

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

January 23, 2017

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 7:15 p.m. Present: Colangelo, Goerwitz, Hardy, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell and Stratmoen. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
On a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Hardy, minutes of the Minutes of the Organizational and Regular School Board meetings held on January 9, 2017, were unanimously approved.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Congratulations to High School Sophomore Logan Ledman. Logan is the 2017 Northfield VFW Post 4393 Voice of Democracy essay 1st place winner in District 1, which encompasses Southeastern Minnesota. Logan went on to compete at the State VFW competition where his essay and speech on the subject of “My Responsibility to America” earned him 2nd place out of nine State VFW District Champions.
 - Northfield High School had 41 students participate in the DECA District competition held January 13, 2017, in Owatonna. From this group, 22 qualified for DECA State to be held March 19-21. Northfield received many 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places in the students' events. Qualifying students: Paulina Amaro, Jenny Bakken, Ariana Beeby, Evan Clay, Sofia Cornelison, Dylan Coutermash, Alida Dice, Jack Fox, Tommy Gallagher, Mikhail Geissler, Maxwell Gorden Mercer, Delina Haileab, Henry Hofstad, Gage Hofstad, Aaron Lopez, Finn Muir, Griffin Rod, Brian Rodriguez, Dylan Roney, Reed Roney, Tanis Sears, and Jason Woitalla. The DECA chapter has also been busy in January fundraising for Flint, Michigan to help supply bottled water to the town.
 - The Northfield Music Listening teams swept the top three places at the Regional contest on January 20th at Mankato East. Team #2, with seniors Mica Johnson and Alaina Falck and junior Elisabeth Peterson had the top score of 86/100, and will represent Northfield at the State Contest at Augsburg College on February 3rd. Northfield Team #1, with seniors Rose Mibus, Chloe Schwietz, and Libby Barth scored 84/100, and Team #3 with senior Amy Imdieke, sophomore Trey Coudret, and freshman Ryan Mibus scored 71/100 and tied with Owatonna for third place. Our Raider music listening teams have a long-standing history of advancing to the State contest.
 - Ploughshares is pleased to announce that “We Live Close Together and We Live Far Apart” by Rob Hardy appears in the Winter 2016-17 issue of *Ploughshares*. Rob Hardy is not only a member of our School Board, but he is also a research associate in classics at Carleton College and the first poet laureate of Northfield, MN.
 - Northfield Middle School hosted the Minnesota Twins Caravan on January 23.
 - The Martin Luther King Jr Community Celebration has been rescheduled for January 26 at Emmaus Church.
- VI. Committee Reports.
Board Chair Julie Pritchard provided a report about the Schools for Equity in Education meeting on January 20, 2017.

VII. Items for Discussion and / or Reports

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

Simon Tyler, Director of Prairie Creek Community School, and Barb Wornson, Interim Director of Arcadia, did a joint presentation of the programs being provided in their two charter schools with a focus on innovative arts programming at the two schools. Simon began with a review of Prairie Creek's fourteenth year of operation as a charter school under the sponsorship of the Northfield Public Schools, and an overview of this year's initiatives. Visual Arts Teacher Angie Ekern and Art Committee Lead Teacher Nancy Dennis spoke about the arts at Prairie Creek, specifically "True Colors", a participatory community event to celebrate the children's art to be held on March 9, and the Opera Residency with St. Olaf. Prairie Creek has 9 classrooms serving 180 students in grades K-5.

Barb reviewed Arcadia's mission. Teacher Bob Gregory-Bjorklund highlighted Arcadia's Arts program and the variety of learning experiences available to students. Arcadia, formerly ARTech, is in its thirteenth year of operation and serves 126 students in grades 6-12.

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.

The School District's authorizer contract with Arcadia expires on June 30th. As a condition for contract renewal, Arcadia will 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.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Colangelo, the Board unanimously approved recessing for 5 minutes.

2. Thought Exchange.

ThoughtExchange Stakeholder Engagement Facilitator Kailey Metcalf and Service Lead Iain Hackett presented an overview of the top themes from the Fall 2016 "Join the Conversation" multi-step ThoughtExchange process. 798 people engaged in the process, contributing 1,331 "thoughts", and assigning 53,412 stars. Based on the top questions raised during this ThoughtExchange "Conversation", the Board decided to hold a work session on Wednesday, February 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM to discuss the Master Facilities Plan. Additional information will be shared with staff in the coming weeks on the ThoughtExchange results.

3. Financial Forecast and 2017-2018 General Fund Budget Plan.

Director of Finance Val Mertesdorf presented the financial forecast and preliminary budget plan parameters and timeline for the 2017-18 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. The financial projections show revenue to increase by 0.8% and expenditures to increase by 3.9%. The District plans to use a portion of the unassigned fund balance to cover this deficit. The projection is to end the 2017-2018 school year with a 20.8% unassigned fund balance. The unexpected and significant enrollment increases over the past year have allowed the District to increase the fund balance and ultimately change the financial outlook. With another year of increased fund balance and increased enrollment, it appears that the District will be financially stable through 2018-2019.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Colangelo, the Board unanimously approved continuing the Board meeting past 10:00 PM.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Items for Individual Action

1. Dundas Dome Lease.

On a motion by Colangelo, seconded by Quinnell, the Board unanimously approved the lease with the Dundas Dome for no more than 90 hours at a total cost not to exceed \$40,500.

2. Revised School Board Policy 501 – Weapons.
On a motion by Hardy, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously approved the revisions to School Board Policy 501-Weapons, as presented.
 3. Awarding the Bid for the Bridgewater Roof Replacement.
On a motion by Goerwitz, seconded by Stratmoen, the Board unanimously awarded the Base Bid Line Item #2 for the “Cold Process” application in the amount of \$1,338,750 to Peterson Brothers Roofing.
- B. Items for Consent Grouping
On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Quinnell, the Board unanimously approved the following items in the Consent Grouping.
1. Financial Reports – August 2016.
The Board approved paid bills totaling \$1,582,608.97, payroll checks totaling \$831,926.34 and the financial reports for August 2016. There were no bond payments made in August 2016.
 2. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments.
 1. Danielle Crase Assistant Girls Golf Coach for 2 hrs/day at the High School beginning 3/20/2017-6/14/2017; \$18.00/hr.
 2. Heather Olivier Event Worker District Wide beginning 1/18/2017.
 3. *Carolyn Hartwell 1.0 FTE Elective Teacher (ART) at CVSEC SUN & ALEX beginning 1/25/2017-06/06/2017; BA, Step 0
 4. *Sarah Latimer PLUS Site Assistant for 1.5 hrs./day for 4 days/wk. at Greenvale Park Elementary beginning 01/24/2017-5/4/2017; Step 1-\$12.43/hr.
 - b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment.
 1. Cory Callahan High School Weight Room Assistant (winter season), change to 1.0 strength training coach-winter for 2.5 hrs/day at the High School beginning 1/16/2017-03/17/2017; Level I (Step One).
 2. Mark Etzell Sub Auditorium Tech. with Community Services, change to Building Supervisor for open gym Sunday’s at Bridgewater and Monday’s at Longfellow with Community Services beginning 1/15/2017-1/30/2017.
 3. Katie Rigge Long Term Substitute for ECSE at Longfellow, change to Long Term Substitute ECSE Teacher for up to 0.9 FTE hrs/week at Longfellow beginning 1/18/2017-2/10/2017.
 4. Nina DeBoer LTS Sped Teacher at CVSEC-SUN, change to Sped Teacher-Short Call at CVSEC-SUN beginning 01/03/2017-01/20/2017.
 5. Nina DeBoer Sped Teacher – short call license \$23.20/hr.at CVSEC-SUN, change to Sped Teacher-non-licensed community expert at CVSEC-SUN beginning 01/23/2017-06/06/2017. BA, Step 0 \$26.47/hr.
 6. Frances Garvey Special Ed EA Step 4 Spec Ed \$16.19/hr. at the High School, change to ESL Educational Assistant General Ed for 6.5 hrs./day at the High School beginning 1/30/2017; Step 4 Gen Ed \$15.63/hr.
 7. Carolyn Manderfeld Spec Ed EA at the Middle School, add Targeted Services PLUS Leader for 1.25 hrs./day up to 4 days per week at Bridgewater beginning 1/23/17-4/5/17; \$20.09/hr.
 8. Diane Nagy .05 FTE Title/0.5 FTE Compensatory at Bridgewater, change to .5 FTE Title/.5 FTE Instructional Coach at Bridgewater beginning 1/30/2017.
 9. Kim Norton Targeted Services Site Assistant at Greenvale Park Elementary, add Targeted Services PLUS Site Assistant for 1.5 hrs./day for 4 days/wk. (Mon-Thurs.) at Bridgewater beginning 1/23/2017-5/04/2017.

- c. Leave of Absence Requests Approved.
 1. Melissa Shepherd, Teacher at Bridgewater, childcare leave of absence beginning on or about 05/10/2017-through end of 2016-17 school year.
 2. Cori Yamry, Teacher at the Middle School, Family/Medical Leave childcare beginning 08/28/2017-for 8 work weeks of leave.
- d. Resignations / Retirements / Termination.
 1. Cory Callahan, Assistant Weight Room Coach, resignation effective 1/17/2017 in order to move to the Strength Training Coach position.
 2. Candy Hard, Teacher at the Middle School, retirement effective at the end of the 2016-17 school year.
 3. Trista Shimota School Nurse at St. Dominic, resignation effective 02/28/2017, will continue as a substitute.
 4. Corazon Zamora, Spec Ed EA CVSEC Alex, termination effective 1/09/2017.
 5. Ron Zoromski, Teacher at the High School, retirement effective at the end of the 2016-17 school year.
 6. Crystal Jones Spec Ed EA PCA CVSEC unable to accept position.

IX. Items for Information

1. Educational Assistant Recognition Week – January 23-27, 2017.
This week has been designated as Educational Assistant Recognition Week. Buildings are recognizing the contributions of educational assistants this week.
2. School Board Committee Appointments.
School Board Committee appointments for 2017 were made by Board Chair Julie Pritchard.

X. Future Meetings

Wednesday, February 8, 2017, 5:30 to 7:30 PM, School Board Work Session (Master Facilities Plan), Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, February 13, 2017, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center
Monday, February 27, 2017, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

XI. Adjournment

On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Quinnell, the Board adjourned at 10:20 p.m. to a closed negotiations strategy session in the District Office Conference Room

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk