

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, January 11, 2021

6:00 p.m. via Zoom

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

Absent: Greg Ruddy

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 12 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom. The pledge to the flag was said.

Statutory Topics for Board Consideration/Organization Action

Nomination of Rich White for President by Adam Green.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Rich White as President.

Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination of Greg Ruddy for Vice President by Jim Eustace.

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Greg Ruddy as Vice President.

Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination of Adam Green for Secretary by Jessica Unangst.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Adam Green as Secretary.

Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination of Jessica Unangst for Treasurer by Adam Green.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Jessica Unangst as Treasurer.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to appoint Adam Green as liaison from the Board to the MASB.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to appoint Joe Henige as liaison from the Board to the Shiawassee RESD.

Motion carried 6-0.

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 dated December 14, 2020 as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace received a couple parent calls asking him about the junior high basketball season and if it would still be proceeding in March. The other communication was a parent saying they are hearing rumors about the second semester start time for the junior high/high school moving back to 8:00 a.m.

Student Section

Student council representatives for tonight were Maddie Eustace and Jordan Belmer.

Staff Recognition

School Board Recognition – January is School Board Recognition month. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the Board for their support over the last nine months and all their voluntary time and energy that they put into the district. Dr. Berthiaume noted that each member is a great voice for our community.

Presentations/Updates

Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan – Anthony 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. On January 4, 2021, when students returned from Christmas break, the district continued to offer two options to deliver instruction to our DK-12 students, which included in-person instruction and distance learning.

Budget Revision

Dr. Berthiaume and Director of Finance Sheila Mulcahy presented the January budget revision. The district is currently at 10.10%.

Board Discussion

New Committee Assignments – President Rich White noted that each member received a list of the current committee assignments, if anyone wishes to be placed on a different committee you are to contact Rich and let him know. At the February board meeting we will have a complete listing of the committee assignments.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$880,257.33; school service \$23,911.32; for a total of \$904,168.65.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$915,537.42; receipts, \$819,831.20; expenditures: \$904,168.65; for an ending balance of \$831,199.97.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the January 2021 budget revision as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Jillian Severn, elementary teacher at BA Step 5, effective, January 8, 2021.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Brodie Bennett, part-time night custodian, effective January 11, 2021.

Motion carried 6-0.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

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

Motion carried 5-0.

Vincke abstained.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the purchase of the network management software from Gracon Services, Inc. in the amount of \$14,456.96 to be paid from the general fund.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to approve the pre-renovation hazardous material building inspection (ADHERA) bid from Material Testing Consultant, Inc. (MTC) at a cost not to exceed \$7,590.00, to be paid out of the bond.

Motion carried 6-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy reported that as a MMAC league it has been decided to hold off on junior high basketball until March. Varsity football will compete against Schoolcraft this Saturday, January 18th at Fenton High School. Fenton will be helping us arrange for porta johns and we will share the cost with Schoolcraft. Again, only parents and coaching staff will be able to attend the game. The semi-final game will be broadcast on 92.5 as well as on the Pixolett system. Mr. Murphy stated that he's been busy scheduling winter and spring sports. At the moment, it looks like wrestling will have a couple home events in February on the 6th and 13th. It was a goal to have at least 15 basketball games and those have been scheduled. Of course, we are seeing more away games than home games and we will even see some Saturday games. All of this information is contingent upon additional executive orders that may be issued/extended.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn took a moment to thank the Board of Education for all their hard work and dedication that they give to the district. Mr. Severn stated that your efforts do not go unnoticed and we are glad to have you on our team. The second i-Ready window will begin on January 19th. Mr. Severn welcomed Mrs. Jill Severn as our new second grade teacher. The MiMTSS data review team will be looking to meet again on January 29th to break down our math data to identify areas of concern from i-Ready data. Mr. Severn noted that the elementary was notified that we will be receiving an additional four GSRP preschool slots. This is the most slots/funding the district has ever had in a program year. With this funding we are looking at upgrading our playground area to provide more choices for this particular age group, due to our playground having limited pieces for our Pre-K children to play on. Mr. Severn

gave a kudos to Mrs. Roggow our Pre-K Director for applying for these scholarships and to Mrs. Mulcahy for guiding them. Mr. Severn gave a shout out to Mrs. Tessmer, our librarian for getting our library off and running and for coming in over the winter break to work on bar coding books. Students in grades 3-6 are able to start checking out books and the building has implemented Covid protocols for checking in and out books. Our goal is to have all students checking out books as soon as possible. It's been a team effort in trying to keep all two-way communication logs. Mr. Severn stated that he appreciates his staff's team approach in this complex process. Currently, the elementary has 455 total students and 41 students in Pre-K. Of those students 55 are currently virtual. Another 7 students will be returning by next week, which puts the elementary at 48 virtual students. The elementary is 99% compliant with two-way communication for those virtual students. Mr. Severn gave a huge thank you to the elementary staff, they have been weathering a big storm and Mr. Severn stated that he is very proud of their efforts. As we look ahead into 2021, we are not looking back and are going to raise the bar higher as we become even more efficient in the Covid learning process.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the three-week shutdown was real tough. Currently, we have 439 total students in grades 7th - 12th. Of those 439 students, 148 of them are virtual. With the start of the second semester quickly approaching, we have reached out to those families to see if they plan to come back. Seventy-six of those have committed to return at the beginning of the second semester, 41 want to continue the virtual learning and 31 parents are still up in the air. The high school is at 97% with two-way communication with those virtual students. Ms. Kuchar briefly spoke about PSAT and SAT scores from last year. Overall, 9th-12th graders all improved from where they were at the previous year and every grade except the current 10th grade met the state average. The current 10th graders fell a bit short of the states average. In typical years we would use professional development days to talk about this data, instead the high school will discuss this data at staff meetings this year. The end of the semester is January 22. It has been decided that the high school will not have semester exams. Rather they will have a cumulative 18-week exam. Report cards will be mailed out the first week of February. For those 8th grade students wishing to test out of Algebra and earn credit, that first half of the exam will take place on January 22 and the second half of the exam will be in June. From that point teachers will determine what students will move on to Geometry. Ms. Kuchar noted that the media furniture was delivered over Christmas break and it looks beautiful. Ms. Kuchar stated that she has been given a soft deadline for the end of February for a 2021-2022 draft master schedule. Ms. Kuchar and Mrs. Czymbor have worked on that together and it is looking really good. Ms. Kuchar pointed out that a couple highlights to the schedule include no cut to current classes and that no teachers will be teaching on their prep. Ms. Kuchar took a moment to thank the Board of Education for their service to the district and for always putting kids first.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned the district is looking to offer extra supports this summer to any student that has fallen behind this school year. The district is looking at how they want to offer parent teacher conferences this winter. Conferences will take place on February 11 and 12, and will take place virtually. Also, if any of those times don't work for parents, teachers would be willing to meet on remote learning Fridays. Dr. Berthiaume stated that parents/guardians need to get better at completing the health screener daily. Mr. O'Connor and Mrs. Gauger have been working on troubleshooting and we really need our parents help with completing this for our students. The facilities committee will meet on January 26th to discuss next summer's bond projects and the bids that were awarded for those projects. Lastly, Dr. Berthiaume spoke about Kindergarten Roundup and at this time we are looking at our options of when that will take place in our district.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 7:22 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, February 8, 2021 – location to be determined at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary