

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes
February 22, 2016
Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Board Chair Julie Pritchard called the Regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education of Independent School District 659 to order at 7:00 PM. Present: Bogott, Colangelo, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. Hardy 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 from Quinnell, seconded by Colangelo, minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular School Board meeting held on February 8, 2016 were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - NHS Alpine Skiers, Ashton Croy, Skye Sonnega, and Katie Brust qualified for and participated in the MSHSL State Alpine Ski Championships held at Giant's Ridge in Biwabik on February 10th.
 - The Girls Hockey team competed in the state girls hockey tournament last week, playing at both the Xcel Energy Center and Ridder Arena.
 - High School English as a Second Language teacher Jennifer Lompart has been nominated for the 2016 MN Teacher of the Year award. Currently, 114 teachers across the state are being reviewed for the semifinals. That number will be reduced to 10 to 12 for the final step. A winner will be announced in mid-May.
 - The Area Learning Center's Open House is this Wednesday from 3:00-5:00 at the ALC. This is a reception to celebrate the recent award and an open house to show what the ALC is about and what they do.
 - Superintendent Richardson congratulated the high school staff for the increase in the rate in which students at NHS graduate in four years. In 2015 96.5% of NHS students graduated in four years compared to the state average of 81.9%.
 - Board Chair Julie Pritchard acknowledged Superintendent Richardson's retirement effective June 30th and spoke about how fortunate the District has been for his leadership since 2004. Board members Colangelo, Iverson, Quinnell and Stratmoen echoed Pritchard's thoughts.
- VI. Items for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. High School Robotics Team.
The High School Robotics team made a presentation to the School Board on Monday night. This is the third year that Robotics is being offered as a class at NHS with Industrial Technology Teacher Steve Taggart. The robotics team uses problem solving and team work skills learned in the classroom, and put those skills to practical use, turning curiosity into knowledge and a passion to learn even more. Four adult mentors from the engineering community help the 48 students in class to learn and develop new skills. Since the Robotics team was founded in 1989, over \$80,000 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 7, 8, and 9 at the University of Minnesota.
 2. Prairie Creek Community School Contract Renewal Application.
The School District's authorizer contract with Prairie Creek Community School expires on June 30, 2016. As a condition for contract renewal, Prairie Creek Community School was required to complete a self-evaluation, hire an independent team of external evaluators and report the results of the self-evaluation and the external team's evaluation to the Northfield Board of Education prior to any action that would extend the contract. Simon Tyler, Director, and Roz Eaton-Neeb, Board Chair, along with Ryan Krominga and Eric McDonald, external visitation team members, presented the findings of the self-evaluation and the external evaluation and, based on these

findings, recommended that the Northfield School District contract with Prairie Creek Community School be renewed for a five-year period beginning July 1, 2016, and continuing to June 30, 2021. State statutes require the District to review the self-evaluation and external evaluation, and complete our evaluation of Prairie Creek's performance. A draft of that evaluation was given to the Board for review. In March, the Superintendent will present the final renewal report to the Board along with a recommendation to renew the charter school's contract for up to five years. If the recommendation is approved, the District and the Charter School will complete a new contract that must be reviewed by both parties and then submitted with the District's evaluation of the charter school's performance to the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) for its review and comment. Once MDE has completed its review, the District will receive authorization to vote on the final contract with any required modifications, renewing District sponsorship for up to five years. The entire process must be completed prior to June 30, 2016.

3. Curricular Additions at Northfield High School

Across the high school curriculum, staff is making changes to better serve the needs and interests of students, and to respond to changing expectations of our community, state, and nation. High School Principal Joel Leer shared with the Board the following changes taking place for next year at the high school:

- Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) – a new design course will be added that will provide instruction in design principles and give students the opportunity to use those skills in a project area of their choosing.
- A Business Honors Program will begin that will include a series of courses and a capstone course that will offer opportunities to interact with the business community and real world issues
- “Industrial Technology” will undergo a name change. Next year it will be called, “Technology and Engineering.” They also will work together with the Art Department to create a new high-end computer lab space that will offer expanded opportunities for creating more sophisticated projects in both areas.

VII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Community Services Budget Revisions.

On a motion by Colangelo, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously approved a revised FY 16 Community Services budget of revenues of \$2,264,646.00 and expenditures of \$2,239,501.00.

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Financial Reports – December 2015.

The Board approved paid bills totaling \$2,031,520.38, payroll checks totaling \$2,716,509.37 and the financial reports for December 2015. No bond payments were made in December 2015.

2. Personnel Items.

a. Appointments.*

1. Kale Asada, CS Recreation (Aquatics \$9.00/hour; Lifeguard \$9.50/hour), beginning 02/08/2016 – 05/31/2016.
2. Taryn (Tari) Atchison, CS PLUS Teacher at GVP for 1.25 hours/day (M-Th) beginning 02/17/2016 – 05/18/2016; Year 6, \$27.73/hour.
3. Carrin Baker, CS Recreation (Aquatics \$9.00/hour; Lifeguard \$9.50/hour), beginning 02/08/2016 – 05/31/2016.
4. Garrick Hoekstra, CS Recreation (Basketball Staff \$9.00/hour), beginning 02/13/2016 – 05/31/2016.
5. Alison Langson, CS Recreation (Aquatics \$9.00/hour; Lifeguard \$9.50/hour) beginning 02/11/2016 – 05/31/2016.

6. Hildeliza Lopez, Child Nutrition Associate I at the Middle School for 3.75 hours/day beginning 02/15/2016; \$15.52/hour.
 7. Michaela Marincic, CS Community Evening School Club Leader at GVP for 2 hours/week (Th) beginning 02/18/2016 – 05/26/2016; \$19.50/hour. Michaela will also be a substitute site assistant for the KidVentures program.
 8. Kyle Roth, 1.0 FTE ECSE B-5 Teacher at Longfellow BA, Step 4 beginning 02/10/2015, change to BA, Step 13 beginning 02/15/2016.
 9. Maria Soper, Child Nutrition Student Associate for 1 hour/day at Longfellow/ALC beginning 02/15/2016; \$9.00/hour.
 10. Allison Trezona, CS Evening School Site Assistant at GVP for 3 hours/day (T&Th) beginning 02/18/2016 – 05/26/2016; Step 1, \$12.19/hour.
- b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment.
1. Stephanie Balma, SpecEd EA-PCA at GVP for 7 hours/day, change to EarlyVentures Teacher at Longfellow for 38 hours/week beginning 02/23/2016; Step 1, \$15.00/hour.
 2. Tyler Balow, 1.0 FTE Social Studies Teacher at the High School, add Asst. Boys/Girls Track Coach at the High School beginning 03/14/2016 – 06/11/2016; Level F, Step 1.
 3. Paul Bernard, 1.0 FTE PE Teacher at Bridgewater, add CS Recreation (Table Tennis Supervisor \$10.00/hour) beginning 02/08/2016 – 05/31/2016.
 4. Sonya Ehmer, Targeted Services PLUS Site Assistant at Bridgewater, change to TS Site Lead at Bridgewater for 1.5 hours/day (M-Th) beginning 02/15/2016 – 04/07/2016; Step 1, \$15.19/hour.
 5. Heather Ryden, RTI Coach at GVP, add TS PLUS Teacher at GVP for 1.25 hours/day (M-Th) beginning 02/22/2016 – 05/18/2016; Year 1, \$27.11/hour.
 6. Arlene Tuma, GenEd EA-ECFE at NCRC (12 hours/week), TS PLUS Site Asst. at GVP (6 hours/week), add Community Services Evening School Site Assistant for 6 hours/week (T&Th) beginning 02/09/2016 – 05/26/2016; Step 2, \$12.52/hour.
 7. Jonna Hanek, Custodian at GVP/Sibley (4 hours/building), change to Custodian at GVP for 3 hours/day, and Sibley for 5 hours/day beginning 02/22/2016.
 8. Mark Langevin, 6th Grade Teacher, 6th Grade Football Coach, MS Assistant Track Coach, change MS Asst. Track Coach to MS Track Coach beginning 03/29/2016 – 06/03/2016; Change from Level I to Level H.
- c. Leave of Absence.
1. Donna Hall, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 01/20/2016 – 02/24/2016; extended through 03/01/2016.
 2. Janet Murray, Family/Medical Leave of Absence beginning 02/15/2016 continuing through 03/01/2016. Return to work date is scheduled for 03/02/2016.
 3. Megan Kuechenmeister, Childcare Leave of Absence beginning on or about 05/17/2016 through the end of the 2015-16 school year.
- d. Resignations / Retirements / Termination.
1. Stephanie Balma, SpecEd EA-PCA at GVP, resignation effective 02/23/2016. Stephanie will be transferring to a position with Early Ventures at Longfellow.
 2. Rachel Engrem, SpecEd EA-PCA at Bridgewater, termination of employment effective 02/08/2016.
 3. Holly Fischer, Music Specialist at Sibley Elementary, retirement effective 08/31/2016.
 4. Katy Schuerman, Compañeros Teacher at Sibley, resignation effective 02/16/2016.
 5. Mauricio Lozada Hernandez, Educational Assistant at the Middle School, resignation effective 03/04/2016.
 6. L. Chris Richardson, Superintendent of Schools, retirement effective 6/30/2016.

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

VIII. Items for Information

1. 2017-2018 School Year Calendar.

A draft of the 2017-18 school year calendar as recommended by the District Meet and Confer Committee was given to the Board. The Board will be asked to take action on the proposed 2017-

2018 school year calendar with any revisions or amendments at its regular meeting on March 14, 2016.

2. Enrollment Report – February 2016.
 3. Process for Superintendent Search.
Board Chair Julie Pritchard will appoint a subcommittee of three Board members that will develop a process for the search of a new superintendent. She is interested in hearing any ideas for the search from other Board members, as well as what are the critical issues facing the District and criteria that should be used when looking for a new superintendent. The subcommittee will report to the full Board at its meeting on March 14, 2016.
- IX. Future Meetings
Monday, March 14, 2016, 7:00 PM Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, March 28, 2016, 7:00 PM Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
- X. Adjournment
On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Iverson, the Board adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk