

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent
Memorandum

TO: Board of Education
FROM: L. Chris Richardson, Ph.D., Superintendent
RE: Table File Items for February 8, 2016, Regular School Board Meeting

- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 - 1. Candidates to Fill School Board Vacancy.
Enclosed is the report of the subcommittee on the Board appointment.

- X. Items for Information
 - 3. Discipline Policies and Procedures Work Session Follow-up.

 - 4. Update on Cannon Valley Special Education Cooperative Implementation

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Margaret Colangelo, Jeff Quinnell, Julie Pritchard

Date: February 8, 2016

Re: Report of the Subcommittee on Board Appointment

At the January 11, 2016 School Board meeting, the Board approved the process for filling the school Board vacancy created by Anne Maple's resignation in accordance with the new 2015 State statues. The person appointed by the Board will serve the remainder of her unexpired term through the first Monday of January 2017. We are pleased that four people applied for the position: Mike Berthelson, Fritz Bogott, Ray Cox and Dale Gehring.

First, we want to thank all four applicants. Each of the applicants brought valuable experience, making the choice for a recommendation a very difficult one. To briefly summarize, all four of the candidates are parents of current or former students in our district. Two are former school board members. One has volunteered extensively in the schools and at the District level and one whose extensive community involvement both directly and indirectly impacts the school district. We greatly appreciate each of the applicant's willingness to serve on this Board.

As a subcommittee, we set out to establish criteria for reviewing the applicants and for making a recommendation to the whole Board. Because this is an 11-month appointment, we developed and utilized criteria to reflect this relatively short time period.

The criteria we used were as follows:

1. Demonstrated commitment to and advocacy for the School District and public education.
2. Experience working with a group in a committee, task force or board-type setting.
3. Active involvement in current school operations and challenges
4. Most prepared to step in and provide useful insight into the immediate issues facing the School District in the next 11 months.

The subcommittee then did an extensive review of each of the four applicants, based on the information they provided in their applications, using the established criteria. As a result of this process, the subcommittee felt that Fritz Bogott and Ray Cox deserved the board's full consideration. Although board members have been given the applications of all four of the candidates, below we highlight each of the two applicants as well as the rationale for the recommendation.

Fritz Bogott has been actively involved in the Northfield Schools since 2007. He was an active volunteer at Sibley elementary where he focused his efforts on helping struggling students. In 2011, his wife and he started Accelerate Northfield. To date this program has provided 15,600 tutoring hours in Northfield

Schools with no incremental expense to the District. He is currently serving at the District level as a member of the DEPAC Assessment Subcommittee as well as serving on both the Reading Action Team and Communications Committee for the Northfield Promise Initiative. He is an active supporter of public education at the state level, and has worked with Parents United for Public Schools and Schools for Equity in Education in an effort to influence education policy. **In summary, Fritz is highly engaged in the district, which has given him a strong working knowledge of the most pressing issues currently facing our schools. It is his extensive involvement and understanding of the district's current challenges, that the subcommittee believes, puts him in an excellent position to provide meaningful insight into the issues facing the Board over the next 11 months.**

Ray Cox served on the Northfield School Board for fifteen years from 1987-2002 including some years as Board Chair. He is a parent of three children that all matriculated through the Northfield Schools, as did he. He was actively involved in his children's school activities including band, Rock-N-Roll Revival as well as several sports. During his tenure on the Board, he hired two superintendents, several principals and put in place \$100 million of facility bond improvements. He has broad experience with board governance with a variety of organizations including Northfield Community Action Center and the Strategic Planning Board for Conservation Minnesota. **In summary, over the course of his fifteen years on the School Board, Ray was involved in a number of critical Board decisions that helped shape our District today. His experience serving on the Board of a number of community organizations has provided him with an excellent understanding of how to work effectively within a board structure and as a community leader. It is his depth of experience that, the subcommittee believes, puts him in a strong position to provide meaningful insight into the issues facing the Board over the next 11 months.**

Because of the strong field of applicants, the subcommittee wants to again emphasize how difficult it was to determine whom it would ultimately recommend for appointment. It is the hope that the work of the subcommittee in establishing the criteria and then evaluating each of the applicants based on these criteria has been helpful to the Board as we together make this critically important decision.