

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, November 16, 2020

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, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 11 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 Unangst to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on October 19, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

The district received a thank you from Corunna Public Schools as the district sent food when they had a tragic incident with one of their students.

Greg Ruddy received a correspondence and addressed it with Dr. Berthiaume, it was in regards to the consistency of students choosing to go virtual.

Joe Henige, Jessica Unangst and Jim Eustace stated they received questions on going virtual and they all spoke with Dr. Berthiaume on their concerns.

Student Section

Student Council Representatives – Maddie Eustace and McKenna Newman were the student council representatives for tonight's meeting.

Presentations/Updates

2019-2020 Audit – Steve Kirinovic

Steve Kirinovic from Stevens, Kirinovic & Tucker (SKT) presented the 2019-2020 audit to the Board. As of June 30, 2020 the district has a fund balance of 11.4%. Overall, the district is in good financial standing.

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 per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services our 9-12 grades will move to distance learning effective Wednesday, November 18th through Tuesday, December 8th. Dr. Berthiaume discussed his recommendation is to have 7th and 8th grade also transition to virtual learning along with 9-12 grades. As a district we will continue to offer in-person instruction for our DK-6th grade students through November 24th with a remote learning day scheduled for Wednesday, November 25th. DK-6 grade will then transition to virtual learning starting on Monday, November 30th through Tuesday, December 8th.

Committee Reports

Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular – Greg Ruddy reported the minutes from September 24, 2020.

Visitors

Greg Lienau, parent, asked what the purpose of K-6 grade to go virtual learning for one week.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$870,676.43; school service, \$42,331.11; for a total of \$913,007.54.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,144,089.65; receipts, \$742,703.79; expenditures, \$913,007.54; for an ending balance of \$973,785.90.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Megan Bishop, part-time evening custodian, effective October 30, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Tina LeBourdais, 7th grade Volleyball coach for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Green to approve the hiring of Adam Johnson, JV Boys Basketball coach, as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the purchase of bus routing software from Bus Boss Inc. in the amount of \$8,550.00 to be funded from the Coronavirus Relief Funds (11P) of the CARES Act.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve the winter Schedule C appointments for the 2020-2021 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve capping School of Choice at the elementary and high school (DK-12) for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy stated that all athletics are on a pause effective immediately due to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recent Emergency Order. The MHSAA would be conducting a meeting this week on the potential of fall sports being able to come back in three weeks and finish out the fall seasons. If that is not able to happen, then our varsity football team will end the season with a district championship. Mr. Murphy stated that wrestling has put together a healthy schedule for the upcoming winter season. Both junior high wrestling and volleyball recently got in two matches. Mr. Murphy noted that junior varsity and varsity girl's basketball teams have put in a solid week of practice and he was very impressed with how the practices were set up. Coach Perry will provide workouts for his players to perform during this shutdown time. Mr. Murphy was happy to see that cross country was able to complete their season. At the state meet earlier this month, the boy's cross country team finished in 12th place, Carson Hersch finished 4th and Clara Krupp finished 45th. Varsity Volleyball finished strong and lost a tough game in semifinals to Valley Lutheran. Lastly, not sure if we

will be able to do the 5k run for wrestling that was supposed to take place this weekend, because of the new executive order.

Jessica Unangst left the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn stated that the elementary library is still working on putting barcodes and updating the system, hoping the students are able to check out books soon. Last Friday, Mr. Severn met with the parent group to start game planning the Santa workshop for a COVID friendly environment. Mr. Severn congratulated Mr. Justin Skinner for being named the 2020-2021 elementary VFW teacher of the year. Two-way communication continues to take place for all students on virtual learning. On October 29, a zoom meeting took place with parents regarding the end of day pick up. Parents discussed what they liked and didn't like and what changes would make it more efficient. Changes include allowing parents to use the circle drive for picking up their children which would allow parents with young children not to have to get out in the colder temps. These new changes took effect on Monday, November 9th. The elementary will host a google classroom parent night on Thursday, November 19, for parents to become more familiar with google classroom.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that the high school is at 440 students, in which 138 of those are virtual learners. Teachers continue to meet the two-way communication with students. This past month the high school was at 90%. National Honor Society blood drive scheduled for the end of this month has been cancelled. Our juniors were recently able to attend a college fair virtually with several colleges and our seniors attended virtual college visits. Report cards were mailed last week. Ms. Kuchar met with all staff on their yearly goals as well as completed three formal observations on probationary teachers. Ms. Kuchar gave a shout out to Mrs. Andres who applied and won a CTE grant of \$470 to use toward resources for the Teacher Cadet program and Jessica Marcet was awarded a \$150 grant from Team One Credit Union in Saginaw. Lastly, Ms. Kuchar congratulated Mr. Chuck Henige for being selected the 2020-2021 New Lothrop High School VFW Teacher of the Year.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume expressed his gratitude to parents as they are the reason school has been in session for so long. This entails keeping students home if they don't feel good. Dr. Berthiaume stated that the district is now responsible for contact tracing of students. Teachers have been subbing in classrooms they don't typically sub in. Dr. Berthiaume stated that it is his expectation to have students back in session as soon as we can. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned the fall football season was almost complete and it's his hope that the football team can return back in three weeks and go for the goal of the state championship. We will see what happens in the next few weeks. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he will be communicating his district letter either tonight or tomorrow morning on the changes that will be happening with virtual learning.

Recess 7:28 p.m. – 7:35 p.m.

Closed Session

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

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Adjournment at 8:31 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, December 14, 2020 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary