

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

February 11, 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
Sibley Elementary School Teachers Karleen Sherman and Paula Baragary told the Board they supported the Technology Transformation proposal and spoke about the numerous opportunities iPads will provide for students and staff.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Nelson, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on January 28, 2013, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Members of the Mayor's Youth Council were welcomed. They attended the Board meeting to listen to the discussion about the school calendar and transformational technology project, so that they can put information on their website and facebook page.
 - The Northfield High School Music Listening team finished as State Music Listening Champions on February 1st! The team of three winning this State Championship consists of Northfield High School sophomores, Henry and William Beimers and Nicholas Pelletier! The Music Listening team is coached by Karen Madson.
 - On January 24th, Northfield Middle School hosted a spelling bee featuring the top 17 district spellers competing for the opportunity to participate in the regional spelling bee on February 12. The winners of our first three places will move on to the regional level on February 12. They are: Third Place: Anna Weber, grade 6; Second Place: Jackson Hillmann, grade 8; and Champion speller: Hannah Pahs, grade 7.
 - Congratulations to Bridgewater Principal Nancy Antoine who received the Division Leadership Award from the MN Elementary School Principals Association (MESPA). Nancy is also the Division President.
 - On January 26, sixty-eight Northfield High School music students participated in the Region 1AA Solo & Ensemble Contest. Students performed solos, and/or ensemble pieces. Our music students shined, bringing home 51 superior ratings and 17 excellent ratings. A few highlights include the "Best in Site" winners: Miles Broske (clarinet solo), Eve Grabau (violin solo), Sullivan Ojala-Helmbolt (bass solo), Sullivan Ojala-Helmbolt and Anika Hodel (vocal duet) and Chamber Singers (vocal ensemble).
 - Pritchard recognized Benjamin bus drivers for getting kids to school safely during the winter months.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. 2013-2014 School Year Calendar.
Superintendent Richardson reviewed the calendar draft. The proposed 2013-2014 school year calendar is a "traditional" calendar, with an after Labor Day start, a two-week winter break, a one-week spring break and an end date of June 6, 2014. Teacher workshop/work days will be August 26, 27, 28 and 29 to allow for assessments at the elementary level. The new teacher orientation will be two days – on August 19 and 20. There will be no school on Friday, November 8th for Middle School students only. This will allow all Middle School staff to participate in the 40th Annual Conference for Middle Level Education to be held in Minneapolis November 7-9. November 8th will be considered a contract day for Middle School licensed staff.
After providing two weeks for parents and community members to contact Board members with thoughts or concerns, the calendar will be presented for action on February 25, 2013.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Resolution Requiring the Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding Programming and Staffing for Next Year.

On a motion by Hardy, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to make recommendations for additions and reductions in program and for adding or discontinuing positions. The Board passes this Resolution at this time each year to allow the process to begin regarding making changes in the budget. This Resolution must be in place in the eventuality that staff positions are discontinued. Voting in favor was Stratmoen, Hardy, Pritchard, Nelson, Maple, Fossum, and Iverson. No one voted against.

2. Technology Transformation Proposal.

On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Nelson, the Board approved on a six to one vote, the Technology Transformation Proposal dated January 21, 2013, including the three year lease of tablet computers and cases for the 2013-14 through 2015-16 school years and digital curriculum, software and other applications at a cost of no more than \$550,000 per year. In addition, the proposal authorizes the School District to charge an insurance fee for students in grades 6 – 12, who receive a tablet computer. Voting in favor of the proposal was Stratmoen, Pritchard, Nelson, Maple, Fossum, and Iverson. Hardy voted against the proposal.

Before the vote, Matt Hillmann shared the results of the online engagement effort. Nelson requested that administration provide periodic updates on the implementation.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Addendum to High School Overnight Trips for 2012-2013.

The Board approved the following two additional overnight trips for this school year:

- The NHS Concert Choir to Princeton, Minnesota, April 19th and 20th to participate in a combined choral event.
- Belle Voci (upper level women's choir) to Appleton, Wisconsin, February 22nd and 23rd to participate in the Viking Choral Festival.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Lisa Schunk, .1 FTE Geoscience Teacher at the Middle School beginning 2/4/13 through 6/4/13, MA-6.
2. Christa Schmidt, PLUS Student Site Assistant at Greenvale Park beginning 2/7/13 through 4/25/13, \$8.01/hr.
3. Savannah Bird, PLUS Student Site Assistant at Greenvale Park beginning 2/11/13 through 4/25/13, \$8.01/hr.
4. Rachel Palermo, Assistant Speech Coach (hourly) at High School beginning 2/11/13 through 4/19/13, \$12.00/hr.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Darla Bradburry, Supervisory/Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Sibley, additional 1.25 hrs./day PLUS Site Assistant 4 days/week (Mon.-Thurs.) at Sibley Elementary beginning 2/4/13 through 4/25/13, Step 1, \$11.14/hr.
2. Yolanda Loken, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at Longfellow, decrease Bus PCA hours .75 hr./day from 3.92 hrs./day to 3.17 hrs./day beginning 2/4/13 through 6/4/13.
3. Kimberly Bauer, Parking Lot/Building Security Monitor at High School, increase from 24 hrs./week to 40 hrs./week beginning 2/4/13 through 6/4/13.
4. Matt Hillmann, Director of Human Resources & Technology, change to Director of Administrative Services beginning 1/24/13.
5. Molly Viesselman, Human Resources Supervisor, change to Director of Human Resources beginning 1/24/13, \$82,893/year.

6. Valori Mertesdorf, Accounting Supervisor, change to Director of Finance beginning 1/24/13, \$82,893/year.
 7. Stephanie Mahal, .4 FTE Sibley/.4 FTE Middle School Occupational Therapist, change to .6 FTE Sibley/.2 FTE Middle School Occupational Therapist beginning 1/31/12.
- c. Resignations
1. Emily Lund, READ 180 Teacher at Greenvale Park, resignation effective March 3, 2013.
 2. Pamela (Hanson) Swanson, Kid Venture Site Assistant at Bridgewater, resignation effective 2/20/13.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Planning Next Steps to Engage Community in a Calendar Conversation.

In response to the discussion of the proposed balanced calendar at the January 14th Board meeting, School Board members asked administration to “develop a process to engage the community in a conversation about how the school calendar might be improved to support improved learning for all students.” At Monday night’s School Board meeting, the Board agreed with Superintendent Richardson’s recommendation that a global discussion about schedules and calendars begin on Thursday, March 7 beginning at 7 PM in the High School upper cafeteria. The discussion on March 7 will include a brief history of school calendars in the United States and around the world followed by brainstorming the key components of a quality calendar that reflect what participants believe is best for student learning. Based on the results of this discussion, participants will be asked to determine their future level of involvement (working group and/or large group) in taking a closer look at possible calendar options. Director of Teaching and Learning Mary Hanson will facilitate these discussions.

2. Enrollment Report – February 2013.

The Board reviewed the February 2013 enrollment report. Enrollment is stable.

3. Building Security Update.

Superintendent Richardson provided the Board with an update on the short-term security measures that are being implemented in the District. Beginning Monday, February 18th, the main entrances to the school buildings will be secured. A District employee will be stationed at a table near the front entrance. When someone approaches the building, this person will greet the visitor and assist him/her in conducting business at the school. Signs will be placed on doors in each building this week and a Skylert message will be sent to all staff and parents by the building administrator prior to February 18th.

IX. Future Meetings

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

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Fossum, the Board adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk