

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, March 15, 2021
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Richard White, Greg Ruddy, Adam Green (via Zoom), Jessica Unangst, Joe Henige and Wendy Vincke.

Absent: Jim Eustace

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. The pledge to the flag was said.

Joe Henige was appointed secretary for this meeting.

Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report was read by Joe Henige. Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting dated February 8, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence

Greg Ruddy received calls from parents regarding fall sports gate receipts.

Jessica Unangst received a contact on the stipends for administration this past December. Also she received an email today from a parent regarding graduation and due to the limitations why wouldn't the district plan to have that ceremony outdoors. Kim Kuchar stated that the plan is to have outdoors at this time and we will move indoors, if needed, because of weather.

Wendy Vincke received an email from a parent stating that the communication to seniors noted the graduation ceremony would take place indoors. Wendy also mentioned if we can do live stream in the gym, if we could fix the sound system outside so people could hear the event.

Wendy also received phone calls in December regarding stipends.

Student Section

No student council representatives for tonight.

Presentations/Updates

Extended Covid-19 Learning Plan – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reviewed the district's extended COVID-19 learning plan and stated one important piece that has been added and communicated to parents/staff is that remote learning Friday's will continue until June 4, 2021. The change was also added to the plan the week in February that the JH/HS went virtual because of the positive cases.

Committee Reports

Personnel Committee – Wendy Vincke presented the minutes from March 10, 2021.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$700,716.95; school service \$33,397.73; for a total of \$734,114.68.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$999,192.46; receipts \$1,126,651.39; expenditures \$734,114.68; for an ending balance of \$1,391,729.17.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Cheryl Eisenhauer, bus driver, effective March 19, 2021.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Aaron Beach, Jr. High Boys Basketball Coach, as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2020-2021 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve hiring Anna Chrysler, part-time evening custodian, effective March 8, 2021.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the 2021-2022 school year calendar as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

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

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the resolution to designate the Superintendent to execute and sign form 2848 so that the district can be included in the closing agreement with the IRS and ORS so that the 3% reduction in employee's compensation for health premium subsidy can be considered tax exempt from federal and FICA taxes for 2013-2026.

Motion carried 6-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy reported that the district has been fortunate with the Covid cases. New Lothrop will be hosting individual wrestling districts with 14 schools and each school will be allowed 20 spectators. Boys basketball is traveling a lot this week with districts coming up for both boys and girls. Spring sports will start this coming Monday and there will be overlap with winter sports. Mr. Murphy has spoken with spring coaches. Mr. Murphy noted that the district has chosen to not charge for winter sports. Byron and Ovid-Elsie are charging entrance fees, but an internal account is covering some costs. Mary has issued some refunds. We did charge in the fall and tried to stay consistent.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that we received positive feedback on the parent-teacher conferences that took place in February with the Zoom virtual format. The elementary had about 97% attendance in meetings that teachers had requested. Mr. Severn stated that he recently reviewed i-Ready data and that he is very proud of the students, teachers, support staff, latchkey, lunch ladies, etc. Kindergarten

students are at 77% at or above grade level. Mr. Severn saw an increase in all grades for reading and math. We have a ways to go for the rest of the year, but he looked at each grade level for trimester 3 for ways to increase scores. Mr. Severn stated that the playground equipment for preschool, that the elementary will be receiving, is through a grant with the MDE approval. For preschool next year we are going to offer the same amount of 4-year-old slots, but with some adjusted times. We will be offering a 3-year-old, 2-day morning ½ day due to the demand from our community and parents. The GSRP data reflects that we rank 1st in all categories that are analyzed and assessed within the county. The elementary continues to prepare for the upcoming state testing that will take place this spring. Mr. Severn also mentioned that he would like to hire a new teacher for the 2021-2022 school because of class sizes. Mr. Severn discussed class sizes for next year and what levels they plan to cap or offer limited spacing. The elementary is looking to switch to Bridges Math curriculum. It is hands-on with student engagement. Foundational skills for reading, writing, and math is the goal for summer school. Assessments will be used to determine what students are being recommended for the summer program. Summer School will take place August 2 – 19 with lunch provided and latchkey with the normal fee. Mr. Severn reports that the elementary is at 459 students and 23 students are virtual. We are at 99% compliance with attendance for our building overall.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that some wrestlers have switched to virtual learning to keep them home and safe. Currently, the junior high/high school has 87 students that are virtual, which is up from 60 last month. April 5th is the goal to have more students back face-to-face. For the 2021-2022 school year we have discussed capping 7th and 8th grade and offering limited spacing for 9th and 10th. We have a small junior class and the senior class with unlimited seating. Ms. Kuchar has given a lot of tours to new students lately. The start of summer school will take place on June 14th. Lunch will be provided to those students. National Honor Society held a blood drive last Friday, we had 14 total donors and they will be hosting another blood drive on May 7th. The teacher cadet students are working in both buildings with teachers and administration. The cadets also taught a lesson to the current 7th graders about bullying and it was very well received by the students. The outreach group at the high school is planning activities in the building and the group wrote lessons to be presented by English teachers on gratitude. The Hornet Health and Wellness group created a video on mental health, which will be aired next week. The FFA teams have state finals next week that will take place at the RESD with four New Lothrop teams competing. The high school has 24 applicants for National Honor Society, the induction ceremony will take place on April 28th. We had 50 students attend the SAT camp between the two Saturdays that they took place. Ms. Kuchar plans to do some tracking on those 50 students to see if their score improved because they attended the camp. April 13th will be testing day for students. 7th and 12th graders will have the day off, while remote learners have been invited in for testing and are required to be here to take the tests. All staff members will be proctors. Lastly, Ms. Kuchar reported that her master schedule for the 2021-2022 school year is ready to go with no staff working on their prep hours and no new staff added.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the district has had to continue contact tracing and he appreciates the help from the health department and administration. Dr. Berthiaume noted that he has started looking ahead to next school year. At the April Board of Education meeting it will be a recommendation to cap certain grade levels. Several end of year events have been cancelled, but Dr. Berthiaume stated that we are trying to keep things as normal as possible for our students and the district plans to still recognize the Top 10, MMAC scholars, CTE students. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that he heard positive news from the revenue conference. It's been the Board of Education's goal to be at 15% fund balance, but he appreciates the flexibility. The district has not cut any programs and he understands the importance of 15%. As we begin to prepare for next school year, Dr. Berthiaume stated that he is very proud of our district for being face-to-face this year. Next year, teachers may not be doing virtual; as we are working with the district on a 3rd party platform. Not sure if we will have to wear masks; however, if we do we will still continue to have the health screener in place.

Action Item

Motion by Vincke, supported by Ruddy to designate Sheila Mulcahy to sign form 2848 to be filed with the ORS.

Motion carried 6-0.

10-minute recess

Closed Session

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to enter closed session for negotiations.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to return to open session.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to enter closed session for the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation/contract.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to return to open session.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to extend Superintendent contract 1 year through June 30, 2025.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 8:23 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, April 19, 2021 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary