

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes
January 26, 2015
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education to order at 7:00 PM. Colangelo was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
There was no public comment.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Quinnell, minutes of the Organizational and Regular School Board meetings held on January 12, 2015, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Six students from Northfield Middle School and one student from Northfield High School will participate in the 2015 Minnesota String and Orchestra Teacher's Association (MNSOTA) Middle Level Honors Orchestra. This select group of string players from across the state earn an invitation to play in the Honors Orchestra based on an audition recording of their playing. Of the entries made by Northfield Public Schools, James Bull (cello), Cate Carson (violin), Kit Geissler (bass), Mikhail Geissler (violin), Brynne Gray (violin), Linnea Larson (violin), Courtney Nelson (cello alternate) and Julia Radtke (viola) were chosen. The MNSOTA Middle Level Honors Orchestra will perform on Saturday, February 14 in the Minneapolis Convention Center in conjunction with the annual Minnesota Music Educators Association Midwinter Clinic.
 - Northfield High School DECA had 26 students qualify for DECA State to be held in downtown Minneapolis March 8-10. All participating students scored top-twelve in their categories at Districts on January 9. A special congratulations to Jenna Scheffert, Tyler Hepler, Audrey Kornkven, Anna Balfany, Will Edwards, and Lucas Halverson who qualified in two to three events! There were 53 NHS students who competed at the DECA district competition.
 - Board member Anne Maple, along with representatives from the Belle Plaine and New Prague School Districts, will be meeting with our legislators on February 3 to speak to them about the needs of our school district as they begin the new legislative session.
 - Maple attended the display of service learning projects and was pleased to see the good mix of projects.
 - Board Chair Julie Pritchard announced that Superintendent Dr. Chris Richardson has been named the recipient of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) Polaris Leadership Award. Dr. Richardson is being honored for his exemplary school leadership and a lifetime of balanced achievement inside and outside of education. With this award, he is being recognized for his qualities of professional courage, creation of a legacy of excellent leadership, fostering innovation, and contribution through example and mentoring. Dr. Richardson will be honored at the MASA Fall Conference this September in Duluth. In addition, there will be a \$1000 Scholarship in his name awarded to a student from the class of 2016. Maple added that in her role as the liaison to SEE, she has seen first-hand what Dr. Richardson has done on behalf of education statewide and how well respected he is by his peers.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. DECA Video.
DECA Advisor and High School Business Teacher Julie Wolner introduced DECA Co-Presidents Katharine Herrlich and Jenna Sheffert, who spoke about DECA. Then, High School Senior Mike Gersmehl introduced the video he prepared at the DECA district competition, which explains what DECA is and shows what a competition looks like. Mike is applying to be the media intern at DECA state in March.

2. Prairie Creek Community School and Arcadia Charter School Annual Reports.

Simon Tyler, Director of Prairie Creek Community School, and Ryan Krominga, Director of Arcadia, did a joint presentation of the programs being provided in their two charter schools. Simon presented a review of Prairie Creek's twelfth year of operation as a charter school under the sponsorship of the Northfield Public Schools, and an overview of this current school year. Then, Fourth/Fifth Grade Teacher Michelle Martin explained the school-wide personal projects process, which culminates in fifth grade in the Honors Project.

Ryan reviewed Arcadia's program and presented their 2013-2014 Annual Report. Arcadia, formerly ARTech, is in its eleventh year of operation. Kate Werner, who is a Middle School Advisor and a Math and Social Studies Teacher at Arcadia, spoke about the Middle School Project Process at Arcadia and provided to the Board the Project Assessment Rubric.

These reviews and written reports fulfill state requirements for annual reporting as well as our District's request that each charter school authorized by the Northfield Public Schools present an annual report to the School Board.

3. Transformational Technology/Learning Update.

Director of Technology Services Kim Briske provided an update to the Board about the Transformational Technology/Learning project that provides each child in Grades 6-12 with an iPad and pods of six iPad Minis in elementary classrooms. Kim reviewed with the Board the importance of transformational technology followed by the "successes" and "challenges" that have been experienced to date. She also spoke about listening sessions that will be held during February with staff, parents and community members. All feedback will be important moving forward.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Pay Equity Report.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Hardy, the Board unanimously approved the January 2015 Pay Equity Report.

2. March 23, 2015, Regular School Board Meeting.

On a motion by Maple, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously approved canceling the March 23, 2015, Regular School Board meeting since it is during Spring Break.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Gift Agreement.

The Board accepted an \$8400 gift from the Sibley PTO to be used to support classroom funding at Sibley. This money was raised as a result of Sibley's Walk-A-Thon.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Ellen R. Haefner, Correction: Parent Educator at the NCRC/ECFE for up to 10 hours/week beginning 01/19/2015; Year 1, \$24.36/hour.
2. Tanner McNamara, 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.
3. Anja Stromme, CS Recreation Staff (basketball coach) beginning 02/07/2015 – 05/31/2015; \$8.00/hour.
4. Katrina Warner, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow for 20 hours/week beginning 01/23/2015; Step 1, \$11.67/hour.
5. Community Services Fall/Winter/Spring Recreation positions beginning 02/07/2015 – 05/31/2015: Noah Bamonte-Grebis – Basketball Coach; \$9/hour; Theodore Deitz –

- Basketball Supervisor; \$10/hour; Vanessa Dimick – Basketball Coach; \$8/hour; Jorgen Salveson – Basketball Coach; \$9/hour; Connor McCormick – Basketball Coach; \$9/hour; Ella Stromme – Basketball Coach; \$8/hour.
6. Event Workers: Melanie Armstrong, Carly Fitzgerald, Joe Jorgensen and Cassandra Paulson.
 7. Pam Hanson (Swanson), GenEd Educational Assistant at the High School for 6 hours/day beginning 01/28/2015; Step 1, \$13.21/hour.
 8. Katrina Warner, GenEd Educational Assistant/Sibcare at the NCRC/ECFE for up to 8 hours/week beginning 01/28/2015; Step 1, \$13.21/hour.
 9. Community Services Fall/Winter/Spring Recreation positions beginning 01/24/2015 – 05/31/2015; Savannah Dimick, Basketball Supervisor beginning 02/07/2015 – 05/31/2015; \$10/hour; Michael Kopp – Birthday Party Staff beginning 01/24/2015 – 05/31/2015; \$8/hour.
- b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Bill Blaisdell, Resigned night security position at the high school. \$600 stipend prorated for days worked.
 2. Jerry Davidson, Custodian at the High School, add Night Security. \$600 stipend prorated to days worked.
 3. Karen Lane, First Grade Teacher at Bridgewater, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher at Bridgewater for 1.5 hours/day for up to 4 days/week beginning 01/14/2015 – 04/16/2015; Year 1, \$27.11/hour.
 4. Quinn Line, KidVentures Site Assistant at Greenvale Park for 14.5 hours/week, decrease to 2 hours/week beginning 02/02/2015.
 5. Lori Malecha, Correction: Child Nutrition Associate III at Sibley for 6 hours/day, change to temporary Child Nutrition Manager I at Sibley for 7 hours/day beginning 01/07/2015 – 06/05/2015.
 6. Rustianna Mechura, Child Nutrition Associate I at Bridgewater for 3 hours/day, increase to 3.75 hours/day beginning 01/19/2014 to date to be determined.
 7. Lori Mullen, Child Nutrition Associate III at Bridgewater for 6.5 hours/day, change to Temporary Child Nutrition Manager I at Bridgewater for 8 hours/day beginning 01/05/2015 to date to be determined; \$19.02/hour.
 8. Elizabeth Nelson, Child Nutrition Associate I at Bridgewater for 3.75 hours/day, change to Temporary Child Nutrition Associate III at Bridgewater for 6.5 hours/day beginning 01/19/2014 to date to be determined; \$17.85/hour.
 9. Ali Ryan, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow for 32 hours/week, increase to 40 hours/week beginning 01/20/2015.
 10. Katrina Warner, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow for 20 hours/week, increase to 30 hours/week beginning 02/02/2015.
 11. David Kurth, Evening Engineer/Security at the Middle School, change to Custodial Engineer (Day Shift) at the Middle School beginning 02/02/2015.
- c. Leaves of Absence
1. Becky Gainey, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 01/06/2015 continuing as intermittent leave as needed for up to 60 work days.
 2. Elaine Harries, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 03/18/2015 – 04/03/2015. Return to work date will be 04/06/2015.
- d. Resignations / Retirements
1. Bill Blaisdell, Night Security at the High School, resignation effective 01/16/2015. (Bill will continue with his regular custodian position at the high school).
 2. Barb Brunette, Child Nutrition Manager I at Sibley, retirement effective 02/01/2015.
 3. Angie Frawley, EarlyVentures Site Assistant at Longfellow, resignation effective 01/15/2015.
 4. Kathryn Lean, Special Education Instructor at the High School, retirement effective 01/27/2015.

5. Grady McGovern, Assistant Baseball Coach at the High School, resignation effective 01/12/2015.
6. Teresa Swenson, Educational Assistant at Bridgewater, resignation effective 01/23/2015. (Teresa will continue to work as a substitute in the district.)
7. Katie Bauernfeind, Building Nurse at Prairie Creek, Arcadia and St. Dominic's, resignation effective 01/20/2015.
8. Robert McCarthy, Special Education Teacher at the High School, resignation effective 01/26/2015.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. Policy Revisions.

The Board was given four School Board policies that the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) has suggested be revised. The suggested changes are not substantive, but reflect statutory changes made during the last legislative session. The Board will be asked to act on these revised policies at its February 9 meeting.

The policies are as follows:

- Policy 406 – Public and Private Personnel Data
- Policy 410 – Family and Medical Leave
- Policy 526 – Hazing Prohibition
- Policy 619 – Staff Development for Standards

2. South Central Minnesota Inter-City Regional Passenger Rail Initiative.

A draft letter of support to the Initiative was given to the Board for its review. Superintendent Richardson has been attending meetings to discuss this issue at the request of Representative David Bly. The Board granted permission for the letter to be sent.

3. School Board Committee Appointments.

The list of School Board Committee Appointments made by Board Chair Julie Pritchard for 2015 was distributed to Board members.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, February 9, 2015, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, February 23, 2015, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 9:42 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk