

**NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Office of the Superintendent**  
**Memorandum**

**TO:** Board of Education  
**FROM:** Matt Hillmann Ed.D., Superintendent  
**RE:** Table File Items for January 23, 2017, Regular School Board Meeting

VI. Committee Reports.

Enclosed is a report from Julie Pritchard about the Schools for Equity in Education (SEE) meeting she attended last Friday, January 20.

VII. Items for Discussion and/or Reports

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

Enclosed is a power point presentation.

VIII. Superintendent's Report

B. Items for Consent Grouping

2. Personnel Items

a. Appointments.\*

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.

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/.05 FTE Compensatory at Bridgewater, change to .05 FTE Title/.05 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.

d. Resignations/Retirements/Termination.

6. Crystal Jones Spec Ed EA PCA CVSEC unable to accept position.

\* Conditional offers of employment are subject to successful completion of a criminal background check and pre-work screening (if applicable).



## Committee Report

*Board of Education*

**Name:** Julie Pritchard

**Committee:** Schools for Equity in Education (SEE)

**Date Submitted:** 1/23/2017 9:35:45

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The highlight of SEE's General Membership Meeting held on Friday, January 20th were the guest speakers Senator Carla Nelson (R-Rochester, Chair of the E-12 Finance committee) and Senator Eric Pratt (R-Prior Lake, Chair of the E-12 Policy Committee). Their remarks included what issues, in their view, should have priority this session. These priorities include addressing teacher shortage with teacher licensing reforms, maximizing dual credit programs, as well as the Special Education cross-subsidy (estimated at \$719 million over the next two years). Both legislators expressed their understanding of the importance to districts statewide of providing an increase to the basic funding formula. They did however, temper their support of these priorities by acknowledging the state's pent up interest in tax credit and transportation. Deb Griffiths reminded districts about their scheduled SEE Day at the Capitol which will provide School Board members, parents and community members the opportunity to meet with legislators. Northfield's day at the Capitol is Tuesday, March 14th.

January 23rd 2017  
Simon Tyler & Barbara Wornson

# Northfield Charter Schools

## Northfield Charter Schools

### Presentation Focus

The focus this evening will be on  
innovative arts programming at Prairie  
Creek and Arcadia

## Prairie Creek Community School

Mission

Program

Current Initiatives / Happenings

Arts at Prairie Creek

## Prairie Creek Community School

### Mission

PCCS is a community school

PCCS is a child-centered school

PCCS is a progressive school

PCCS aims to make the world a better place



**PRAIRIE CREEK**  
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



## Prairie Creek Community School

### Academic Program

Prairie Creek has 9 multi-age classrooms:

Three classrooms of K/1 grades  
 Three classrooms of 2/3 grades  
 Three classrooms of 4/5 grades  
 20 students in each class



Prairie Creek has specialist teachers in the curriculum areas of Art, Music and Spanish  
 Three Special Education Teachers; one reading/math intervention specialist

## Key Characteristics of Progressive Education

Flexible Learning Spaces

Environmental Education

Multi-Age Groupings

Interdisciplinary Projects / Themes

Creativity

Inquiry

Play



## Evaluation in a Progressive Learning Environment

A focus on knowing the *whole* child...

De-emphasis of standardized assessments

Teacher Observation

Parent-Child-Teacher Conferences

Written narratives

Presentations / Culminating Events

Habits of Mind

Social / Emotional Growth



## Strategic Planning

Board / Faculty / Parent Collaboration

2016/2017 is Year Three of current (four year) strategic plan cycle

Board review structure

Action Plan Areas:

Education Programming

Outreach

Community Engagement and

Sustainability



## Strategic Plan Goals 2016 - 2017

### Education Program

- ☐ Thematic Study
- ☐ Math
- ☐ Social Justice

### Outreach

- ☐ Progressive Education Networking
- ☐ Legislative outreach
- ☐ Parent Education

### Community Engagement and Program Sustainability

- ☐ Fundraising Initiatives
- ☐ Leadership sustainability
- ☐ Alumni Connections

## Social Justice

*PCCS Aims to Make the  
World a Better Place*  
- mission statement review

Book and article studies

Teaching and curriculum



## *Imagine Conference*

Last November, Prairie Creek hosted its first education conference



## **Q Comp**

2016 - 2017 is Prairie Creek's first year as a Q Comp program

First year as a Q Comp program

School-wide math goal

The additional funding supports:

- Q Comp Coordinator stipend and training
- Three Peer Coach Leads stipends and training
- Professional Development in Cognitive Coaching practices
- Stipends for teachers

## Professional Development

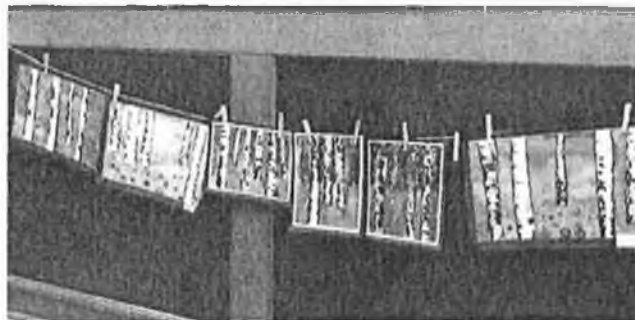
Teacher Led / Mission Centered  
Weekly two hour meetings  
Committee Structure  
Narrative Arc Design

2016 - 2017 Focus Areas:

Math  
Social Justice  
Literacy



## The Arts at Prairie Creek



*Nancy Dennis - Art Committee Lead Teacher*  
*Angie Ekern - Visual Arts Teacher*

## Music

Twice Weekly Music Classes for all children  
Fourth/Fifth Grade Orchestra  
Music central to community events



## Visual Arts

Weekly one hour art studio



## True Colors

A participatory, community event to celebrate the children's art



## Arts Residencies

Arts' Sub- Committee

Teachers and Parents

Residency Visioning and  
Planning



## Heart of the Beast Theater - 2015

Giant Puppets!

May Day Parade



## Clay Artist Residency 2016

Clay Artist Colleen Riley



*Each  
piece of  
clay is like  
a small  
memory*  
-Colleen Riley

Pottery "Stacks"

## Opera Residency with St. Olaf - January 2017

*We're All From Somewhere Else...*



## See the Arts in action at PCCS!

### **The Prairie Creek Opera Performance**

Tuesday, January 24 7:00pm  
Northfield Middle School Auditorium

### **True Colors Art Event: *Art for Others***

Thursday, March 9 6:00 - 7:30pm  
Prairie Creek Community School

## Arcadia Charter School

Tonight's Presentation will include:

- Introduction

- School Overview by mission

- Spotlight Program: Arts at Arcadia(Bob Gregory-Bjorklund)

- 'Just the facts'



## The Northfield News Reports the Story

"School consultant Julie Cohr had briefly stepped in to fill the immediate vacancy that they would not be able to gather community input for, before finding an experienced Wornson to take over the transition."

## So - What is an Experienced Wornson?

Doctorate in Educational Leadership and  
Critical Pedagogy from the University of St.  
Thomas

Experience as an Executive Director, 2005-  
present

- ▮ Zumbro Education District ALC
- ▮ Sobriety High School
- ▮ Main Street School of Performing Arts
- ▮ Upper Mississippi Academy
- ▮ Parent of an Arcadia Student, 2003-2008

## The Arcadia Mission

### Mission

It is the mission of Arcadia Charter School to prepare our students to transition intellectually, emotionally, and ethically to higher education and future employment.

Arcadia envisions a learning community that encourages and assists students to:

- Express themselves artistically
  - Use technology responsibly, creatively, and with innovation
  - Develop critical thinking and creative problem solving skills
  - Construct knowledge and meaning for themselves
  - Understand and strive for wellness of their whole person
  - Recognize and act upon their responsibilities as local citizens within our global context
- Achieve proficiency in project-based learning

**Technology**

It is the mission of Arcadia Charter School to prepare our students to transition intellectually, emotionally, and ethically to higher education and future employment.

Arcadia Charter School envisions a learning community that encourages and assists students to:

- Express themselves artistically
- Use technology responsibly, creatively, and with innovation

A Computer for every child

Classes for Coding

Lego Robotics

- Integration of technology into all core classes
- Apple TV, Google Classroom, On-line supplemental instruction

## Develop critical thinking and creative problem solving skills

- Project based learning process
  - How to ask the essential questions
  - How to conduct the research
  - Sharing/presenting a final project



## Construct knowledge and meaning for themselves

### Experiential Learning

Projects selected by students based on their curiosity and interest



### Understand and strive for wellness of their whole person

- Physical Health
- Emotional Health
- Mental Health
- Building strong families
- Building social skills
- Wellness committee



Recognize and  
act upon their  
responsibilities as  
local citizens within  
our global context

- Renewable energy
- Sustainable living
- Social awareness



What does a typical  
day look like for an  
Arcadian seventh  
grader?

Classtime  
Playtime  
Project Work Time

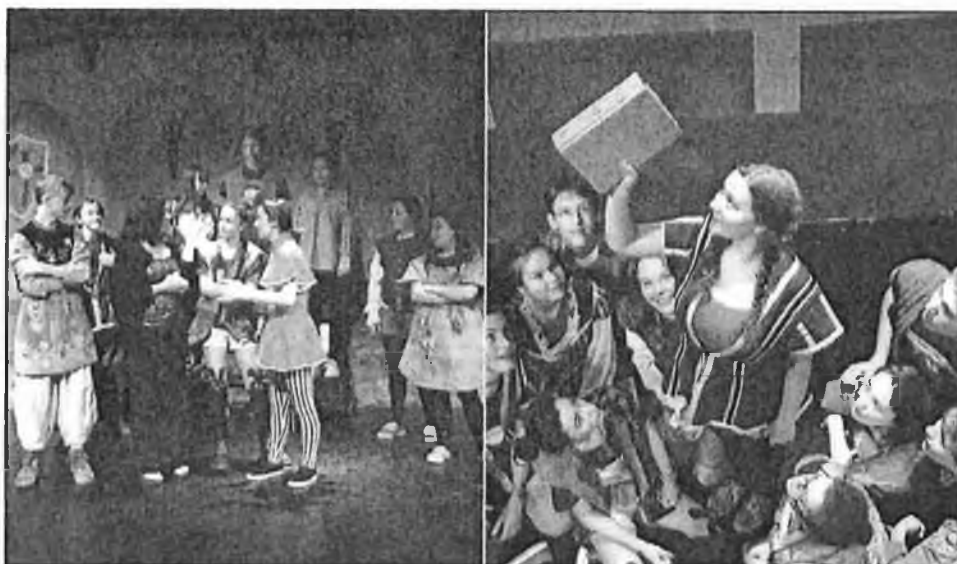


The Morning  
Circle



Express Themselves Artistically

Dance - we  
love to  
dance!



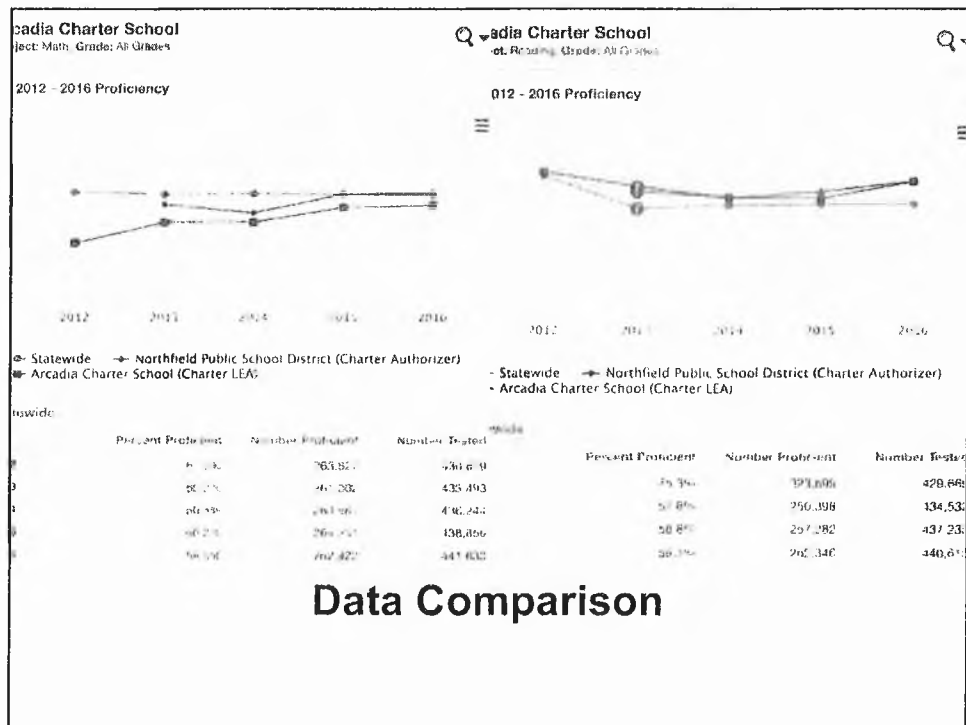
Theatre

**And all kinds of  
music**



**Arts for Martin  
Community  
Celebration**





Professional Development

## Arcadia is Recognized for our Student Academic Growth

### 2014

MDE awarded Celebration Eligible School

MDE awarded Highly Qualified Charter School

### 2015

MDE awarded Celebration Eligible School

MDE awarded Highly Qualified Charter School

### 2016

MDE awarded Celebration Eligible School

MDE awarded Highly Qualified Charter School

## A Stirring Testimonial

----- just told me about the synopsis Arcadia is requesting of its recent graduates detailing their collegiate accomplishments and asking for details on future endeavors. I would be remiss if I did not say what I am about to say. Please feel free to share it, or not, in part or in whole, as you deem appropriate. I just really needed to share it.

My son ----- came to Arcadia in the eighth grade. He had attended public school, and while he fared well academically, he was suffering socially and emotionally. While public school, at times, recognized his achievements academically, it ignored his social/emotional development and, in fact, was punitive in his identity as a gay, transgender teen. This negligence was caustic to his academic work, as he was unable to continue to progress with school if he had to continue to suffer for who he is. Then we came to Arcadia. Arcadia opened their arms to ----- and not only supported him, and challenged him, academically and creatively, they also encouraged him socially and emotionally. The faculty and staff regarded ----- as a whole person, not just as a scholastic number. In doing so, ----- flourished. He became engaged, he questioned, and with the support of Arcadia, he sought answers and he blossomed. It was because of this support, of his whole being, that ----- believed he could seek out and excel at some of the highest collegiate institutions in the country. And so he applied. It was his university of choice, Boston University, that not only accepted -----s entrance into college, but offered him an academic scholarship of \$48,000. Boston University saw the same potential in my son, that Arcadia had instilled in him, beginning with the first second he stepped through their door. It was with the support, both academically and emotionally, Arcadia gave to -----, that led him to believe he could become a success and that support guided him to believe he could accomplish whatever he sought to do. For this, and much more, I must say, thank you! Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone at Arcadia for their unending support - academically, creatively, and socially of my son, -----! The love, acceptance and creative academic approach of Arcadia faculty and staff encouraged my son, -----, to move toward his fullest potential. For this I will be forever grateful. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

**Northfield Charter Schools**

Questions?