

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Minutes

School Board Minutes

October 10, 2011

Northfield High School Media Center

- I. Call to Order.
Board Chair Kari Nelson called the regular meeting of the Northfield Board of Education to order at 7 PM. No one was absent.
- II. Agenda Changes / Table File
The table file was added.
- III. Public Comment
There was none.
- IV. Approval of Minutes
After a typographical error was pointed out (“moral” instead of “morale” during the public comment), on a motion by Quinnell, seconded by Maple, the minutes of the September 26, 2011, Regular School Board meeting were unanimously approved as corrected.
- V. Announcements and Recognitions
 - Closed negotiations strategy session will follow the conclusion of tonight’s Board meeting.
 - The Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) announced the results of the Video PSA Contest on the subject of cyberbullying and responsible technology use. The top vote getter was “That Losing Goal,” produced by Hanna Bubser and Samantha Roback. The panel of judges, made up of school district administrators, students, HCI board members and members of the Mayor’s Task Force on Youth Alcohol & Drug Use, also selected a “Judges’ Prize.” That award goes to Zachary Anderson for his video, “Words Have Power.” The following individuals also received honorable mentions for their technical merit and relevant content: Connor Balfany, CJ Betcher, Kyle Betcher, David Greer, Seth Hansen, and Chen Ye. All of the video finalists will continue to be available on the School District’s website as well as the HCI website. They will also be aired on Northfield Television and shared with local parents and students throughout the Northfield schools.
 - Northfield Middle School is one of five TEAM UP (Teaching English Language Learners – Action Model to Unite Professionals) schools in the state. A group of middle school teachers has been participating in a 2 year long grant project with the University of Minnesota. This Thursday, October 13th from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. there will be a TEAM UP Parent Night. All interested parents are invited to come to learn in a bilingual setting (English/Spanish) how to use family access, set up free e-mail accounts and other helpful tools for parenting middle school students.
- VI. Item for Discussion and / or Reports
 1. ARTech Annual Report.
ARTech is in its eighth year of operation. The new Director of ARTech, Ryan Krominga, presented ARTech’s 2010-2011 Annual Report. This plan fulfills state requirements for annual reporting as well as the District’s request that each charter school authorized by the Northfield Public Schools present an annual report to the School Board.
 2. Community Services Site Improvement Plan.
Hannah Puczko, Director of Community Services, presented its continuous site improvement plan.
- VII. Superintendent's Report
 - A. Items for Individual Action
 1. Resolution Providing for the Sale of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2011: And Covenanteeing and Obligating the District to be Bound By and to Use the Provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to Guarantee the Payment of the Principal and Interest on these Bonds.
Jeff Seeley, a Financial Advisor with Ehlers, presented the Pre-Sale Report for \$10,635,000 General Obligation School Building Refund Bonds. The District has been monitoring interest rates in the bond

market for refunding opportunities of previous bond issues. A "comparisons" page from the latest estimates of the impact of refunding the 2003A General Obligation Bonds shows total savings in future debt service just over \$1.4 million, with a present value of just over \$1.2 million, or 10.5% of the present value of the refunded debt service.

Rates on municipal bonds have continued to decrease in recent weeks, reaching very low levels. This has presented a favorable market to refund the District's existing, higher interest rate, bonds. Given these historic low rates, the Board decided to proceed with planning for an advance refunding of these bonds. The resolution, which was unanimously approved, authorizes the sale of refunding bonds and the application for the state credit enhancement backing. Providing no dramatic changes in the market, the District would plan to solicit bids and have the Board award sale at the November 14, 2011 meeting.

On a motion by Iverson, seconded by Maple, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Authorizing the Approval of the Sale of General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds; Covenanting and Obligating the District to be Bound By and to Use the Provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.55 to Guarantee the Payment of the Principal and Interest on the Bonds. Voting 'yes' was Fossum, Maple, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

2. Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the November 8, 2011, School District Special Election.
On a motion by Pritchard, seconded by Iverson, the Board unanimously approved the Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the November 8, 2011, School District Special Election. Voting 'yes' was Fossum, Maple, Iverson, Pritchard, Quinnell, Stratmoen and Nelson. No one voted 'no.'

B. Items for Consent Grouping

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

1. Additional Overnight Co-Curricular Trip for 2011-2012.
The Board approved the Boys Hockey team going to Mankato November 25-26 to attend a Mankato State Hockey game on November 25 and then to scrimmage Mankato West on November 26.
2. Personnel Items.
 - a. Appointments*
 1. Nicole Miner, Kid Ventures Site Assistant at Bridgewater, Greenvale and Sibley Elementary Schools for 2.5 hours/day, beginning 10/3/11, Step 1, \$11.03/hr.
 2. Toni Easterson, Morning Homework Help Site Assistant at Bridgewater, .75 hrs./day beginning 9/28/11 through 6/1/12, Step 1, \$11.03/hr.
 3. Sarah Martens, Assistant Girls 9th Grade Basketball Coach, beginning 11/14/11, Level E, step 5.
 4. Co-Curricular Assignments for October.
 - b. Increase/Decrease/Change in Assignment
 1. Linda Oto, Mentoring Coordinator, increase hours from 32 hrs./week for 36 weeks, adding Youth Development/Youth Services Assistant hours to 40 hrs./week for 52 weeks. *(This position is dependent on grant funding dollars.)*
 2. Cheryl Strike, Mentoring Specialist, increase hours from 32 hrs./week for 36 weeks, to 35 hrs./week for 50 weeks. *(This position is dependent on grant funding dollars.)*
 3. Elizabeth Valentine, 1.0 FTE ESL Teacher at Bridgewater and Greenvale Park, transfer to Sibley and Greenvale Park, beginning 9/16/2011.
 4. Cheryl Mathison, 1.0 FTE ALC Teacher, additional 3 hours/week Independent Study at ALC, beginning 9/19/11 through 5/14/12.
 5. Clarita Kell, 2.75 hrs./day Instructional Educational Assistant at the Middle School, additional .5 hr./day Special Ed Educational Assistant at the Middle School, beginning 9/27/11 through 6/1/12.

6. Theresa Brake, 2 hrs./day Instructional Educational Assistant at Greenvale Park, additional 3.75 hrs./week Morning Homework Help Site Assistant at Greenvale, beginning 9/28/11 through 6/1/12, Step 4, \$11.91/hr.
7. Alissa Jorgensen, Office (Production Room) Educational Assistant at the High School for 3.79 hrs./day, beginning 9/28/11, Class I, step 1, \$12.59/hr.
8. Jean Fossum, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the High School, increase .25 hrs./day, beginning 10/3/11 through 6/1/12.
9. Dianne Peterson, Special Ed Educational Assistant Bus PCA, increase from 2.083 hrs./day to 2.25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant Bus PCA, beginning 10/3/11 through 6/1/12.
10. Paula Hemme, Child Nutrition Substitute, transfer to Child Nutrition Associate I at Sibley, beginning 10/3/11, \$13.55/hr.
11. Nicole Gill, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School, increase .25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, beginning 10/4/11 through 6/1/12.
12. Sheila Atkinson, 5.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School, increase .25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, beginning 10/4/11 through 6/1/12.
13. Beth Kuyper, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School, increase .25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, beginning 10/4/11 through 6/1/12.
14. Ruth Morgan-Malecha, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School, increase .25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, beginning 10/4/11 through 6/1/12.
15. Tammy Schwagerl, 6.75 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA at the Middle School, increase .25 hrs./day Special Ed Educational Assistant PCA, beginning 10/4/11 through 6/1/12.
16. Susan Nelson, 5.6 hrs./day ECSE Educational Assistant at Longfellow, decrease to 3.5 hrs./day beginning 10/5/11.

c. Leaves of Absences

1. Laurie Larson, intermittent FMLA Leave of Absence beginning on 9/20/11.
2. Dorothy Steffens, Leave of Absence beginning 10/3/11 through 10/31/11.

d. TRA Part-Time Teacher Program

1. The Board authorized participation for teacher Mary Harrity-Davidson to participate in the TRA Part-Time Teacher Program, whereby the teacher who qualifies can personally purchase TRA service credit at no cost to the Northfield School District.

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

** Subject to revision when negotiations for 2011-13 are completed.

3. Overnight Student Field Trip – ALC Trip to BWCA.

The Board approved the 8th annual Area Learning Center trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area June 11-15, 2012.

VIII. Items for Information

1. Enrollment Report – October 2011.
2. Guest Editorial on Northfield School Levy.

IX. Future Meetings

Monday, October 24, 2011, 7:00 PM, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

Monday, November 14, 2011, 6:30 PM, Reception for National Merit Scholars, High School Upper Cafeteria

Monday, November 14, 2011, **7:30 PM**, Regular School Board Meeting, Northfield High School Media Center

- X. On a motion by Stratmoen, seconded by Maple, the Board adjourned at 8:10 PM to a closed negotiations strategy session in the District Office Conference Room.

Noel Stratmoen
School Board Clerk