

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, April 19, 2021

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

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 3 visitors.

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

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 March 15, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Joe Henige received numerous calls from a parent and he passed them on to Anthony and Kim. The parent never contacted the teacher to begin with.

Jessica Unangst had parents contact her at the track meet last week wondering if the school would be providing transportation to spring sporting events, because the events start time is so early.

Student Section

Maddie Eustace was the student council representative for tonight.

Presentations/Updates

2021 Bond (Phase II) and the School Loan Revolving Fund Refunding – Bill Roche

Bill Roche presented to the Board of Education that the recent bond sale went very well.

Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reviewed the district's extended COVID-19 learning plan and stated the district has just had to tweak the plan here and there and also noted that a group of county superintendents have been monitoring isolation and quarantine protocols. With the governor's recent recommendation to pause for two weeks the district continued with virtual and face-to-face. Happy to report that the district is still face-to-face.

Committee Reports

None

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$780,032.31; school service \$31,225.38; for a total of \$811,257.69.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$1,391,729.17; receipts \$852,054.95; expenditures \$811,257.69; for an ending balance of \$1,432,526.43.

Motion by Eustace, 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 Brody Bennett, night-time custodian effective April 5, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Vincke to accept the retirement of Richard O'Connor, Technology Director effective June 30, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve hiring Amber Olsen, full-time bus driver effective April 19, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the fertilization program for the football and softball fields from Country Club Turf, Inc. in the amount of \$15,280.00 to be paid out of the general fund for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the elementary playground equipment to be purchased at a cost not to exceed \$25,284.99 from Snider Recreation, Inc. The cost of the equipment will be paid from the General Fund from the following sources: GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program) in the amount of \$15,000.00 and \$10,284.99 from the Child Care Relief Grant for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Ruddy to approve Bridges Math Curriculum for grades DK-5 from the Math Learning Center for a total amount of \$32,103.21 which will be split over two years for an amount of \$16,051.61 per year starting with the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the asbestos abatement bid from Abatement & Demolition Services, LLC in the amount of \$22,676.00 to be paid from general fund until the 2021 bond proceeds are received in May.

Motion carried 7-0.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Vincke to approve participation in the Schools of Choice program under Section 105 and 105c of the Revised School Code for the 2021-2022 school year except for 1st, 4th and 6th grade which will be capped and limited openings in 3rd, 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th for the 2021-2022 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Ruddy to approve extending the current bus lease for three years for the three current fleet buses at a cost not to exceed \$13,272.00 per bus, per year from Midwest Transit Equipment as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace 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 Sites Bonds, Series II as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the Bond Authorization Resolution for the issuance and delegation of the sale of bonds and other matters relating thereto for the 2021 Refunding Bonds for the School Loan Revolving Fund.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy reported that winter sports have wrapped up and he congratulated the wrestling team on achieving state runner-up this season. The girls' basketball team had a successful season and were able to make it to regionals. Spring sports are underway for this season. Junior varsity baseball has low numbers but junior varsity softball numbers have leveled off at the mid-twenties. Track started with meets last week, a lot of kids have been at home and the kids are starting out a little slow. Mr. Murphy stated that it's just a different spring than most years. We have two golfers and we will continue to offer this opportunity to our two young men. Ralpheal Woods won the state championship for bowling. Lastly, Mr. Murphy commended Mr. Trevor Beach for all the time he has put in to the Covid testing with our spring student athletes.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that the third i-Ready window opens on May 3. The Special Education, At-risk and Title I team met last Friday to discuss current 504/IEPs and also began planning for the 2021-2022 school year with the current students. Preschool registration will begin on April 20th for residents and families that currently have students in New Lothrop Schools. M-Step testing has started at the elementary, we are able to provide for our virtual students during the school day and/or on virtual Fridays. With the upcoming student numbers and the lower elementary still holding strong with student numbers, Mr. Severn is recommending we look to hire another teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. For 2021-22 we will be recommending capping 1st, 4th and 6th grade and limited spacing for 3rd grade. This is based on if we can hire another elementary teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. The elementary has had several conversations and researched Bridges Math curriculum for K-5th and staff feels this is the right fit for our district. Summer school teaching opportunities are posted. Track and field day will take place on May 25 for 1st and 2nd grade and on June 1st for the 3rd through 6th graders. Virtual student track and field day will be with Mr. Perry and Mr. Severn on June 4th. Mr. Severn noted at this time he cannot give an answer if parents will be allowed to come to the picnic day on June 1st and on the track and field days. More information will be available as it gets closer to the event. Mr. Severn reports that the elementary is at 459 total students and 30 students are currently virtual. We are at 99% compliance with attendance for our building overall.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that currently we have 112 students that are virtual, that is 25% of our student population. The PSAT/SAT testing took place last week and about 50-60% students were in attendance for the testing day. M-Step testing is about to begin. The School Improvement team recently met to discuss handbook changes for next school year. Ms. Kuchar noted that semester two exams will be waived this year and the focus will be on the end of unit assessments/standards, each quarter will

count 50/50. The math 8 exam will be administered on campus on Friday, June 4th for those students that are interested in receiving Algebra I credit. Ms. Kuchar discussed the 3rd party vendor for Edgenuity for next school year, she will begin having conversations with parents (possibly a Zoom information meeting) explaining their options for next year. Ms. Kuchar received several in-person meetings/phone calls with senior parents in jeopardy of not graduating and she sent out certified letters today as a follow-up to those meetings/phone calls. The Hornet Health and Wellness team will put on another video this month on how to manage stress when studying for end of year assessments. The group does plan to make another video for the month of June, which will focus on where to look for mental health support over the summer when you don't have your school resources readily available. Ms. Kuchar updated that summer school positions have been posted and several teachers have expressed interest. Students will have the opportunity to recover half of an English credit and half of a math credit. The ELA and math departments are working as teams to decide on curriculum, assessments and how credit will be awarded. Ms. Kuchar has started the final observation process for teachers. She has not completed the final evaluations as she is waiting to see if the state is still planning to hold teachers to the 40% student achievement piece. Finally, Ms. Kuchar stated that her and Dr. Berthiaume talk daily about the upcoming planned events for seniors. Our main priority is to be able to hold graduation outdoors on May 23. Ms. Kuchar has a communication drafted to parents on upcoming events but is going to think more on it before sending out.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the district is waiting to hear from legislation on the 3rd grade reading law for this year. Parents will have the chance to move students on if they wish to do so this year. The district is also waiting to hear about teacher evaluations and if the 40% of student achievement piece will still be a requirement this year. The district is starting to plan next year's budget. We will be looking at the staffing next year at the elementary, looking at classroom numbers to provide the best quality teacher to our staff. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he and Sheila applied for a summer school grant, which if we receive it would be a huge relief to the general fund. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that he is looking at how he can survey parents this year based on the year and what improvements the district can make for next school year.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:33 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 17, 2021 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary