

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, August 16, 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, Kevin Murphy and 22 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:02 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 July 19, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Jessica Unangst received several inquiries regarding buses and start times.

Presentations/Updates

Construction Update – Christman Company

Jacob Kulhanek of Christman Company updated the board on the summer of 2021 projects. He stated that the track resurfacing and fencing should be done this week. The other projects inside the high school including the bathrooms and cafeteria are all on track to be completed before school starts. The locker room is behind and should be completed by October 12th. Jacob also addressed that with construction still happening, when school starts, all workers will be background checked and workers will be asked to park on the far west row of the high school parking lot.

Back to School Update – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume stated that he can't wait for August 26th. The district communicated last week what our plan is for the start of the school year, as far as start times and mask wearing. It will be the least restrictive environment as possible, but families will have the choice to wear a mask or not. The district will continue to monitor numbers with the local health department. As far as bussing, we have three potential bus driver candidates. They will not be certified right away, but the district hopes that by October 4th both buildings will be back to early start times of 7:50 a.m. for the elementary and 8:00 a.m. for the high school. The district is offering a virtual option for those students that do not want to come to classes on campus. These virtual classes will be coordinated with the RESD virtual academy for K-6 grade and with Edgenuity for 7-12 graders. Opening day for the 2021-2022 school year with staff is next Monday, August 23, 2021.

Field trips – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar presented to the board that her staff came to her last spring and wanted to begin implementing field trips with the 7-12 graders. Ms. Kuchar has been in contact with Corporate Travel to discuss upcoming trips for this school year. Thus far, the trips that are being discussed: 7th grade – Mackinac Island; 8th grade – Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University; 9th and 10th grade Holocaust Memorial Center in Farmington Hills; and 12th grade – Cedar Point.

Committee Reports

Finance – Jim Eustace presented the minutes from August 3, 2021.

Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular presented the minutes from July 21 and August 16, 2021.

Visitors

Lisa Williams inquired about the baseball field wondering what was done a few years ago from a private donor.

Julie Herbert addressed the board asking that they require masks be worn in school and to continue to do the daily health screenings. As a parent with younger children in school who are too young to be vaccinated Julie urged the board to reconsider their decision and have students and staff mask up.

Elaine Dammann asked if parents were going to have to take their kids to cross country meets.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$841,093.99; school service \$19,344.74; for a total of \$860,438.73.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$1,447,192.38; receipts \$865,504.53; expenditures \$860,438.73; for an ending balance of \$1,452,258.18.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Kim Bowns, playground and office aide, effective August 2, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve Dominic Poletti, varsity cross country assistant coach, effective August 9, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Susan Gauger, part-time data management/pupil accounting position, effective August 11, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Unangst to approve Tom Kohlmann, as 7th grade girls basketball coach for the 2021-2022 season, effective August 16, 2021.

Motion carried 6-1.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Jennifer Gillett, elementary teacher at Sept 5, MA + 10 effective August 23, 2021.

Motion carried 6-0.

Vincke abstained

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Raegan Genovesi, at-risk/special education elementary interventionist at Step 5, MA + 10 effective August 23, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Kim Bowns, elementary one-on-one aide, effective August 26, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Casadi Smith, part-time preschool teacher effective August 23, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year contingent upon a successful background completion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the baseball field bid from Water Management Specialist, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$56,133.00 to be paid out of the bond series 1.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve a 1.00% salary increase for the 2021-2022 school year to the administrative and central office employees on schedule, retro July 1, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy has been preparing for fall sports. Mr. Murphy stated that 8th grade football is down players and they need to try to get four more players to come out to join the team. Our coaching staff is looking very solid for the start of the year. Soon, we will be posting junior high boys basketball and we are still seeking for a junior varsity girls' basketball coach.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that he has hired several new staff for the start of the new school year. He is currently still looking to hire a one-on-one aide and an office aide. The elementary will be partnering with The University of Michigan-Flint to have several teacher cadets come observe, assist and support our elementary teachers. Summer school at the elementary has been a great success these last few weeks, the program will wrap up this Thursday.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the graduation rate for the Class of 2021 was 98%. Summer school was a huge success this summer, we had 22 semester credits that were earned back this summer from kids that attended summer school. On October 13, 2021 students in grades 8-12 will take the PSAT and 7th graders will have the day off. The seventh grade new student orientation will take place on Wednesday. Student council representatives will be present to assist our students. Ms. Kuchar explained that the high school building will continue to have sanitizing stations in all classrooms and throughout the building this year along with deep cleaning once per day and often throughout the day in high volume areas.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume took a moment to recognize the custodial staff for all their hard work and dedication over the summer months. He also thanked all of the summer school teachers and students for showing up. A big thank you to Kim and Drew for creating a plan and vision for summer school and making it happen. Dr. Berthiaume also recognized Christman for all they have done to improve the quality of education in our buildings to make it better for our students. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he is seeing an uptick in enrollment. He is waiting on a call back regarding the diesel tank, looking for some resolution with the issue the district had last spring.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to enter closed session for negotiations and for the review of the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion carried 7-0.

5-minute recess

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Came out of closed session at 7:55pm.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MEA Teachers Association for the 2021-2022 school year as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Green to approve the Schedule B appointments for the 2021-2022 school year as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:57 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, September 20, 2021 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary