

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, February 8, 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 6 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.

## **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's report was read by Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting dated January 11, 2021 as presented.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

## **Correspondence**

Rich White received an email request from a parent for a closed session meeting with the board. Rich stated that he's hoping the board is able to be back in person in March and the parent is fine with waiting until that meeting.

Jim Eustace stated that the same parent reached out to him as well.

## **Student Section**

No Student council representatives for tonight

## **Presentations/Updates**

*Christman Company – Rob Crowe*

Rob Crowe presented that he has met with all the bidders for the Summer 2021 projects and all bidders have validated the scope of their work. The toughest position was the budget, but we were able to get the budget within range. Rob discussed with the board that the Facility Committee recently met and Rob was able to make changes to the spreadsheet, six categories on the board agenda that you currently have will be updated during this meeting.

*Phase II Bond, Kari Blanchett – PFM Financial Advisors*

Kari Blanchett presented the two resolutions that were on tonight's agenda for approval. Kari noted that these are great interest rates and that the 30-year bond term gives a lot of flexibility.

*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. At this time, no changes have been made since this was last presented in January. The district continues to monitor each situation and the district has only had six positive cases total. District staff continues to get vaccinated. Dr. Berthiaume stated that we will continue to monitor as we start to plan for next year and he thanked our custodial staff. Dr. Berthiaume noted that he feels the state needs to recognize those districts that have been in session all year, he feels those districts are getting lost.

### **Board Discussion**

New Committee Assignments – President Rich White noted Jim Eustace would like to be on the Finance Committee. Adam Green will now be an alternate on that committee.

### **Visitors**

None

### **Financial Reports**

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund \$668,086.10; school service \$23,157.13; for a total of \$691,243.23.

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$831,199.97; receipts \$859,235.72; expenditures \$691,243.23; for an ending balance of \$999,192.46.

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Action Items**

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to approve the resignation of Robert Reynolds, night-time custodian, effective February 12, 2021.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the Online, Dual Enrollment, Independent Study and Seat-time waiver roster for second semester as presented.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Eustace, supported by Henige to approve the Bond Authorization resolution for the issuance and delegation of the sale of bonds and other matters relating thereto for the 2021 School Building and Site Bonds, Series II as presented.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the bond resolution for the issuance and delegation of the sale of bonds for the 2021 refunding of the loan balance of the school loan revolving fund.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve work category 01 – Selective Demolition from J. Perez at a cost not to exceed \$65,500.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Green supported by Henige to approve work category 02 – Earthwork, Site Utilities, and Landscaping from Gross Construction at a cost not to exceed \$60,897.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Henige supported by Eustace to approve work category 06 – Asphalt Paving from Gross Construction at a cost not to exceed \$19,725.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst supported by Eustace to approve work category 07 – Fencing from Dewitt Fence at a cost not to exceed \$29,900.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst supported by Henige to approve work category 08 – Track Surface from Current Sports, LLC at a cost not to exceed \$86,900.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Vincke supported by Eustace to approve work category 10 – Concrete from Gross Construction at a cost not to exceed \$100,118.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Henige supported by Vincke to approve work category 11 – Masonry form HMC Mason at a cost not to exceed \$346,400.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst supported by Vincke to approve work category 20 – General Trades from J. Perez at a cost not to exceed \$249,000.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Green supported by Vincke to approve work category 21 – Walls and Ceilings from Tri-City Acoustical at a cost not to exceed \$78,630.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst supported by Eustace to approve work category 22 – Flooring and Hard Tile from Lansing Tile at a cost not to exceed \$131,770.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Vincke supported by Unangst to approve work category 24 – Painting and Wall Coverings from Murray at a cost not to exceed \$44,964.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Henige supported by Vincke to approve work category 25 – Grandstands and Bleachers from E & D Specialty Stands at a cost not to exceed \$310,470.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst supported by Vincke to approve work category 20B – Storage Barn and Athletic Building Roof from J. Perez at a cost not to exceed \$65,000.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Eustace supported by Henige to approve work category 27 – Mechanical and Plumbing Systems from Goyette at a cost not to exceed \$419,400.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Vincke supported by Eustace to approve work category 28 – Electrical Systems from Weinstein at a cost not to exceed \$228,511.00 to be paid out of the bond.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### **District Updates**

#### *Athletics – Kevin Murphy*

Mr. Murphy reported that basketball is underway this evening and all players will be wearing masks. Wrestling will do rapid Covid testing on the day they have a match. Mr. Murphy noted that he contacted the company that re-did the gym floor last summer as paint in certain areas is not holding up. Once he hears back from the company, he will let Dr. Berthiaume know. Mr. Murphy also congratulated the Varsity football team on their state championship win last month.

#### *Elementary – Andrew Severn*

Mr. Severn reported that Parent Teacher conferences will take place this Thursday and Friday via Zoom. The second window for i-Ready data closes on February 19<sup>th</sup>. On Thursday, February 11, Mr. Severn will be zooming with our virtual students during the scheduled Valentine's activities. The MiMTSS data review team looked at math data on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The grade level team's breakdown even further on February 26<sup>th</sup> to identify areas of concern heading into trimester three. Last week a recreation company came out to the elementary to look at the scope of Pre-K playground equipment. The elementary is looking to utilize the grass area southeast of the building off of the library. As of right now, the elementary is preparing our building for the upcoming M-Step state assessment. Mr. Severn mentioned adding a teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. With the upcoming student numbers and lower elementary still holding strong with student numbers. We are sending eight of our DK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade level teachers to Evidence Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) training this coming spring. We will look to pilot this reading/writing tactic and curriculum piece next year in hopes to improve student growth in reading and writing. Mr. Severn congratulated Mr. Justin Skinner who was nominated from the elementary as the VFW teacher of the year. Mr. Skinner won our VFW post, but also won at District 9 and was named the VFW Citizenship Education Teacher of the year for the State of Michigan. The elementary is investigating the Bridges Math Curriculum for students in K-5<sup>th</sup> grade. We've had multiple Zoom question and answer sessions with Bridges and now we will start the process to reach out to districts that are currently using Bridges Math in the State of Michigan. Mr. Severn reported that the elementary has 459 total students and 43 students in Pre-K. Currently, we have 37 students that are virtual. We are at 99% compliance with attendance for our building overall.

#### *High School – Kim Kuchar*

Ms. Kuchar reported that recently some National Honor Society students and Student Council members had the opportunity to attend a leadership conference that was a student led. These students can't wait to tell board members about this opportunity at the next face-to-face board meeting. Ms. Kuchar stated that her building has about 85% of students that are face-to-face and 15% of the students are virtual. Our FFA students will be completing in districts this week, which will take place virtually in Mr. Wyrick's classroom.

#### *District – Anthony Berthiaume*

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that Mr. Chuck Henige and Mr. Justin Skinner were both named VFW teachers of the year for the district. Also, Alexis Andres won the Patriot's Pen award and Madeline Eustace won the Voice of Democracy award. Dr. Berthiaume stated that the next topic would be to discuss the district calendar and additional days added for the 2021-2022 school year. Tentatively, the start day for next school year will be August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. On a positive note, the district has received a preschool grant. Dr. Berthiaume thanked Mrs. Mulcahy and Mrs. Roggow for all the time they have committed to apply for this grant. The math department continues to look into Bridges Math curriculum. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that several elementary teachers will be completing EBLI

training. He stated that the training is costly, but truly believes it will benefit our district. Our district is looking into hosting summer school programs for all grades, in which the district has some federal funding available to assist. We will be able to offer to students in need of this extra help at no cost.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to adjourn.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Adjournment at 7:41 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, March 15, 2021 – location to be determined at 6:00 p.m.

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Adam Green, Board Secretary