

# NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

January 28, 2013

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 Fossum, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the Organizational School Board meeting and the corrected minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 14, 2013, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
  - Thank you to St. Peter's Lutheran Church for donating \$400 for the District's Angel lunch accounts, \$300 for America's Child and for a large assortment of mittens, gloves and hats that were distributed to the elementary schools.
  - Five students from Northfield Middle School and two students from Northfield High School will participate in the 2013 Minnesota String and Orchestra Teacher's Association Middle Level Honors Orchestra. Of the entries made by Northfield Public Schools, Nick Dempsey (viola), Brynne Gray (violin), Cameron Gray (cello), Jane Ludwig (cello), Henry Paton (cello), Maggie Sivanich (cello alternate), Molly Smith (violin) and Irene Stoutland (violin) were chosen. The MNSOTA Middle Level Honors Orchestra will perform on Saturday, February 16 in conjunction with the annual Minnesota Music Educators Association Midwinter Clinic.
  - The NHS Music Listening Team had another impressive showing at the Regional Competition held on January 18th. The team of Henry and William Beimers and Nicholas Pelletier placed first and will be going to State, which will be held on Friday. Also placing third was Gail Bartolo, Noah Klein, and Claire T. Johnson. And, in fourth place were Olivia Riggins, Sebastian Lawler, and Allison Langston.
  - Congratulations to 19 DECA students who qualified for the DECA State competition to be held March 3-5. Many students qualified in more than one event, and 15 students earned first, second, or third place in their events! DECA held a fundraiser in December to support leukemia research and cancer patients at the American Cancer Society and Northfield and Faribault hospitals. Captains Connor Balfany and Conrad Christensen coordinated the project. Students gave donations during lunch and community donations were accepted at the tri-sport evening on December 21. In all, DECA raised \$255 for these charities.
  - This week Northfield High School and other local entities will be visited by Univision, a Spanish-language television network based in Florida, to do a segment on Latino students and the opportunities they have access to locally.
  - NHS head football coach Bubba Sullivan wrote an article for The Bulletin, the official publication of the MN State High School League. In the article, "Just Fine or All In? The choice makes a difference", Bubba writes how the "true measure of our successes should not be wins and losses, but our success should be measured by the quality of the students' experience and by the lasting values and traits they developed."
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. Robotics Team.  
High School Industrial Technology Teachers Mark Woitalla and Steve Taggart presented the history of the High School Robotics Team. The first year the team was sponsored by a NASA grant, the second year by Medtronics and this year Malt-O-Meal provided \$5000. The team has also received numerous donations from other Northfield companies. Chris Swanson, one of the team captains, spoke about all the skills he is learning by being on the team – critical thinking, problem solving, idea sharing, and team building between juniors and seniors and freshmen and sophomores. Woitalla, Taggart and eight monitors guide the team over six weeks in building a robot designed to efficiently complete a required task in state-

wide competition. Members of the team demonstrated the partially completed robot to the Board and showed a video of how it operated.

2. Professional Learning Communities Presentation – Area Learning Center.

ALC Director Pat Parlin and Teachers Darcy Seurer, Renee Rasmussen and Burt Bemmels presented their PLC's Smart goal for 2012-2013: to increase the grade point average of all ALC students by .25. They spoke about the unique challenges they face with a high turnover of students and how attendance and academic performance go hand-in-hand. Some of the interventions they use include a rewards program for students who make the "A" or "B" honor roll and encouraging student ownership of their own academic progress. The team also thanked the Board for being committed to Professional Learning Communities. The ALC PLC team has found that "you can have little to nothing in common with your fellow PLC team members, but if you are committed to the process and to finding ways to help students learn, it works."

3. Technology Transformation Proposal

Matt Hillmann, Director of Administrative Services, presented the second phase of the comprehensive Technology Transformation Plan for Board consideration. The proposal includes a review of community involvement over the last year and an overview of the transformational opportunities possible using tablet technology. The proposal also includes specific information about the number and types of technology being proposed and the District's strategy for insuring and repairing the equipment and maintaining the infrastructure needed for reliable use. Continuing staff professional development and the "rollout strategy for students and parents" was also discussed along with strategies for reviewing the success of the proposal and answering initial public concerns. The presentation ended with Board members asking several questions that were answered by Mr. Hillmann.

The Technology Transformation proposal will be shared at two public meetings on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. and on Monday February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Both meetings will be held in the High School Auditorium. The proposal will come back to the School Board on Monday February 11<sup>th</sup> for possible action by the Board of Education.

4. Building Security Measures.

Superintendent Richardson provided an overview of the short and long-term security measures that are being implemented or considered in the District's efforts to provide a safe environment for students, staff and parents using school district buildings.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Shared District Special Education Director.

On a motion by Fossum, seconded by Nelson, the Board approved the Shared District Special Education Director proposal as outlined in the proposal and directed administration to negotiate an agreement with Faribault Public Schools to jointly employ a shared Director of Special Education effective July 1, 2013.

2. March 25, 2013, Regular School Board Meeting.

On a motion Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved canceling the March 25, 2013, Regular School Board meeting since that meeting falls within Northfield School District's Spring Break.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Financial Reports – October, November and December 2012.

The Board approved the following:

- Paid bills totaling \$1,637,842.07, payroll checks totaling \$2,292,368.93 and the financial reports for October 2012. No bond payments were made in October 2012.

- Paid bills totaling \$1,425,097.11, payroll checks totaling \$2,296,519.91 and the financial reports for November 2012. No bond payments were made in November 2012.
- Paid bills totaling \$1,281,431.65, payroll checks totaling \$2,277,542.21 and the financial reports for December 2012. No bond payments were made in December 2012.

2. Gift Agreement.

The Board approved a gift agreement with Roger Jenni, who has donated a tenor Saxophone from Anthem Music Company of Billerica, MA.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*

1. Pamela (Hanson) Swanson, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Middle School for 13.5 hrs./week beginning 1/22/13 through 6/4/13, Class IV, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
2. Jessica Chrisman, Instructional Educational Assistant at Middle School for 10 hrs./week beginning 1/22/13 through 6/4/13, Class II, step 1, \$12.85/hr.
3. Darla Bradburry, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Sibley for 6.95 hrs./day beginning 1/22/13, Class IV, step 1, \$13.26/hr.
4. Co-Curricular assignments for February.
5. Ann Jerdee, Long-Term Substitute English Teacher at Middle School beginning on or about 3/15/13 through on or about 5/17/13, MA-6.
6. Josh Maus, Assistant Baseball Coach at High School beginning 3/18/13 through 6/14/13, Level F, step 1.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Kaylin Hreha (Faust), Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Sibley for 6.5 hrs./day, increase to 7 hrs./day beginning 1/2/13.
2. Elizabeth Brewer, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at High School, increase Bus PCA hours from 1.08 hrs./day to 1.25 hrs./day beginning 1/18/13 through 6/4/13.
3. Kristin Basinger, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Bridgewater, decrease Bus PCA hours from .83 hrs./day to .75 hrs./day beginning 1/16/13 through 6/4/13.
4. Katherine Norrie, .6 FTE Art Teacher at High School, increase to .8 FTE beginning 1/22/13 through 6/5/13.

c. Leaves of Absence

1. Dana Holden, FMLA childcare leave of absence beginning on or about 4/4/13 through the end of the 2012-13 school year.
2. Sarah DuChene, FMLA childcare leave of absence beginning on or about 4/10/13 through the end of the 2012-13 school year.
3. Emileana Graupmann, childcare leave of absence beginning on or about 5/6/13 through the end of the 2012-13 school year.
4. Tim Biegert, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 2/11/13 through 2/22/13.

d. Retirement

1. Tammy Christel, Human Resources Administrative Assistant, retirement effective 4/30/13.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. School Board Committee Appointments.

The list of School Board Committee Appointments for 2013 was distributed to the Board in the Table File.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 11, 2013, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center  
Monday, February 25, 2013, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 9:50.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk