

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, January 14, 2019
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Richard White, Greg Ruddy, Adam Green, Jessica Unangst, Jim Eustace, Joe Henige and Wendy Vincke.

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Michelle Barrett, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn and 19 visitors.

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

Statutory Topics for Board Consideration/Organization Action

Nomination of Rich White for President by Adam Green.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Unangst to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Rich White as President.

Motion carried 7-0.

Nomination of Greg Ruddy for Vice President by Jim Eustace.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Greg Ruddy as Vice President.

Motion carried 7-0.

Nomination of Adam Green for Secretary by Joe Henige.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Adam Green as Secretary.

Motion carried 7-0.

Nomination of Jessica Unangst for Treasurer by Adam Green.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Jessica Unangst as Treasurer.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to appoint Adam Green as liaison from the Board to the MASB.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to appoint Jessica Unangst as liaison from the Board to the Shiawassee RESD.

Motion carried 7-0.

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 dated December 17, 2018 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Rich White stated that board members received an email over the weekend and Greg Ruddy stated that he received a phone call.

Student Section

The student observers for tonight were Sydney Pope and John Fras.

Staff Recognition

School Board Recognition – January is School Board Recognition month. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the Board for their voluntary time and energy that they put into going to meetings, committee meetings and events. Each and every one of these board member's cares about the students of our district. On behalf of the students and community we appreciate all you do for our district. The High School and Elementary staff donated books to both libraries in honor of the 2019 school board members.

Presentations/Updates

Ellen Kasik, VFW Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Kasik was recognized by the Board for her recent achievement of being chosen for the VFW's Teacher of the Year. Principal, Mrs. Barrett, recognized Mrs. Kasik as a top-notch, compassionate teacher who takes her role of developing responsible citizens and learners very seriously. Mrs. Kasik truly embraces the "lead by example" approach with her students.

Board Discussion

New Committee Assignments – President Rich White noted that each member received a list of the current committee assignments, if anyone wishes to be placed on a different committee you are to contact Rich and let him know. At the February board meeting we will have a complete listing of the committee assignments.

Sinking Fund discussion 5 or 10 year – Dr. Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume discussed with the Board if we should look to go for a five or 10 year Sinking Fund. Jacob Kulhanek of Christman Company explained the five versus the 10 year more in depth to the Board of Education. It was agreed upon that the district would move forward with a five year Sinking Fund.

Visitors

Brina Gross, parent

Mrs. Gross handed a letter to Dr. Berthiaume from her attorney regarding an incident with a staff member. Mrs. Gross commented, how many students have to drop from a class before something is done.

Kurt Lane, parent

Mr. Lane expressed that he has talked to many parents regarding this teacher. A lot of them have said this staff member has tenure. Mr. Lane handed out some information on the Tenure Act that he had printed off from Thrun Law firm.

Trent Wendling, parent

Mr. Wendling expressed that he met with Dr. Berthiaume this past month and he had a conversation with him. At the very end Dr. Berthiaume expressed he wants to see this employee succeed. The principal commented to several individuals has been this employee is my "protégé." Administration is looking out for one person, not all the kids this is affecting. Mr. Wendling noted that he works in schools every day. He recently talked to the technology person in the building he's working at and learned that

the district has authority to place a camera outside the classroom door. He's hoping this could happen in our district as well. Students have said when someone comes in the classroom, everything changes. Maybe if eyes are on the employee this will straighten the matter out.

Leann Birchmeier, parent

Mrs. Birchmeier expressed that she doesn't feel like we are getting anywhere with this, not the Board of Education, but with administration. She feels like this issue is getting swept under the rug. Mrs. Birchmeier said she is speaking on behalf of her daughter but she has lost all respect for administration, and she is sorry that she has to feel this way.

Dan Gross, parent

Mr. Gross noted that he had a meeting with Dr. Berthiaume and went through the steps. The Board heard what we had to say, it's all about the kids and they don't want to go any further. Mr. Gross said he is a parent and will go far. He is a taxpayer like everyone else and his family pays a lot of taxes here. Taxpayer money going for a teacher that can't teach.

Trent Wendling, parent

Mr. Wendling was told that an aide will be hired to go in the classroom., he would really like to see that persuaded. We should give kids the option to drop out of this class.

Amy Krupp, graduate

Ms. Krupp stated that she is a reporter for a local newspaper and attends board meetings for several local districts. Ms. Krupp said she never seen anything like this before.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$694,359.63; school service \$32,977.79; for a total of \$727,337.42.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$554,704.62; receipts, \$811,609.77; expenditures: \$727,337.42; for an ending balance of \$638,976.97.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the preliminary qualification of bonds application, as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Jen Kline, elementary playground/aide, effective January 7, 2019.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Ruddy to approve the purchase of a CTE trailer from Beck's Trailer Store at a cost not to exceed \$9,230.00 to be paid out of the CTE added cost funding for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to approve the purchase of a Chromebook cart from Firefly Computers at a cost not to exceed \$799.20 and 30 Hewlett Packard Chromebooks from Sehi Computer at a cost not to exceed \$6,372.30 both to be paid out of the CTE added cost funding for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to approve the hire of Benjamin Almasy, Varsity Boys Baseball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Cody Clontz, J.V. Boys Baseball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Ruddy to approve the hire of Tom Birchmeier, Varsity Girls Softball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Henige to approve the hire of Beth Clark, J.V. Girls Softball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Tim Krupp, Girls Head Track Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Vincke abstained.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Jamie Krupp, Boys Head Track Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Vincke abstained.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Henige to approve the hire of Tim Howard, Track Assistant Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to approve the hire of Nate Browning, Jr. High Track Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Kia Robison, Jr. High Track Assistant Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Unangst abstained.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the hire of Justin Skinner, 8th grade Boys Baseball Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the hire of Justin Price, 7th grade Boys Baseball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to approve the hire of Brianna Cervoni, 7th grade Girls Softball Coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that our varsity football team has some recent accolades: the football team was named 1st team all-state for the 6th year in a row. Garrett Birchmeier was named to the first team academic All-State team (first one Coach Galvas has had in 10 years). Aidan Harrison and Jayson Tunstall have both signed letters of intent to play college football. Harrison will be playing at the University of Missouri and Tunstall at Lawrence Tech University. Jr. high boys' basketball begins their season this evening vs. Chesaning. We have acquired all the necessary sponsorship funding to complete the two projects for the baseball/softball scoreboard. The final rendition will be emailed by Slam Dunk Sports Marketing for approval. It is our hope to have it installed before the season starts. Mr. Severn also read aloud a reminder from MHSAA. Under the new Sports Specific Transfer Rule, a student who did not meet one of the 15 exceptions and transferred after the fourth Friday after Labor Day is not eligible next year in any sport he or she played this school year. Be sure and alert students and parents who are changing schools at the semester that they will not have eligibility next year in any sport they played this school year. They will be eligible in any sport not played this year (2018-19). Under the new rule, when a student changes schools does not impact eligibility – it's what they played in the previous season. Be sure students and parents have correct information before they begin class. Mr. Severn noted that he will be placing this on our athletic website for students and parents to be informed of.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett mentioned that her and Ms. Kuchar have been working on a template for K-12 grade teachers to fill out in order to map out the ELA curriculum. This would break apart units, write down the standard that is being addressed, document essential understandings, essential questions and skills that are being targeted. I can statement, resources used in the lesson, how it's connected to writing, academic language, key words, grammar, and assessments. Mrs. Barrett shared that the elementary is hosting it's very first talent show on Friday, January 25th. Lots of talents including: singing, dancing, rapping, and several musicians will perform that evening. The elementary will also start spotlight students showing Hornet Pride this month; with P standing for participation. The M-Step schedule is ready. Our goal was to make it as least disruptive as possible. We will begin the second week that we return from spring break. Mrs. Barrett also mentioned that Mrs. Henige organized a donation of books for Board of Education appreciation month; these books will be added to the elementary library.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the band and choir performed a wonderful Christmas concert right before Christmas break. On the last day before Christmas break the high school had a school-wide assembly. The high school is gearing up for exams this week, with a half day on Friday for records day. Mrs. Cyzmbor, Mr. Severn and Ms. Kuchar has been working on the master schedule. Monday, January 21st Professional Development day will consist of analyzing PSAT and planning for instructional practice, as well as curriculum mapping.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the School of Choice window is currently open. The district does perform background checks on these students before approving them to come into our district. Dr. Berthiaume will be meeting with union leadership and principals within the next few weeks to discuss the 2019-2020 school year calendar. Administration will be meeting with Amy Bauer from Christman

Company to discuss how to increase awareness for the campaign kick-off for the upcoming bond/sinking fund proposals. Dr. Berthiaume stated that the boys and girls bathroom by the high school cafeteria will be renovated this summer and paid for out of the general fund. The entryways of both the high school and elementary will be renovated this summer from a recent Michigan State Police grant that the district was awarded.

Closed Session

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Eustace to enter Closed Session to discuss the Attorney Client Communication.

Motion carried 7-0.

Recess

Recessed at 7:05 p.m. – 7:19 p.m.

Entered 7:19 out at 9:18 p.m.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to enter closed session union Section 8(h) of the open meetings act to consider the legal advice contained in a confidential attorney-client communication.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

Ayes: Henige, Unangst, Green, White, Ruddy, Eustace, Vincke

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Eustace to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 9:26 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, February 11, 2019 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary