

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, December 17, 2018

6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Rich White, Greg Ruddy, Adam Green, Jessica Unangst, Kevin Birchmeier, Jim Eustace and Joseph Henige.

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Michelle Barrett, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn and 25 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Ruddy to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on November 19, 2018.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

All board members received correspondence from parents regarding a staff member and the board is addressing at this time.

Student Section

None

Presentations/Updates

Hornet Hot Shot Students and Employee of the Month – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar recognized the Hornet Hot Shots for the month of December.

Junior High Hornet Hot Shot, Charley Andres (8th grade); High School Hornet Hot Shot, Macy Matthews (10th grade) and Staff Hornet Hot Shot, Rich O'Connor (Technology Director).

Bond & Sinking Fund Preliminary Project Schedule – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume presented the Bond & Sinking Fund Preliminary Project Schedule. Dr. Berthiaume explained in great detail the steps that have been taken so far including: a needs assessment, meeting with a focus group, hosting several community forums, meeting with teachers and AP students and finally that the district will be taking the bond/sinking fund application to treasury on January 8th, 2019.

Committee Reports

Policy – Jim Eustace reported the minutes from November 28, 2018.

Personnel/Curriculum – Jim Eustace reported the minutes from November 28, 2018.

Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular – Greg Ruddy reported the minutes from December 10, 2018.

Visitors

Cindy Forsythe, Bus Driver/Bus Coordinator

Cindy addressed the board stating that her job is to get students to and from school and activities safely. She feels that the policies of the school are not supporting this. She would like to see changes made, if something were to happen she would have to live with the repercussions. Mrs. Forsythe hopes the board addresses this concern of hers and gives drivers a voice. Also, Mrs. Forsythe announced that the buses all passed the state inspection last week with no violations.

Suzanne Lane, parent

Mrs. Lane thanked the board for letting her address them. Mrs. Lane's main concern is the safety of our students. Some parents/students are afraid to come out and speak their voice because of the repercussions. She and other parents trust the board, but feel their trust is being broken. The behaviors taking place in the classroom is a concern. Mrs. Lane has spoken with Dr. Berthiaume and she understands this is a process. She asked how long does this take to occur? Kids are not learning; they are self-teaching. She is concerned that these kids will be far behind when it comes to college.

Brina Gross, parent

Mrs. Gross feels like she's gone through the steps. She has attended parent teacher conferences. Her three girls are breaking down and crying. They can't ask questions, as they are glared at and get eye rolls. The material that is being taught is not on the test. They are looking at pulling their children out to do the class online. Something needs to be done.

Dan Gross, parent

Mr. Gross addressed the board, stating that his number one concern is the safety of his kids. They should be provided with an education. His taxpayer dollars are going toward this school. Mr. Gross mentioned this was a bad hire and we need someone that can teach.

Tim Birchmeier, parent

Mr. Birchmeier stated that this is a follow up to his formal complaint. This is a hostile classroom environment. In his opinion, this was a pre-mediated hire. He hopes the board takes this complaint and takes action. This is a huge disappointment.

Kurt Lane, parent

Mr. Lane stated that students don't ask questions in class, they have learned not to ask.

Trent Wendling, parent

Mr. Wendling agreed with all previous parent statements. Mr. Wendling told all the board members to think about this hire, as you all have children who will be taking this class in the near future. We should give the students an option to go to another teacher. Didn't another teacher teach this last year?

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$857,595.60; school service, \$36,626.77; for a total of \$894,222.37.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve the payment of bills.

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$610,764.76; receipts, \$838,162.23; expenditures: \$894,222.37; for an ending balance of \$554,704.62.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Eustace to accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Chris Lerner, effective December 7, 2018.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Ruddy to approve the resignation of Mary Poletti, effective December 14, 2018.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Trevor Beach, 7th grade boys' basketball coach, effective December 10, 2018.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace supported by Unangst to approve the second reading of the September, 2018 NEOLA policy updates (new, revised, replacement) and guidelines as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that our varsity football team has some recent accolades: 1st team all-state MHSFCA: Jayson Tunstall, Avery Moore, Aidan Harrison and Allan Jamick; 1st team all-state associated press: Avery Moore, Aidan Harrison and Allan Jamick; Argus-Press player of the year: Avery Moore; Flint Area Dream Team: Jayson Tunstall, Avery Moore, Aidan Harrison and Allan Jamick; Flint Area Offensive Player of the Year: Avery Moore. The academic all-state team and individuals will be released soon as well. Coach Galvas was named Division 7/8 Coach of the Year through the Associated Press and Division 7 Coach of the Year by the MHSFCA. Jr. high volleyball finishes their season this upcoming Wednesday against Chesaning. Jr. high boys' basketball will have optional practices over Christmas break due to the season being bumped up. Their first game is January 14th. Mr. Severn will have JV and varsity volleyball coaches' evaluations completed and Jr. high/JV/varsity football completed by Friday. Mr. Severn received estimates for the installation and scoreboards for the varsity softball, JV baseball and softball fields. The facilities committee recommended we split into two projects and put a disclosure in the contract stating that once all funds are obtained for projects there will be a split of funds to Slam Dunk and New Lothrop Schools. The science department teachers have been prioritizing standard and curriculum maps currently for the 6th – 12th grade levels. The science teachers had a curriculum work day on December 6, 2018 and the following were discussed: current course progression, identified which Michigan (NGSS) standards we were hitting a lot and which standards very little. We have incorporated 6th grade teachers in the process and our goal is K-12 progression.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett reported that Ellen Kasik is our VFW Teacher of the year for the 2018-2019 school year. Mrs. Kasik won at both the local and district levels. She now moves on to the state level. The grandparent's luncheon on November 20th was a huge success. The elementary will be holding interviews soon for the office aide position, we had one applicant apply. The 3rd grade class will pilot the M-Step writing test, students will not be graded nor will we see these results. This allows practice for our students who haven't taken an M-Step style standardized test before. Mrs. Barrett and Dr. Berthiaume will be doing a preschool site visit to Laingsburg and Portland schools after Christmas break. We are finding that not many schools offer a non-GSRP full-day preschool and these two schools do offer the full-day preschool program. Our granting Christmas wishes program was able to support 27 local families this year. Our casual for a cause in January will be to support Juvenile Arthritis. The PTO and some great volunteers put on the Santa Shop for students in grades DK-6th grade to shop for their families. Lastly, students participated in the gingerbread house making contest at the elementary and we have our staff vs. student's basketball game on Friday before Christmas break begins.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar gave a shout out to those students who pulled together in 48 hours for a successful ABC12 School Spirit, over 300 students attended and our district is currently in 4th place overall. Jerry Burns from the New Lothrop VFW recently awarded Patriot's pen winners to Samantha Wendling, Rylee Elkins, Zac Craven and Voice of Democracy to Macy Matthews. NLHS outreach group made blankets for Carriage Town Ministries in Flint. Renee Dotson from the Shiawassee RESD and the Cook Family Foundation met with Shiawassee Scholars for "dish and dessert" luncheon. The high school had a total of 120 tags on the giving tree. All tags and requests have been fulfilled. Nicole Bell, SRES success coach met with our Early College students. Jayson Tunstall was the winner of the 2nd annual Mr. New Lothrop contest. Mrs. Wickerham and her art students hosted a Christmas craft with grades 1st – 6th after school on Tuesday, December 11th. We had 35 students that participated in the first annual Detroit Lions student fair. Our varsity quiz bowl finished strong with 1st place for the 2018-2019 school year. The high school recently hosted a book fair and a junior high family night. The FFA

Greenhand induction ceremony took place last week. Lastly, the high school staff will be having a jolly jug competition this week.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the district improvement team met to start discussing the January, February and August Professional Development agendas. A meeting is set with the union to start discussing the 2019-2020 school year calendar. Dr. Berthiaume noted that the Michigan State Police completed our annual bus inspection this week and all ten of our buses were green tagged. Dr. Berthiaume stated that there is a process and due diligence to what was addressed with the board tonight. We will continue to do our best for a positive learning environment for all students. Dr. Berthiaume extended an open invitation to discuss the bond/sinking fund with him, if anyone has any questions regarding the upcoming election. The annual employee Christmas breakfast will take place this Thursday morning; district substitutes, coaches and volunteers are all invited as well. Dr. Berthiaume wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Closed Session

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Unangst to enter Closed Session per the written request of a district employee regarding parent formal complaints.

Motion carried 7-0.

Recess

Recessed at 7:06 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Birchmeier to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 9:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, January 14, 2019 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary