

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Special Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

High School Auditorium & via Zoom video communications (online)

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, 10 visitors in person and 74 visitors via Zoom.

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

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Henige to accept the minutes from the special board workshop meeting held on August 6, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

A number of board members received phone calls, emails and messages from concerned parents regarding our reopening plan.

Presentations/Updates

Construction Update – Christman Company, Rob Crowe

Rob Crowe updated the Board on the construction projects that are well underway at the high school this summer. Mr. Crowe stated that the inspection has been completed and the district has temporary occupancy, the final inspection will take place on Friday. The hallway lockers are all installed and complete. The High School bleachers will be delivered on Tuesday, August 18. The science lab area is all coming together. The lower part of the lab tables will be completed by the end of the month and the tops will come at a later date, in which we have developed a temporary plan. Mr. Crowe stated that the library furniture was reviewed in a recent meeting and the furniture was prioritized. The library will utilize some of the old library furniture and the rest will be revisited next summer.

Update on Fall Re-opening Plan – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume stated that the Governor released the back to school plan on June 30, 2020. Since that day the district has been working with local districts, the health department, held several community meetings, held a board workshop and tonight the plan will be approved by the Board of Education. Dr. Berthiaume noted that once the plan is approved, the plan will be posted to our district website and Facebook and parents will be expected to complete a declaration of intent by August 19, 2020 of the option they are choosing for their child(ren). The district will be providing two options for students returning to school: face-to-face instruction and digital online which will both be taught by NLAPS teachers. Dr. Berthiaume then proceeded to answer many questions that were placed on the video chat via Zoom.

Committee Reports

Facilities/Transportation, Extra-Curricular – Greg Ruddy reported the minutes from July 20, 2020.

Visitors

Kim Krupp addressed the board wondering how a parent would be able to confirm that their child(s) health screening, that they will be expected to complete every morning, was actually received. Ms. Krupp was wondering if the system could give a confirmation code.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$710,895.20; school service, \$9,471.92; for a total of \$720,367.12.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$879,147.83; receipt \$873,188.08; expenditures: \$720,367.12; for an ending balance of \$1,031,968.79.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the resignation of Ryan Praski, JV Basketball coach, effective July 10, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Unangst supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Tracy Turnwald, bus driver, effective July 26, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green supported by Henige to approve the hire of Andrew Severn, elementary principal, effective August 3, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Deborah Tessmer, part-time library/teacher-aide, effective August 12, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to approve the New Lothrop Area Public Schools reopening plan effective August 12, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the purchase of i-Ready, K-8 Diagnostic Tool for the 2020-2021 school year at a cost not to exceed \$19,915.50, as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Ruddy to approve the district online course catalogs for Virtual Learning for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the district course guide for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

The Superintendent read the Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement and the board acknowledged this agreement.

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that football officially started practicing Monday. Volleyball and cross-country will begin practicing on Wednesday. Mr. Severn stated that all districts in the Mid-Michigan Activities Conference (MMAC) league agreed that if the state is still in Phase 4, then no fans will be able to attend sporting events, as well as concessions will all be closed. The district does have the Pixolett system that would be up and running for fans to watch online.

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that he has been working on the Professional Development schedule for his staff when they return back. Mr. Severn also noted that the elementary has a few new students moving into the district as well as updated the board with the current enrollment numbers for the elementary.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar updated the board on her recent enrollment numbers per class. Ms. Kuchar also stated that she has 70 students that are dual enrolled, 17 students that are doing online courses, 12 electrical students and 27 students that are enrolled for the general education/teacher cadet program. Ms. Kuchar met with her staff and surveyed them to see what their needs for technology are.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reported that he has posted the Athletic Director position, but he also wants to see where the school year takes us with athletics. Dr. Berthiaume noted that the district will continue to monitor enrollment numbers. Once the state provides the district with budgetary numbers, the district will be able to staff the district appropriately. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the entire group that has put so much effort in the back to school reopening plan. Please know that the district puts students best interest at heart.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, September 21, 2020 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Adam Green, Board Secretary