change to this policy and for it to go into effect in the fall 2012.

All students in item numbers 1 and 2 below must qualify under the current school year's Free or Reduced Meal Program guidelines administered by the School District's Child Nutrition Department.

1. Students who qualify for the Free Meal Program would be required to pay 20% of the total cost of the activity for which they are enrolling.
2. Students who qualify for the Reduced Meal Program would be required to pay 40% of the total cost of the activity.
3. Students who do not qualify for a Free or Reduced Meal Program, but who have a financial hardship, would submit an application for a scholarship, and if granted, would be required to pay at least 20% toward the activity fee.

The AAC is not proposing an increase in the actual Activity Fee.

This format aligns very closely with what Community Services utilizes as well as what Northfield High School and Northfield Middle School currently implement in their curricular programs. It is anticipated that the Board will take action on this AAC recommendation at its April 23, 2012 meeting.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution Discontinuing and Reducing Educational Programs and Positions.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Fossum, the Board unanimously passed the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 adopted a resolution on February 13, 2012, directing the administration to make recommendations for additions and reductions in programs and positions, and

WHEREAS, said recommendations have been received and considered by the School Board,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 659 as follows:

That the following programs and positions be discontinued or reduced:

<u>FTE</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Building</u>
.2	Industrial Technology	Middle School
.3	Business Education	High School

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

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Charter School Contract Between the Northfield Public Schools and ARTech.
The Board approved a five-year sponsorship contract with ARTech beginning July 1, 2012, and continuing to June 30, 2017.
2. Community Services Advisory Council Appointment.
The Board appointed Stephanie Calderon to the Community Services Advisory Council effective immediately. Her appointment will expire June 2014.
3. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments*
 1. Samara Thompson, Recreation Programming Intern beginning 5/29/12 through 8/22/12, \$13.08/hr.
 2. Anna Hefer, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School for 5.5 hours/day beginning 4/2/12 through 6/1/12, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
 3. Jolene Walter, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Northfield Montessori Preschool for 3.25 hours/day beginning 4/2/12 through 6/1/12, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
 4. Brenda Kragseth, Instructional Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park, increase from 3.25 hr./day to 4.25 hrs./day beginning 4/2/12 through 6/1/12, Class II, step 1, \$12.85/hr.
 5. Jamie Wiebe, Long-Term Substitute School Social Worker at Greenvale Park, beginning 8/28/12 through 6/5/13, MA, Step 1.
 6. Sondra Breiland, Long-Term Substitute SES Teacher at Greenvale Park, 2 hours/week beginning 4/9/12 through 5/23/12, \$25.93/hr.
 - b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 1. Tyler Faust, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Bridgewater for 5 hrs./day, increase to 5.5 hrs./day beginning 3/16/12 through 6/1/12.
 2. Michele Warden, Supervisory Educational Assistant at Bridgewater for 2 hrs./day, increase 2.75 hrs./day (total of 4.75 hrs./day) as Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA beginning 4/2/12 through 6/1/12, Class III, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
 3. Gerald Davidson, District Substitute Custodian, transfer to Long-Term Substitute Custodian at the Middle School beginning 4/9/12 through TBD (approx. 8-10 weeks), step 2, \$14.17/hr.
 - c. Leaves of Absence
 1. James Murray, FMLA leave of absence beginning 4/2/12 through 6/4/12.
 2. Tammy Christel, FMLA leave of absence beginning 3/26/12 for up to 60 days.
 3. Lisa Nelson, FMLA leave of absence beginning 3/30/12 through 4/30/12.
 4. Christie Clarke, requesting leave of absence for first semester of the 2012-13 school year.
 5. Rebecca Glassing, requesting .3 FTE leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year.
 6. Amanda Tracy, requesting voluntary reduction to .8 FTE beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.
 - d. Resignations / Retirements
 1. Greg Sumner, District Occupational Therapist/Assistive Technology Specialist, resignation effective July 1, 2012.
 2. Daniel Burns, Special Education Teacher at the High School, retirement effective 6/4/12.
 3. Julie Healy, Elementary Teacher at Bridgewater Elementary, retirement effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year.
 4. Megan Proft, Community Services Enrichment Coordinator, resignation effective 4/20/2012.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Revision to Policy 514 – Bullying Prohibition.
Principals have requested that the definition of “bullying” in Policy 514 – Bullying Prohibition, be revised to more clearly articulate the key components that must be in place for an act of bullying to occur. A copy of the current policy with the revised definition underlined on page two was given to the Board.

Discussion and final action by the School Board on Policy 514 is scheduled for the April 23, 2012 Regular School Board meeting.

2. Enrollment Report – April 1, 2012.

3. Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
High School	32%	38%
Middle School	*	47%
Bridgewater	92%	90%
Greenvale Park	98%	96%
Sibley	99%	90%
Area Learning Center	70%	70%

* Comparing Middle School Spring Parent-Teacher conference statistics with 2011 will be difficult again this year because the Middle School split the 8 hours into two distinct nights plus multiple parent/staff events.

February 16: Celebration and Preview Night: 33% of students had one or more parents represent them.

March 1: Spring walk-in conferences: 36% of 7th and 8th grade students had one or more parents represent them.

March 1: The new 6th Grade student led conference pilot: 99% of students had one or more parents represent them.

4. Transformative Technology Public Meetings will be held in the Northfield Middle School Media Center on:
Saturday, April 21 from 10 AM until Noon
Tuesday, April 24 from 7 PM until 9 PM

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 23, 2012, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, May 14, 2012, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Nelson, the Board adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk