

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

March 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. Hardy 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 Stratmoen, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on February 25, 2013, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Four Northfield Middle School students were selected for the Minnesota Band Director's Association Grade 6-8 Honor Band and four Northfield High School students were selected for the Grade 9-10 Honor Band. These students will perform later this Spring with the other outstanding young musicians who have been selected to participate in these bands under the direction of some fantastic music educators from the state of Minnesota.
 - The Middle School sent 69 participants to the Regional History Day in Mankato on March 7. All of our students had a very memorable and positive experience. In addition, 15 students earned Honorable Mention distinction and 20 students will advance to the State History Day at the University of Minnesota on May 4.
 - Board members praised the performance of numerous students and the work of staff involved in Rock 'n Roll Revival X.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Professional Learning Communities Presentation – Northfield High School.
The tenth grade US History PLC team presented their SMART goal to increase performance of American History 10 students so that 100% will demonstrate 70% or greater mastery, as measured by common unit summative assessments. Eric Sandberg, Mary Schmitt and Sarah Swan McDonald spoke about their re-take policy, individual re-take plans and “front loading” of preparation materials for students falling below 70% mastery of standards. They also provided assessment data that supports the success of this policy, and their next steps.
 2. English Learner (EL) Transition Kindergarten.
The EL Transition Kindergarten class was created to address the needs of native Spanish speaking students who possess minimal skills in both their first language (L1), Spanish, and in their second language (L2), English. The goal of the Transition Kindergarten is to provide students with a solid foundation in L1, making it easier to acquire L2 in the future. Since its creation, changes have occurred within the native Spanish speaking population in Northfield. The total number of students across the district who are classified as non-English speakers is declining. Similarly, the number of students entering Kindergarten who have minimal skills in both Spanish and English is decreasing. Given these changing demographics, Director of Student Services Gary Lewis presented how the structure of the EL Kindergarten class will be modified to provide instruction in both English and Spanish and insure the Kindergarten curriculum is addressing the current needs of our English learners.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Items for Individual Action
 1. Revision to Policy 533 – Wellness.
On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Fossum, the Board approved the revisions to Policy 533 – Wellness, as presented.

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. Grant Requests.

The Board approved the following grant requests:

- A \$1000 Parent Aware mini grant request to ChildCare Resource and Referral to purchase two iPads for the Early Childhood classrooms at Hand in Hand preschool.
- A \$4000 matching grant from WINGS to purchase a SMART board for the preschool room at Early Ventures.
- A request to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) for 450 books for the Bridges to Kindergarten program.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Marian Green, Human Resources Administrative Assistant beginning 3/21/13, annual salary for 2012-13 is \$41,752 and will be prorated.
2. Derek Henle, Community Services Basketball Program Staff beginning 2/9/13 through 3/16/13, \$9.00/hr.
3. Domonick Fields, Community Services Basketball Program Staff beginning 2/9/13 through 3/16/13, \$9.00/hr.
4. Michael Hodges, Community Services Basketball Program Staff beginning 2/9/13 through 3/16/13, \$10.00/hr.
5. Lordson Jonassaint, Community Services Basketball Program Staff beginning 2/9/13 through 3/16/13, \$9.00/hr.
6. Elliott Courchaine, Kid Ventures Site Assistant beginning 3/13/13, Step 1, \$11.14/hr.
7. Pamela Koester, Homebound Instructor – Sibley, beginning 3/6/13 until student returns to school or 6/4/13. BA30, Step 6.
8. Priscilla Rotunda, Human Resources Office Specialist beginning 4/1/2013, Step 4, \$17.25/hr.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Paul Bell, Director of Building & Grounds, change in annual salary from \$76,567 to \$83,722, effective January 23, 2013. This change is a direct result of the District Office reorganization process.

c. Leaves of Absence

1. Nicole Papke, FMLA leave of absence beginning 2/25/13 for up to 60 work days.
2. Mairin Born, FMLA Childcare Leave of absence beginning on or about 5/26/13 through the end of the 2012-13 school year.
3. Dennis Piper, FMLA leave of absence beginning 2/22/13 through 5/16/13.
4. Kelly Johnson, FMLA Childcare Leave of absence beginning 8/26/13 through 10/2/13.
5. Amanda Heinritz, intermittent FMLA leave of absence beginning 3/5/13 for up to 60 work days.
6. Amy Pfefferle, intermittent FMLA leave of absence beginning 3/7/13 for up to 60 work days.
7. Laura Little, Child Nutrition Associate I, leave of absence beginning 2/4/13 through 6/4/13.

d. Retirements/Resignations

1. Dana Engstrom, Middle School English Teacher, retirement effective 9/16/13.
2. Dwight Jilek, High School Music Specialist, resignation at the end of the 2012-13 school year.
3. Teresa Hasse, Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, resignation effective 3/22/13.
4. Courtney (Beumer) Gilomen, Supervisory/Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, resignation effective 3/20/13.
5. Margaret Goldade, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, resignation effective 6/5/13.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report – March 2013.

The enrollment report continues to show stable enrollment.

2. Closed Negotiation Strategy Session – April 8 – following the Regular School Board Meeting.

3. Global Calendar/Schedule Project.

The timeline for the School Calendar Project was given to the Board as a reminder that the next Community Conversation is Tuesday, April 2 from 7 pm to 9 pm in the High School Upper Cafeteria.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, April 8, 2013, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, April 22, 2013, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Fossum, the Board adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk