

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes
February 9, 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. No one 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 Quinnell, seconded by Iverson, minutes of the Regular School Board meetings held on January 26, 2015, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - The Northfield High School TORCH team was recently awarded a grant from Workforce Development for the second consecutive year. The grant will allow the TORCH team to continue to support students with Financial Literacy, Post-secondary planning and preparation and Career Exploration and Job Search Skills.
 - Congratulations to Jackie Magnuson's 7th and 8th grade FACS class for winning \$500 from the Popcorn Board's Popcorn Pep Club Contest this past fall. The video prepared by the students showed Northfield Middle School's Popcorn Pep Club creating interesting science experiments, yummy math problems and very creative snacks.
 - The Music Listening team took 1st, 3rd and 5th at regions on January 24th. All three teams scored in the top 10% of all competing teams state-wide. The first place team of seniors William Beimers, Henry Beimers and Nicholas Pelletier went on to State on February 6. Eighteen teams participated in State, and Northfield won with a score of 96/100. The next closest team had 87/100. This is the third State Championship in a row for this team, and their fourth state trophy in four years. It is only the second "three-peat" in the 26 year history of the Music Listening Contest. Congratulations to the senior team!
 - Superintendent Richardson thanked Board member Anne Maple and community member Fritz Bogott for visiting legislators at the Capitol earlier this month.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. Presentation by the Robotics Team.
Northfield High School's Robotics Team made a presentation. This is the second year that Robotics is being offered as a class at NHS with Industrial Technology Teacher Steve Taggart. Four adult mentors from the engineering community help the 28 students in class to learn and develop new skills. Since the Robotics team was founded in 1989, \$65,000 has been raised from local businesses to support the building of a robot for competition. The first weekend in January a new challenge is released and teams have six weeks to build a robot that will successfully accomplish the challenge. This year the North Star Regional competition will be held April 2, 3, and 4 at the University of Minnesota.
 2. Financial Forecast and 2015-16 General Fund Budget Plan.
Val Mertesdorf, Director of Finance, presented the financial forecast and preliminary budget plan parameters and timeline for the 2015-16 school year. The financial forecast is based on information the District already knows along with a set of assumptions for the next several years, such as enrollment and the amount of state aid provided by the legislature. While the District is currently financially sound, we want to be proactive in our decision-making so we can make the right choices for our students, staff and community. The financial projections show that the District may need to look at budget adjustments for the 2016-17 school year depending on the level of funding provided by the State in the next biennium. Administration told the Board that there are many decision points that must be reached before the District would implement budget adjustments based on this

forecast. The forecast is really a tool for awareness and information sharing to guide the decision-making process.

3. Information on the General Fund Basic Formula.

Superintendent Richardson presented his rationale for the Legislature and Governor to increase the General Fund Basic Formula for the next biennium by 2-3% each year to maintain the buying power of the formula adjusted by inflation. Dr. Richardson first shared this document at the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) Legislative Forum on February 7.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Policy Revisions.

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved revised Board Policy 406, Public and Private Personnel Data; Board Policy 410, Family and Medical Leave; Board Policy 526, Hazing Prohibition; and Board Policy 619, Staff Development for Standards.

2. Resolution Requiring Administration to make Recommendations regarding Programming and Staffing for Next Year.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Hardy, the Board unanimously authorized the administration to make recommendations for additions and reductions in program and for adding or discontinuing positions for the 2015-2016 school year. Voting 'yes' was Hardy, Maple, Iverson, Colangelo, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Pritchard. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Cooperative Sponsorship.

The Board dissolved our current cooperative sponsorship with Randolph Public Schools and Arcadia in Boys Swimming and Diving and then entered into a non-exclusive cooperative sponsorship with Arcadia in Boys Swimming and Diving.

2. Appointment of Local Education Agency (LEA) Representative.

The School Board appointed Director of Teaching and Learning Mary Hanson to act as the LEA Representative in filing the Title III Improvement Plan.

3. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments*

1. Jamie Johnson, CS Fall/Winter/Summer Recreation Staff (WSI \$10.00/hour, Rec Staff \$8.00/hour) beginning 02/09/2015 – 05/31/2015.
2. Caroline Lauth, CS Fall/Winter/Summer Recreation Staff \$8.00/hour beginning 02/07/2015 – 05/31/2015.
3. Taylor Murry, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at the High School beginning 02/23/2015; BA, Step 0.
4. Scott Peterson, Head Boys Track Coach at the High School beginning 03/09/2015 – 06/06/2015; Level A, Step 8.
5. Elizabeth Pfeiffer, 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at the High School beginning 01/30/2015 – 06/05/2015; BA, Step 0.
6. William Seeberg, Homebound Instructor at Sibley/Special Education for 5 hours/week beginning 01/19/2015 and continuing for approximately 8 weeks; BA60, Step 14.
7. Deborah Seitz, Assistant Boys/Girls Track Coach at the High School beginning 03/09/2015 – 06/06/2015; Level F, Step 4.
8. Brooke Taylor, KidVentures Student Site Assistant at Greenvale Park for up to 15 hours/week beginning 02/09/2015; \$8.39/hour.
9. Karl Viesselman, Assistant Boys/Girls Track Coach at the High School beginning 03/09/2015 – 06/06/2015; Level F, Step 7.

10. Community Services Fall/Winter/Spring Recreation Positions beginning 02/09/2015 – 05/31/2015: Erin Johnson – Swim Lessons \$8.25/hour; Cassandra Paulsen - Swim Lessons \$11/hour; Samantha Sharpe - Lifeguard \$8.50/hour.
 11. Event Workers beginning 2/4/2015: Joel Leer
 12. Rosemary Fink, DCD SP Teacher at the High School for 8 hours/day beginning 02/02/2015 – 06/05/2015; MA, Step 14.
 13. Anthony Seidl, Eagle Bluff Coordinator for Community Services beginning 02/13/2015 – 09/01/2015; \$1,500 Stipend.
- b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
1. Peggy Mills, KidVentures Site Assistant at Sibley for 18.5 hours/week, increase to 22.25 hours/week beginning 02/02/2015.
 2. Deb Seitz, Special Education Teacher at the Middle School, add Homebound Instructor at Sibley for 5 hours/week, beginning 01/05/2015 to date to be determined.
 3. Pilar Sullivan, GenEd EA at Longfellow for 10.5 hours/week, change to SpecEd EA-PCA at Longfellow for 10.5 hours/week (3 days/week) beginning 01/05/2015 – 06/05/2015.
 4. Elizabeth Ziemann, Kindergarten Teacher at Greenvale Park, add Targeted Services PLUS Teacher at GVP for 1.25 hours/day (1 day/week) beginning 02/02/2015 – 05/28/2015; Year 1, \$27.11/hour.
 5. Christa Danielson, Kindergarten Teacher at Bridgewater, add Targeted Services Recruitment Specialist at BW for up to 35 hours/year beginning 02/06/2015 – 08/10/2015; Year 11, \$28.22/hour.
 6. Zach Greenlund, SpecEd Bus EA-PCA at Longfellow, change to Substitute SpecEd Bus EA-PCA beginning 01/05/2015 – 06/05/2015.
 7. Alisha Jamshidi, SpecEd EA-PCA at Sibley, add Targeted Services Club Leader at Sibley for up to 4 hours/week (M-Th) beginning 02/09/2014 – 04/16/2015; \$18.68/hour.
 8. Yolanda Loken, SpecEd EA-PCA at Longfellow for 24.25 hours/week, increase to 30.75 hours/week beginning 01/19/2015 – 06/05/2015.
 9. Lori Malecha, Temporary Child Nutrition Manager I at Sibley, change to Child Nutrition Manager I at Sibley for 7 hours/day beginning 02/01/2015.
 10. Abraham Zamora, SpecEd EA-PCA at the High School for 6.75 hours/day, decrease to 6.0 hours/day, add SpecEd EA-Bus PCA at the High School for 1.5 hours/day beginning 01/05/2015 – 06/05/2015.
- c. Leave of Absence
1. Andrew Unseth, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 01/08/2015 and continuing for up to 60 work days.
- d. Resignations
1. Scott Peterson, Assistant Track Coach, resignation effective 1/27/2015.
 2. Bill Sonnega, Alpine Ski Team Head Coach, resignation effective 02/12/2015.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. 2015-2016 School Year Calendar.

A draft of the 2015-16 school year calendar was given to the Board for their review. The calendar draft was recommended by the District Meet and Confer Committee, which met on January 29. The calendar maintains 174 student contact days and addresses the need to identify student make-up days in the event that we experience more than two school closings in the coming year. The Board will be asked to take action on the proposed 2015-2016 school year calendar at its meeting on February 23.

2. Enrollment Report – February 2015.

3. Upcoming Transformational Technology Listening Sessions.

Director of Administrative Services Matt Hillmann reviewed with the Board the 2015 Transformational Technology Feedback Plan prepared by Director of Technology Services Kim Briske. The goal during February is to gather as much authentic feedback as possible regarding school and home use of iPads and

technology in general. Listening and feedback sessions have been scheduled for staff in each school, as well as two evening sessions for families. The District Technology Steering Committee will meet in March to review the feedback and develop recommendations for moving into year three of Transformational Technology. Those recommendations will be presented to the School Board in April.

Board member Stratmoen commented on the thoughtful discussion earlier in the meeting regarding the School District's budget forecast. He then shared a personal story about budget cutting in a company where he previously worked.

- IX. Future Meetings
Monday, February 23, 2015, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, March 9, 2015, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the Board adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk