

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, October 19, 2020

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

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

Absent: Adam Green

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 14 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 Joe Henige. Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on September 21, 2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Correspondence

None

Student Section

Student Council Representatives – Jordan Belmer was the student council representative for tonight's meeting.

Presentations/Updates

Extended COVID-19 Learning Plan – Dr. Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reviewed the district's extended COVID-19 learning plan and asked if anyone had any questions on the plan at this time. This plan can be revised at any time and will be reviewed each month by the Board of Education. Dr. Berthiaume stated that the district has approximately 110 virtual learners. Of those, 99.8 percent have been engaged in the required minimum of two-way communication at least twice a week. Dr. Berthiaume explained that this requirement from the state was designed for school districts that are completely online.

Principals Month – Dr. Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume recognized Ms. Kuchar and Mr. Severn for their dedication and service to the school district.

Christman Company/THA Architect – Rob Crowe

Rob Crowe from Christman Company reported that the vast majority of the work from summer 2020 has been completed with the exception of the epoxy tops in the science rooms and lightning in the CAD classroom. Once the lightning is completed in the CAD classroom the district will be given full occupancy. Mr. Crowe mentioned that Christman has been working on the design phase for the summer of 2021 projects. The Facilities committee will be meeting next Monday, October 26th to discuss phase 2 in greater detail.

Teacher Cadet Presentation – Barb Andres

Mrs. Andres presented to the Board of Education that this past summer she completed training and now the district has become certified to offer the Teacher Cadet program. Mrs. Andres who is certified to teach the Teacher Cadet program explained that it's a training program for high school students who are considering a career in the education field. New Lothrop currently has 19 students enrolled in the

program. Mrs. Andres explained that the cadet students learn the basics of school safety, etiquette and how to create a lesson plan. Normally, the cadets would go into classrooms to assist teachers, but with COVID, that hasn't been possible this school year. However, on Virtual Fridays, a lot of teachers need childcare and these cadets are able to assist. The program started with eight students and grew to 20.

Committee Reports

Personnel/Curriculum/School Improvement – Jim Eustace reported the minutes from September 24, 2020.

Policy – Jim Eustace reported the minutes from October 7, 2020.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$621,695.64; school service, \$24,174.34; for a total of \$645,869.98.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,765,305.69; receipts, \$24,653.94; expenditures, \$645,869.98; for an ending balance of \$1,144,089.65.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

Action Items

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Rondalee Beardslee, 8th grade volleyball coach, effective October 8, 2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Leandra Birchmeier, part-time food service worker, effective October 7, 2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve the hiring of Kevin Murphy, Athletic Director effective September 28, 2020.

Motion carried, 5-1.

Ayes: White, Unangst, Henige, Vincke, Eustace;

Nays: Ruddy;

Absent: Green.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the Covid-19 extended learning plan as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to approve the purchase of 150 chromebooks from Stratix Corp. in the amount of \$70,627.50 to be funded from the Coronavirus Relief Funds (11P) of the CARES Act.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the purchase update for the district wide Wi-Fi from Gracon Services in the amount of \$50,064.32 to be funded from the Coronavirus Relief Funds (11P) of the CARES Act.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve the purchase of the network host and storage from Sehi Inc. in the amount of \$54,481.00 to be funded from the Coronavirus Relief Funds (11P) of the CARES Act.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to approve the second reading of the September 2020 NEOLA policy updates (new, revised, replacement) and guidelines as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to approve all administrative and non-instructional administrative contracts for the 2020-2021 school year, effective October 30, 2020 as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst supported by Henige to approve the 1.15% salary increase for the 2020-2021 school year to the administrative and central office employees, effective on pay date October 30, 2020

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to approve the Schedule B appointments for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Unangst to approve the Schedule C appointments for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the revised New Lothrop High School Course Guide for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as New Lothrop's Athletic Director. The district is looking to fill both a JV boy's basketball position as well as a 7th grade volleyball coach. Varsity football will be entering playoffs very soon. New Lothrop received a bye the first week and will be hosting the following two weeks games. Varsity cross country will be participating in pre-regionals this Friday at Ithaca. Mr. Murphy congratulated both the boys and girls cross country teams as they are both league champions. Varsity volleyball holds a 13-1 record in the league, Mr. Murphy stated that it's a very young team with mainly sophomores and freshmen.

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn stated that the elementary recognized Team Buddy day on Thursday, October 15th. A tree was planted in Buddy's honor and the 6th graders participated in the planting. On Friday, October 23 Thomas Louks, will be working with 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade teachers to assist with Google classroom and will be meeting with 5th and 6th grade teachers on another date. The RESD came out last week to give an overview and implement a new coding system for the library. Mrs. Tessmer is off and running with the system and we are hoping students can check out books soon. Mr. Severn met with the PTO President last week to plan for the school year. The PTO is hoping to support the elementary in as many ways as they can this year. Mr. Severn is recommending a 3rd grade teacher at the elementary. Currently, we only have two sections of 3rd grade. Upcoming grade levels are not getting smaller and the special ed/behavior case load is not getting smaller in the grades below. Current i-Ready data is showing a significant yellow level in math for 3rd grade and at this time we should be seeing the middle level getting smaller as we progress in grade level. As of today, we have 53 virtual students and approximately 88% face-to-face.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar mentioned that she has 55 students that are all virtual and 87% of the high school student body is face-to-face. Seniors have recently took part in several virtual college visits including visits from SVSU, U M-Flint and Eastern Michigan. Homecoming week was celebrated October 5-8. The crowning of the queen and king took place on the afternoon of Thursday, October 8th with the senior class in attendance at the football field. Ms. Kuchar stated that the PSAT/SAT took place on October 14th for all 9-12 graders. The district goal is to have 100% participation on testing day, in which we had 93% this year.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume stated that our uncertified count is at 897 students, which is 13 down from what was projected and 25 down from last fall. The district has looked into why we are down that number of students and Dr. Berthiaume explained it's because 25-30 students have went to virtual academy's or are being home schooled. It is the district's hope that we re-gain these students back in the near future. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he is looking to survey parents and staff on remote learning Fridays and gain some feedback from parents and teachers on how we can look at the effectiveness by mid-November to see what the second trimester will look like. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the Annual Grandparents luncheon will not take place this year because of COVID. Dr. Berthiaume noted to be on the lookout for some ads on our district Facebook page that have been recorded to update the community on the projects that took place this summer with our bond dollars.

Recess 7:11 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.

Closed Session

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve entering closed session for negotiations.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MEA Teacher Association for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Vincke to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MESPA (Transportation) for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Closed Session

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Eustace to approve entering closed session for discussion of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Adjournment at 8:21 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary