

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, May 16, 2016

6:00pm in the High School Library

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

Absent: Stacie Krupp

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Stephanie O'Dea, Michelle Barrett, Craig Atkins, and 27 visitors.

Curt Bitterman resided as Board President due to the absence of Stacie Krupp.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Curt Bitterman at 6:03pm in the high school library. The pledge to the flag was said.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Greg Ruddy. Motion by Ruddy, supported by White to accept the minutes from the regular meeting dated April 18, 2016.

Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence

A thank you from Amy Szybala thanking everyone for their kindness extended to her after the death of her husband, Frank.

Student Section

Student observers for tonight were Andrea Birchmeier and Alexis Birchmeier.

Presentations/Updates

Employees of New Lothrop Area Public Schools were recognized tonight for years of service. Dr. Anthony Berthiaume presented service year and retirement awards. All staff members were thanked for their hard work and dedication to the district.

Jacob Burgess and Matt Bishop gave an outstanding presentation on their recent class trip the Chicago. Their presentation included pictures from aquariums, boat tours, eateries and shows the group attended. Although the weather was not ideal for such a trip, it was not reflected in Jacob and Matt's enthusiastic recollection of their time in Chicago.

Committee Reports

None

Visitors

Jason Andres addressed the Board representing his wife, Jessica Andres. Mrs. Andres was employed by the district as a substitute bus driver but was not chosen to be hired as a full time driver in December, 2015. Mr. Andres cited several discrepancies in Mrs. Andres's employee file and presented the Board with a lengthy list of offenses including the absence of several documents he believed should have been in the file.

Financial Reports

Adam Green read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$609,028.32; school service, \$26,666.19; for a total of \$635,694.51.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,011,715.77; receipts, \$785,148.70; expenditures: \$635,694.51; for an ending balance of \$1,161,169.96.

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 White to approve the 2016-2017 SRES D budgets as presented. *(Discussion regarding the budgets took place.)*

Roll call vote: Green-no, Unangst-no, Birchmeier-no, Krupp-absent, Ruddy-no, Bitterman-no, White-no.

Motion failed 0-6.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve a one year leave of absence for Stephanie Anguilm for the 2016-2017 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Ruddy to approve offering a VSP/Early Retirement Incentive to eligible central office and non-instructional administrators as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

Good News Items

Athletics – Craig Atkins

The baseball diamonds have been very soggy this spring resulting in the cancelation of several ball games. The teams are doing very well and we are working on make-up games. We are able to play 35 games a season and thus far we have only played somewhere in the low 20's figure. Boys and girls track are doing very well. Girls took first place in the GAC. Jr. High sports will wrap up in the next few weeks. Mr. Atkins attended a Scholar Athlete Luncheon recently. Ten students from New Lothrop attended with him. On Thursday, Mr. Atkins will attend a Kiwanis Luncheon with Steven Garza. District softball and baseball will be played on June 4th; Regionals will be held in Webberville this Saturday.

In GAC news, Lakeville is asking to get back into the league. The track meet will be held all day Tuesday.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Preschool sign up was highly attended. The three day program is full. There are still openings in the four day program which is geared toward GSRP students. Kindergarten round-up went very well this year. The students were assessed in several areas and were able to go on a bus ride. Leaders from the boy and girl scouts as well as 4-H were available with information regarding their clubs. Students left with school supplies and goodies. We are currently looking at 56 students in the Kindergarten class. An additional 15 have signed up for Developmental Kindergarten.

Mrs. Barrett reported the district will not seek to fill a teaching vacancy due to a leave of absence. Current staff will be shifted instead. A change to the start time at the elementary school is being discussed. The current proposal is to begin school at 7:50am. Mrs. Barrett will assure the times will not have conflicts with the drop off times for Latchkey students. In addition, bus drop off times may need to be adjusted. Mrs. Barrett stated she will get student numbers to the Board soon. Adam Green commented on how well Kindergarten Roundup went this year. He appreciates the time that goes into making the day go smoothly.

High School –Stephanie O’Dea

A mock crash was held last week. The kids responded somberly to the reenactment. Prom went very well despite the late pick up from the charter bus. We are extremely proud of Mr. Long’s shop class. At least 36 students placed at the Regional level. Mrs. O’Dea received accolades from parents on how well the year has been for students in Mr. Long’s class. M-STEP testing for 7th grade students are finishing up. This year’s testing went much smoother than last year.

Kia Robison briefly reviewed what the Jr. High Summer School program would look like. The program would run Monday through Thursday beginning August 1st and last for 3 weeks. Students who fail a core class must attend summer school. We have room for not more than 15 students. Mrs. O’Dea checked into Montrose’s summer school program that is being offered. It looks like a great program. Mrs. O’Dea stated there is a cost for summer school. Several end of the year events coming up include Food for America, Senior Interviews, Baccalaureate and Honors night. Next Wednesday the 6th grade class will be visiting the high school. Mrs. O’Dea has received several phone calls and emails regarding the good sportsmanship our athletes have displayed this spring.

District – Dr. Anthony Berthiaume

The M-STEP testing continues. We anticipate M-STEP to take place again next year but are uncertain as to what the State has planned after that. We continue to research our options for a Diagnostic Tool and hope to meet next week to discuss the next steps to select a tool to potentially pilot next year. M-DOT is looking into putting up signage to help motorist understand the use of overhead lights on school buses. Over the last couple months our complaints about vehicles running red bus lights have decreased substantially. Dr. Berthiaume presented the Board with a District budget update as well as an update on the Technology budget. A Deputy Superintendent from Michigan Department of Education will visit the District next Thursday to meet with administration and the teaching staff.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to enter Closed Session for the purpose of negotiations.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion was made at 7:10pm and a five minute recess was suggested for visitors to mingle.

Closed Session was entered at 7:35pm and exited at 7:58pm.

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 7:59pm.

The next meeting of the Board will be a Budget Hearing on Monday, June 20, 2016 in the high school library beginning at 6:00pm.

Gregory E Ruddy, Board Secretary
New Lothrop Board of Education