

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, December 14, 2020

6:00 p.m. via Zoom

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

Absent: Greg Ruddy

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 8 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:06 p.m. via Zoom.

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 November 16, 2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Correspondence

The district received a thank for from Leandra Birchmeier for the flowers in remembrance of her mother.

Student Section

Student Council Representative – Maddie Eustace 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 per the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services order our 9-12 grades moved to distance learning effective Wednesday, November 18th through Friday, December 18th. Our 7-8 graders moved to distance learning effective Wednesday, November 18th and returned back to in-person instruction on December 9th. Dr. Berthiaume discussed that DK-8 grade took a one-week pause after the Thanksgiving holiday, which included distance learning at home from November 30 – December 8th. On December 9th, DK-8th grade students returned back to in-person instruction. The district will continue to follow the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Executive Orders.

Committee Reports

Finance – Adam Green reported the minutes from December 14, 2020.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$946,953.47; school service, \$32,043.42; for a total of \$978,996.89.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$973,785.90; receipts, \$920,748.41; expenditures, \$978,996.89; for an ending balance of \$915,537.42.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the retirement of Lisa Fulton, elementary teacher, effective December 31, 2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Green supported by Henige to approve the Neola Policy 8450.05 – Emergency Temporary Telecommuting Policy (ETTP), as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy stated that all conference voting recently took place and New Lothrop was well represented. Football athletes received 10 first team, 5 second team and 1 honorable mention. Volleyball received 1 first team, 1 second team and 3 honorable mention. Cross country received 6 first team, 5 second team and 6 honorable mention. Mr. Murphy stated that during the recent pause, he has been working a lot on spring scheduling. He is currently waiting on direction if varsity football will be able to proceed and finish out the fall season. Mr. Murphy stated that the district is going to try to resume junior high volleyball and wrestling. The district is still looking for a junior high boys' basketball coach. Mr. Murphy mentioned that the Red Cedar youth basketball league has been canceled for this year, but he is hoping that we can potentially have the 5th and 6th graders play internally.

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn stated that the elementary has data and a visual of i-Ready data displayed for students and staff to see. The goal is to improve where we currently are in all grade levels across the board. The Santa Shop begins on Tuesday, December 15th. A special thanks to our PTO for working with us and making it happen for our students. Mr. Severn reported that Mrs. Lisa Fulton will be retiring and her last day is December 31, 2020. Mr. Severn wanted to wish her the best of luck and a big thank you for all her dedication to our students. Her position has been posted and closes, Tuesday, December 15th. Ms. Kuchar will update the board on the hiring process. Ms. Kuchar stated that the hiring committee interviewed three candidates and one came out unanimously on the top. The district will continue to screen applicants and Ms. Kuchar made note that she is conducting interviews as this is considered a conflict of interest for Mr. Severn.

Mr. Severn stated that Thomas Louks, Instructional Technology and Data Warehouse Specialist, continues to meet with the elementary staff along with Jen Otter, Edtech consultant in regards to our digital platform. Mrs. Tessmer and Mr. Severn are meeting on Wednesday, December 16th to game plan for the second half of the school year. Mr. Severn noted that he is doing a Zoom with all the virtual students tomorrow at 1:00 p.m. to read a story with a surprise guest. On Thursday, December 3rd, Mr. Severn held a google classroom Q & A with parents. It was a great turnout and we answered as many questions as we could in regards to navigating the google classroom platform. Mr. Severn stated that the elementary has 455 total students and 41 students in Pre-K. 100 students are currently enrolled virtually. 50 students as of September 8 and an additional 50 students since the pause (shutdown). The elementary school is 98% compliant with attendance for two-way communication for our virtual learners.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that she has been highly impressed with student attendance and staff during this three-week pause. This month the high school was 97% compliant with the two-way communication with our students, in which last month was 90%. When our junior high students returned on December 9th, 90 out of 149 students came back while the others chose to go virtual. Mrs. Bemis was

awarded a \$800 grant from Wal-Mart. The junior high students are enjoying the holiday spirit week this week with dress up days. Ms. Kuchar will meet with virtual students on Zoom this week to do a Christmas scavenger hunt.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume stated that Mr. Robert Huber will be retiring as the district's attorney at the end of this month. He has been a big part of our district and Dr. Berthiaume has gained a lot of guidance and wisdom from him. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he is excited for him and wished Mr. Huber all the best in his retirement.

Mr. Rob Crowe updated the board on the current summer 2021 bond projects. Mr. Crowe stated that all bids are out on the website now. A pre-bid walk through took place last Friday, December 11th. Bids will be due to the district on Tuesday, December 22nd and opened via Zoom.

Mr. Ed Bennett updated the board on the facility spreadsheet. Mr. Bennett stated that the library furniture and Mr. Long's furniture will be delivered on Monday, December 21st. The furniture will be installed and the electricians will come the following week in hopes that it will all be completed for students to return the first of the year. Mr. Bennett mentioned that recently a few projects that have took place under capital projects include the stairs up to the balcony, the high school gym floor and LED lights in all the high school hallways. Mr. Bennett would like to crack seal the parking lots this summer.

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that he is meeting with staff and listening. Listening to what the teachers and parents have to say for feedback. One thing he keeps on hearing is relationships with our virtual learners. We have to be sure to be equal and fair. As Superintendent, we will be listening and make a better plan moving forward.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Adjournment at 6:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary