

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, March 21, 2016

6:00pm in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Stacie Krupp, Curt Bitterman, Rich White, Adam Green, Greg Ruddy, and Jessica Unangst

Absent: Kevin Birchmeier and Stephanie O'Dea

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Clint Galvas, Michelle Barrett, Craig Atkins, and 4 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Stacie Krupp at 6:00pm in the high school library. The pledge to the flag was said.

Secretary's Report

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting dated February 15, 2016.

Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence

Each Board member received an email regarding the basketball program.

Student Section

Nicole Theodore and Claudia Freed were tonight's student observers.

Presentations/Updates

Recognition – Mrs. Amber Whitman, VFW Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Whitman was recognized by the Board for her recent achievement of being chosen for the VFW's Teacher of the Year. Elementary Principal, Michelle Barrett, spoke highly of Mrs. Whitman affirming she made learning fun and challenging while taking time to implement technology in her classroom. Mrs. Whitman gives freely of her time by being part of the PTO, building leadership team and organizing Girls on the Run. Superintendent, Dr. Anthony Berthiaume affirmed Mrs. Barret's statements stating Mrs. Whitman was a phenomenal teacher who makes learning fun for her young students.

Facilities Update – Ed Bennett

A facilities update and budget was presented to the Board. Summer projects for the 2015-2016 school year were reviewed as well as projects slated for the 2016-2017 school year. Carpet bids have been received. The recommendation will be on the April agenda. Mr. Bennett stated he would need \$70,000 worked into the 2016-2017 budget to cover noted upgrades at the high school.

Committee Reports

No committee reports to report out at this time.

Visitors

No visitors addressed the Board

Financial Reports

Adam Green read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$585,897.46; school service, \$36,387.75; for a total of \$622,285.21.

Motion by Bitterman, supported by Unangst to approve the payment of bills.

Motion carried 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$766,340.31; receipts, \$820,830.42; expenditures: \$622,285.21; for an ending balance of \$964,885.52.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by White to accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

Motion carried 6-0.

Action Items

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to hire Alyssa Rivette as a J.V. Softball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2016 season.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Bitterman, supported by Ruddy to approve the Award/Authorizing Resolution for the purpose of financing a tractor purchased by the FFA to be paid out of CTE funds as presented not to exceed \$26,554.50.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by White, supported by Green to approve Tim Howard as an Assistant Track Coach for the 2016 season.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Bitterman to accept the resignation of Louis Hemgesberg effective April 29, 2016.

Motion carried 6-0.

Good News Items

Athletics – Craig Atkins

The wrestling team won its 3rd straight State Title earlier this month which brings the total number of wrestling titles to 15. We also had four individual State Champions and one 3rd, 4th and 5th place placers. Congratulations to the entire wrestling team and coaching staff. The girls' basketball team won Districts but lost out during the Regional play. The boys' basketball team also lost. We are into our second week of the spring sports. Games are scheduled for next week pending the weather conditions. Student participation numbers are looking good. Craig reported he expected the Girls Track Team to bring home the next State Title this spring. He reported no movement on the GAC. Superintendents should be voting on a proposal in August. Dr. Berthiaume thanked Mr. Atkins for doing a great job in looking out for what was best for New Lothrop athletes.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Odyssey of the Mind teams represented themselves well at the State competition this past weekend. Unfortunately, no teams will be moving on to the World Finals. Fall, 2016, registration packets for preschool will be available for parents to pick up beginning tomorrow. Mrs. Barrett reported the allotted number of slots available for preschool was at capacity for the remainder of this school year. Mrs. Barrett presented the Board with a three year comparison noting that the trend revealed areas of strengths as well as areas of growth within the preschool program. Currently, we can only offer a half day program due to the number of GSRP slots, class size limitations and the State's licensing provisions. The Early Literacy Grant spending plan continues. A summer school program has been discussed, however, student attendance is limited during the summer months. Also discussed, was the possibility

of purchasing an LLI kit and offering additional tutoring hours. Aides have already been added to classrooms. Mrs. Barrett presented each board member with a bracelet in show of support for A'myracle Andres.

High School – Clint Galvas for Stephanie O’Dea

John Long recently applied for and received a grant to purchase three 3-D printers. The Chicago trip is a go. Chaperones and teachers have been established. An “opportunity hour” is available for students every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings for students to get caught up on homework. Teachers must make a recommendation and not the student. Mock Rock is set for this Thursday. There are 19 acts. Volleyball will take place during the day. There is a Choir Concert set for March 29th at 7pm. Parent-teacher conferences will take place next Thursday from 4pm to 7pm. April 12 is a big testing day. Jr. High students will be on field trips that day.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

As far as curriculum initiatives, our Preschool and CTE programs have been two areas that Dr. Berthiaume and his administration have focused their efforts on over that past year and a half. We will have two new CTE programs in the high school curriculum next year, Machine Tools and Business Management and Technology. Administration will continue to explore ways to promote and grow our Preschool program, knowing that we need to find space to be able to increase our enrollment, which was full this year. Another curriculum initiative that the district is focusing their attention is to implement a formative diagnostic tool to help measure student growth/achievement and help guide curriculum/instruction decision based on student data. Dr. Berthiaume announced that the Diagnostic Committee, consisting of elementary and high school teachers, along with administration will be meeting another vendor this week. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has approved a pre-Labor Day start of school for the county; the tentative first day of school for students is August 25 pending RESD Board approval, who sets the first day of school, along with winter and spring breaks within the Shiawassee County. A letter will be sent to the State Superintendent prior to April 1st to request a waiver for at least one day of instruction due to the number of instructional days that were cancelled due to the weather. A representative from AngelTrax (bus camera supplier) met with Dr. Berthiaume today. Administration continues in their resolve to deter motorists from running the red flashing lights on school busses. The district has filed complaints accompanied by pictures of cars ignoring the red flashing light, administration will continue to work with law enforcement agencies to provide evidence to cite drivers who disobey the law. Kindergarten round-up will be advertised through the radio station B92.5. Dr. Berthiaume clarified that it was the State that had mandated an additional 5 days of instruction for students for the 2016-17 school year. School will not be in session the Friday before Labor Day and Monday, which is Labor Day next year.

In response to a question presented by one of the student observers, Board President. Stacie Krupp, reviewed the process used for obtaining a seat on the Board of Education.

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to enter Closed Session to discuss the Superintendent’s contract and negotiations.

Motion carried 6-0.

Closed Session was entered at 7:18pm and exited at 8:25pm.

Motion by White, supported by Unangst to extend the Superintendent’s contract for one year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 8:27pm.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, April 18, 2016 in the high school library beginning at 6:00pm

Gregory E Ruddy, Board Secretary
New Lothrop Board of Education