

**NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of the Superintendent**  
**Memorandum**

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** L. Chris Richardson, Ph.D., Superintendent  
**RE:** Table File Items for January 12, 2015, Regular School Board Meeting

VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

1. Copy of Schools for Equity in Education press release outlining Legislative priorities for 2015.

VII. Superintendent's Report

B. Items for Consent Grouping

4. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments \*

5. Andrew Johnson, CS Recreation Tennis Supervisor beginning 01/13/2015 – 05/31/2015; \$10.00/hour.
6. Angela Perez, Long-Term Substitute Child Nutrition Associate at Sibley Elementary for 3 hours/day beginning 01/13/2015 – 06/05/2015; \$15.21/hour.
7. James Sunquist, CS Recreation Supervisor beginning 01/12/2015 – 05/31/2015; \$14.00/hour.
8. Jessica Wedel, Targeted Services PLUS Club Leader at Greenvale Park for 1 hour/day (1 day/week) beginning 01/15/2015 – 05/28/2015; \$18.68/hour.

b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment

10. Russel Boyington, KidVentures Site Assistant at Sibley, add GenEd EA (Supv). at Sibley for 2 hours/day beginning 01/14/2015.
11. Lori Malecha, Child Nutrition Associate III at Sibley for 6 hours/day, change to temporary Child Nutrition Associate I at Sibley for 7 hours/day beginning 01/07/2015 – 06/05/2015.
12. Lindsey Mehrhoff, SpecEd EA-PCA/GenEd EA for 7.08 hours/day at Sibley Elementary, increase to 7.17 hours/day beginning 01/05/2015. (SpecEd EA-PCA 6.75 hours/day; GenEd EA-Supv. .42 hours/day).
13. Donna Pumper, Child Nutrition Associate I at Sibley for 3 hours/day, change to temporary Child Nutrition Associate III at Sibley for 6 hours/day beginning 01/07/2015 – 06/05/2015.
14. Jeff St. Martin, Custodial Engineer at the Middle School, change to Custodial Engineer at the High School for 8 hours/day beginning 02/02/2015.

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

## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: January 12, 2015

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### SCHOOLS FOR EQUITY IN EDUCATION RELEASES 2015 PLATFORM

St. Paul, Minnesota - Schools for Equity in Education (SEE) has released its platform for the 2015 Legislative Session. The 2015 SEE platform advocates four primary planks promoting adequate and equitable education funding for students throughout Minnesota.

"We believe that all Minnesota students deserve a quality education. ", said SEE President Cathy Thom, a member of the Waconia School Board. "Our goal is to make sure that educational opportunities for our children do not vary simply because of their zip code."

In the 2015 platform, SEE strongly asserts that:

- All school districts must have the ability to adequately maintain their school facilities.
- State funding must be adjusted to provide effective and equitable assistance to individual low income, special education, and non-English speaking students while stagnated revenue for career and technical education programs needs to be increased.
- The fundamental per pupil basic formula must keep up with inflation to provide stability in education funding.
- Additional property tax relief is needed for taxpayers in low property wealth school districts where the tax burden is high to support local school levies.

"The organization has put together a comprehensive platform and we are looking at some areas of funding we haven't looked at that closely in the past," said SEE Executive Director Brad Lundell. "There is a huge disparity among school districts in their ability to maintain their facilities and that must be addressed."

The current Alternative Facilities Program allows some school districts to implement a long-range facility maintenance plan to care for their school buildings and grounds. SEE wants the Alternative Facilities Program expanded to include all school districts. The average amount of maintenance funding in current participating school districts equals \$510 per student while the many districts without the Alternative Facilities Program average only \$212 per student. This disparity in available maintenance funding has often delayed or prevented needed projects until emergencies arise and costs multiply.

Lundell also pointed to formula adjustments needed to promote the organization's commitment to giving every student in Minnesota access to high-quality educational opportunities.

"We will always put per pupil basic formula funding and property tax fairness at the center of our agenda," Lundell stated, "but the state formulas that provide assistance to low-income students don't treat students in SEE districts equitably. Our districts and the business community also want expanded opportunities for students interested in career and technical education and that requires more resources."

Northfield Public Schools is a long-time member of SEE and shares the organization's mission. "Northfield students, citizens and taxpayers would benefit from the passage of these legislative priorities in the 2015 session," stated Northfield Superintendent Dr. Chris Richardson.

SEE is a 58 member association of school districts located throughout Minnesota that represents approximately one-third of the students in Minnesota. Established in 1979, SEE has worked to promote adequate and equitable funding with a focus on the need for fairness for property taxpayers. For more information visit [www.schoolsforequity.org](http://www.schoolsforequity.org).