

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, February 11, 2019

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

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Michelle Barrett, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn and 26 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 Henige to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on January 14, 2019.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

Jessica Unangst was contacted by two parents in support of the teacher that left, wondering why she left.

Jim Eustace was addressed by a couple parents with the same concerns.

Wendy Vincke said she received the same.

Student Section

John Fras was the student observer for tonight's meeting.

Presentations/Updates

Bond & Sinking Fund Campaign Kick-off – Amy Baumer, Christman Company

Amy Baumer from Christman Company updated the board of education on the campaign kick-off. Amy discussed the bond plan recap, campaign highlights and do's and don'ts. The May 7, 2019 ballot will have two questions. The bond - 1.25 mils, generates \$5,970,000 over 30 years and sinking fund - 1.25 mils, generates \$154,000 per year for five years.

Hornet Hot Shot Students – Kim Kuchar

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

The following students all participated at Zehnder's Snowfest, where the team overall received a 2nd place out of 18 teams. This team was lead by Mrs. Wickerham, art teacher. Students honored were as follows: Jillian Rau (10th grade); Taylor Yaros (11th grade); Zane Taylor (12th grade); and Katherine Muron (12th grade).

Aerospace Club Proposal – Charles Weber

Charles Weber, senior at New Lothrop High School, presented to the board of education his hopes of forming an Aerospace Club. Charles expressed this club would fill in the gaps and give student's more opportunities.

Committee Reports

New Committee Assignments – Rich White presented the committee assignments for 2019.

Visitors

JR Birchmeier

Mr. Birchmeier noted that he wondered who had to inspire students to start an Aerospace Club. He expressed this is a lacking topic in school districts and he gave the student kudos for pursuing this.

Lacy Birchmeier, student

Miss Birchmeier addressed the board regarding the recent teacher resignation. Lacy stated that she never felt uncomfortable in that classroom and the class was uplifting. She noted that when they started the class they were a little behind, but this teacher was always willing to help. Lacy has never had a teacher explain as thoroughly as this one and the teacher wanted them all to do well. Miss Birchmeier stated that some of us are looking for an explanation of why this happened, the school has a policy for harassment and nobody protected the teacher.

Merrick Matthews, parent

Mr. Matthews stated that he was at the board meeting in December when several parents were in attendance. Mr. Matthews stated that his daughter enjoyed this teacher and enjoyed the challenge. He is disgusted that these parents were allowed to run this teacher out of town. Mr. Matthews stated that he has faith in this board to hire a chemistry/physics teacher. We don't need our student's education dumbed-down and he hopes those parents feel really good. It is his hope that we get a qualified teacher in the classroom.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$683,363.79; school service, \$20,303.02; for a total of \$703,666.81.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$638,976.97; receipts, \$858,232.14; expenditures: \$703,666.81; for an ending balance of \$793,542.30.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to approve the resignation of Chris Lerner, JV volleyball coach, effective January 21, 2019.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, no support to approve the resignation of Samantha Bonner, effective January 21, 2019.

Motion died, due to lack of support.

Motion by Henige, supported by Green to approve Brianna Cervoni, 8th grade girls softball coach for the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the copier contract agreement with Applied Imaging (lessor/US Bank) for a 36-month lease at a rate of \$1,360.89 per month plus the cost of the copies.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to approve a resolution calling a special bond election of the school electors of the District be called and held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve the Online, Dual Enrollment, Independent Study and Seat-time waiver roster for second semester as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported for the Jr. high boys' basketball: due to the snow days and so many missed basketball games we are looking at playing a 7th/8th grade MMAC league tourney on Saturday, February 23. As of now the 7th grade team will play at Lakeville and we are still looking for a host site for the 8th grade. Wrestling team won team districts and qualified 13 wrestlers for individual districts. Team regionals will take place in Cass City this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. New Lothrop will host individual regionals this Saturday, February 16, 2019. Team states will take place on February 22 and 23 and individual states will take place on March 1 – 2. Boys and girls basketball – boys post season begins the last week of February and girls post season will begin the first week of March. The boys basketball team has partnered with Coaches vs. Cancer and the American Cancer Society and will be sponsoring the New Lothrop vs. Ovid-Elsie game on February 21. Steve Browning from State Farm has offered, along with the organization, to purchase uniforms for both teams for the game. We will also do various activities to help raise money for the American Cancer Society that evening. Hoopsters athletes will also be getting involved in the near future at halftimes during our basketball games as well, date still TBA. Next projects: scoreboard has been ordered and beams for the project. We are waiting for materials to show up and a day of good weather. Spring sports begin on Monday, March 11th with the first practice. At this past weekends youth wrestling tournament there was an altercation from two coaches that got into an argument, leading to a physical confrontation. The New Lothrop Youth Wrestling Program has reported the incident to MMWA and USA wrestling. Media outlets have called the school today and were directed to the Shiawassee County Sheriff's Department to the officer who took the report. Kuddos to our youth wrestling board members for filing and notifying the incident to the proper authorities and getting the tournament back on track as swiftly as possible.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett reported that it's been difficult to keep our routine, having so many snow days. The DIBELS testing window is done, but the iReady testing window has been harder to complete with having so many days off. Mrs. Barrett noted that during the week of snow days she posted challenges for students in ELA, math, science, social studies, arts/PE and cleaning. The elementary had 110 students that participated PreK-6th grade. Prizes for a student in each grade and a PRIDE card was sent to every child who participated. Data Days with our Literacy Coach Carol were canceled due to snow days last week. Mrs. Barrett met with her team today to look at how we are going to arrange team led data conversations. Teachers will be given a protocol to follow and questions to discuss with their grade level teams. The elementary recently held it's first annual talent show. It was a great show, we had 15 acts. Next year, we are thinking we will need to move the show into the gym, the cafeteria was almost at it's capacity. Last weekend the daddy-daughter dance took place at the elementary. We had 306 RSVP in advance, which was great attendance. Events coming up at the elementary include: valentine parties, dodgeball tournament, mobile science unit and Mott Clowns will be doing an anti-bullying presentation and book reading for DK-3rd grade.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that we got through all exams and finally started second semester on January 24th. On January 25th, seniors attended a workday which included them completing a seminar portfolio, FAFSA, college apps and scholarships. On February 11th, Mrs. Czymbor and Mr. Campbell met with all seniors to review their seminar portfolio. Representatives from the RESD and Baker College came to the district to talk with 9th-11th graders about early college. Mrs. Czymbor hosted an early college informational meeting and around 30 students/parents attended. FFA districts took place last week. Out of 11 contests: NL took seven first places, one second place and one third place. Around 30-40 students moved on to regionals this Thursday, February 14th in Byron. Mr. Wyrick commented in all his years here at New Lothrop, this has been his best district finish so far. At the February 15th staff

professional development day, staff will be working on curriculum mapping/alignment. Ms. Kuchar mentioned that Mr. Delemeester stepped in immediately after the chemistry/physics resignation occurred. He has been doing all the planning, teaching and grading. Beginning this week, he starts his three days per week. Mr. Delemeester will plan, teach and assess three days and a sub will come in on those off days to monitor work days or administer a test/quiz. Mr. Delemeester is committed to this plan up to spring break. After spring break, he will assist as an instructional aide as originally planned. Ms. Kuchar mentioned that on January 22 she emailed Jodi Frank at the SRESB for a list of all the subs in the county that had a science certification. On January 23, Mrs. Kuchar emailed those sub teachers and got no response. On February 2, she emailed those teachers again. She got two thank yous and one that was interested. Mr. Severn and Ms. Kuchar interviewed this person but decided they were not the right fit for this position.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the district has had 12 snow days as of today, which could change. It is a process to ask for a three day waiver, but the district will apply for the waiver in March. At the MASA Conference last week discussion took place on the recent snow days. Legislation could be proposed for the state of emergency days. The districts main focus is student safety. As a district, Dr. Berthiaume said he does not have control of the weather. Our campaign kick-off with the community will take place on Wednesday, February 13th. The district's professional development day is this Friday, February 15th the agenda will be geared toward teachers and curriculum mapping. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that he has started negotiating the 2019-2020 school calendar with the union, in hopes it will be approved at the March 2019 board meeting. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the board for providing him the opportunity to attend the MASA winter conference this past week. Finally, Dr. Berthiaume spoke of the teacher resignation that recently took place. He mentioned he can't imagine what that person is going through right now. The district has reflected on this and it's very unfortunate where we are at. Our main focus is our students and we will continue to do our best to hire the most qualified teacher that applies for this position.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, March 18, 2019 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary