

# School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

December 9, 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. Stratmoen was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File  
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment  
Dave and Angel Dockendorf, parents of Cooper Dockendorf, voiced concerns about moving the DCD program from Sibley to Greenvale Park. Devon Barnes has a daughter who attends Sibley, who frequently talks about how great it is having Cooper Dockendorf being a student there.
- IV. Approval of Minutes  
On a motion by Maple, seconded by Pritchard, the minutes of the Regular School Board meeting held on November 25, 2013, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
  - In celebration of the 92<sup>nd</sup> American Education Week, Northfield Public Schools and the Northfield Education Association honored several staff members for years of service to the District at its annual Staff Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday, November 27. Forty-years – Lee Engleby; thirty-years – Jeff Eckhoff and Mary Hanson; twenty-five years – Sheri Hagen, Gail Kohl, Mary Magnuson, Arlette Nelson and Connie Nelson; and twenty-years – Kevin Dahle, Dan Kust, Dave Piper, Kim Slegers, Earl Weinmann and Deborah Winkleman. The NEA gave the following awards: Friend of Education went to Accelerate Northfield founders, Fritz Bogott and Rachel Matney; Paraprofessional of the Year Award – Lee Murray at Bridgewater; and Teacher of the Year Award to Cathy Penning, who is a vocal music teacher at Northfield Middle School.
  - The Bush Foundation announced that Northfield Promise is one of its inaugural Community Innovation Grant recipients! Northfield Promise was one of 34 projects selected for funding. The two-year, \$50,000/year grant will help with some of the infrastructure support to launch Northfield Promise over the next two years and will provide seed money to the action teams.
  - Pritchard thanked Roger Jenni for organizing his students to play Christmas music at Wells Fargo bank today. It sounded fabulous and thank you to Wells Fargo for serving the students lunch.
  - Pritchard thanked the numerous businesses that support the publishing of the student directories.
  - Superintendent Richardson recognized Dr. Gary Lewis for his years of service to the District as Director of Student Services. Dr. Lewis is retiring at the end of December.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
  1. Truth in Taxation Presentation for the Payable 2014 Property Tax Levy followed by Public Comment.  
The amount of the proposed levy for 2014 is \$15,277,610.44 and represents a 0.52% decrease from the prior year. Director of Administrative Services Matt Hillmann and Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf reviewed the levy and the current year's revised general fund budget. Carl Caskey addressed the Board. He asked for clarification as to why his taxes increased. A response to Mr. Caskey's question was provided by Ms. Mertesdorf and Superintendent Richardson.
  2. School Improvement Plan Presentations – Greenvale Park Elementary School and the Area Learning Center.  
The final site continuous improvement plan presentations by the Area Learning Center and Greenvale Park Elementary School and the Area Learning Center first documented the progress made on each building's site improvement goals from the 2012-13 school year, then representatives from each building described their building's 2013-14 site improvement goals, the data or evidence that was used to identify those goals, and the specific performance targets that will be used to determine success in reaching the goals. The presentations also highlighted specific activities and that will be completed during the 2013-14 school year. Presenting for the Area Learning Center was Director Daryl Kehler. Principal David Craft and Response to

Intervention Coaches Diane Torbenson and Heather Ryden, and Educational Assistant Kelle Edwards presented Greenvale Park's improvement plan.

3. All Day Kindergarten Facilities Needs, Demographic Study and Pre-K – 12 Facilities Study.  
As a follow up to the November 21<sup>st</sup> School Board work session, Superintendent Richardson, with support from Cabinet members, responded to questions from the Board about short-term options for addressing additional classroom space needs at Sibley precipitated by State-funded all day kindergarten as well as the proposed first two steps in developing and implementing a long-range plan to meet current and future enrollment, demographic and program needs for the students of the Northfield Public Schools. The recommendation of the Superintendent's Cabinet to the School Board is to relocate the Special Education DCD program from Sibley to Greenvale Park next school year and to conduct comprehensive demographic and facilities studies to support long-range planning. This discussion provided direction for formal recommendations to be presented to the Board for consideration at the January 13<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

During the discussion, on a motion by Nelson, seconded by Pritchard, the Board unanimously agreed to extend the Board meeting past 10:00 PM.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Certify Final 2013 Payable 2014 Tax Levy.

On a motion by Hardy, seconded Nelson, by the Board unanimously certified to County Auditors the 2013 Payable 2014 Final Certified Net Tax Levy in the amount \$15,277,610.44.

2. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 General Fund Budget Adjustment.

On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the revised budget for FY 14 with revenues of \$41,604,919 and expenditures of \$41,710,658.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Gift Agreement.

The Board accepted a \$9949 gift from the Tom Cieslukowski Memorial Fund to be used for a new tennis backboard.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments\*

1. LeAnne Fricke, Assistant Gymnastics Coach at the High School beginning 11/26/2013 – 02/22/2014; \$12.00/hour.
2. Katherine Klein, .44 FTE Long-Term Substitute Life Science Teacher at the Middle School for 16 hours/week beginning 12/03/2013 – 12/20/2013; MA-Step 2.
3. Peter Tomczik, Community Services Birthday Party Staff and Basketball Staff beginning 12/09/2013 – 04/01/2014; \$7.50/hour.
4. Activity Event workers, as listed on December 3, 2013 memo from Tom Graupmann. (James Pasch, Chiamaka Isiguzo, Elizabeth Granquist, Jeff Heckroth and Mark Whitson)
5. Activity Event Workers, as listed on December 6, 2013 memo from Tom Graupmann. (Craig Johnson, Natalie Kruger, Melvin Miller, Brian Stevens and Mary Wojick)

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

1. Ritva Barsness, Child Nutrition 3 at Greenvale Park for 7 hours/day, change to CNA 3 at Greenvale for 6.5 hours/day beginning 12/02/2013.
2. Sue Leidner, EA-Class IV at Sibley, add 2.75 hours on Thursdays only beginning 01/09/2014 – 06/06/2014.
3. Amy Moeller, .5 FTE HS/ALC English Instructor, change to .65 FTE English Instructor at the ALC and High School beginning 1/28/2014 – 06/06/2014 (semester 2).

4. Susan Mary Nelson, .55 FTE Long-Term Substitute Read 180 Instructor at Bridgewater, change from short call license to regular teaching license; MA-Step 6.
  5. Margaret Paradise, 1.0 FTE Long-Term Substitute Fifth Grade Teacher at Bridgewater; change from MA-Step 3, to MA-Step 4 beginning 11/18/2013 – 01/10/2014 (half days 01/06/2014-01/10/2014).
  6. Andrea Waldock, Educational Assistant (Class IV) at Head Start, add .5 hours/day Monday-Thursday from 3:05-3:35 p.m. beginning 12/03/2013.
  7. Lacey Neuman Bissonnette, Family School Education Assistant at the NCRC, will no longer be working in this position beginning 12/12/2013.
  8. Darren Corbin, High School Weight Room Assistant for the winter season – change from 100% to 50% stipend beginning 12/6/2013 – 03/21/2014.
  9. Peggy Sheehy, Education Assistant (Class I) at the NCRC for 15 hours/week, add Family School Education Assistant (Class I) at the NCRC for additional 8 hours/week (23 hours total) beginning 12/10/2013.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Heidi Peterson, Leave of Absence beginning 12/02/2013 – 01/03/2014.
  2. Ann Schmidt, FMLA Leave of Absence beginning 11/26/2013 on an intermittent basis for up to 60 work days.
- d. Resignations
1. Amy Allin, Eagle Bluff Coordinator, resignation effective 12/03/2013.
  2. Zeebo Karouso, Kid Ventures Site Assistant/CS Basketball Scorekeeper, Targeted Services Enrichment Coordinator; resignation effective 12/20/2013.
  3. Peggy Sheehy, Educational Assistant-PCA (Class IV) at Headstart, resignation effective 12/06/2013.
- e. Additional
- The Board approved the 2013-14 Teacher Seniority List and the 2013-14 Principals/Assistant Principals Seniority List.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report – December 2013.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, January 13, 2014, 7:00 PM, Organizational School Board Meeting followed by Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center  
Monday, January 27, 2014, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Fossum, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Noel Stratmoen  
School Board Clerk