

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, September 20, 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 14 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 August 16, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

A thank you from the James Lahmann family for the flower arrangement.

Jim Eustace, Joe Henige and Jessica Unangst all received a call from a community member and they all referred to Dr. Berthiaume.

Greg Ruddy received a correspondence from a community member asking how many devices we have in the district.

Student Section

Maddie Eustace and Jordan Belmer were the student council representatives for tonight.

Presentations/Updates

Student project presentation – Greg Henderson

Greg Henderson presented to the Board of Education his plan to build a metal sculpture of a hornet to be displayed at the entrance of the high school. The statue would be 7'10" tall, welded metal sculpture of a hornet with an open wing design.

First Lego League – Jane Devota

Jane Devota presented to the Board of Education her plan to start a First Robotics Lego team at New Lothrop Elementary School. This would consist of interested 4th – 6th graders. Mrs. Devota explained that the elementary school students would work together to solve a real-world engineering solution. This team would meet November through April. The cost to participate this year would be zero because there are grants available for startup teams. The student to mentor ratio would be 10:1. Mrs. Devota suggested that they might recruit some of the local high school students as mentors, those who are experienced with the First Robotics team.

Construction Update – Christman Company

Rob Crowe of Christman Company updated the board on the summer 2021 projects. Mr. Crowe commented that essentially all projects are complete except for the locker room project. At the football stadium they were able to add concrete for sidewalks and it turned out very nice. The elementary boilers are expected to be coming in and installed next week, the CTE barn is complete. In the cafeteria

area we are waiting on the patricians to the cafeteria/auditorium area. Construction is on track in the locker rooms to be completed on October 12th. Mr. Crowe stated a rough inspection recently took place and a perimeter wall needs an additional layer added for the lockers. Mr. Crowe noted that currently we have \$20,000.00 with unused contingency funds, which does not include the perimeter walls. Mr. Crowe thanked everyone for their patience with these projects.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee met this evening those minutes will be reported at the October board meeting.

Visitors

Becky Naessens addressed the board asking them to keep in mind that we don't have enough chrome books for everyone and a lot of them are not functional.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$636,021.45; school service \$24,858.97; for a total of \$660,880.42.

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 \$1,452,258.18; receipts \$629,088.97; expenditures \$660,880.42; for an ending balance of \$1,420,466.73.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Emily Moore, bus driver, effective August 13, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Trevor Beach, secondary at-risk/special education aide, effective August 23, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Kevin Clark, junior high football coach, effective September 15, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Leandra Birchmeier cafeteria/playground aide, effective August 26, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst supported by Ruddy to approve the hire of Bayli Malone, one-on-one aide, effective August 26, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Green to approve the hire of Anna Chrysler, full-time evening custodian effective September 8, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Laura Andres, secondary at-risk/special education aide, effective September 13, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to approve moving the elementary principal's base salary to \$90,000.00, effective August 18, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve moving the junior high/high school principal's base salary to \$90,000.00, effective August 18, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Ruddy to approve the 2021-2022 police coverage agreement with New Lothrop Village Council, as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to approve the Edgenuity course list for the 2021-2022 school year as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Vincke to approve the elementary course catalog for the 2021-2022 school year as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the Mackinaw Island trip for 7th grade students on May 16-17, 2022 dependent on Covid-19 restrictions.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the Washington D.C. trip for 11th and 12th grade students on May 8-11, 2022 dependent on Covid-19 restrictions.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy thanked the facility team stating that they have done a great job getting the grounds ready for sporting events. It's also been nice to be able to contribute with the gate fee. On Saturday, October 2nd the Boosters corn hole tournament will be taking place. Boosters numbers are up and they are always looking for parents to volunteer.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that he still needs to fill a couple positions. Also, Mr. Severn stated that we need teacher subs and sub aides. The University of Michigan-Flint student teacher cadets began on September 7th. We have 5 student teachers in our building. Students completed the first window of Acadience Assessments last week. This assessment looks at the skill set of each individual child. Students are finishing up their first diagnostic of i-Ready assessment this week. Our special education numbers are high. We are carefully observing student needs based on our team meeting regarding concerned students. Mr. Severn gave a shout out to all staff and students for the M-Step data for 2020-

2021. Mr. Severn reported that we have observed in the first three weeks of school that kids are excited about the new Bridges math curriculum. Mr. Severn has watched complex conversations taking place, students are figuring things out and students are observing the “why” of math. DK-2nd grade teachers are implementing Evidence-Based Literacy Instruction (EBLI) into their classroom daily. We are looking to train our 3rd/4th grade teachers in 2022. Literacy coach, Carol Amsterburg will be focusing her instructional coaches meetings on EBLI to support teachers in the 2021-22 school year.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the high school currently had 415 students which includes nine, 5th year students. The high school has five students that are virtual learners this school year. This past month, we hosted a 7th grade orientation which was very well attended. Also, the high school held two parent meetings for the upcoming spring field trips – Mackinac Island and Washington D.C. both meetings were well attended. The Outreach group had a great first meeting to start the school year off. Six students volunteered to work the Suicide Prevention 5k in Owosso, they have a school wide positivity event planned for tomorrow and a campus clean up event planned for a later date. Homecoming week here at NLHS was successful. Powderpuff raised \$1,800.00 for cancer charities. The assembly was entertaining and fun, thanks to student council for a well-organized event. Next week, the Class of 2022 National Honor Society induction will take place.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume took a minute to discuss the most recent state assessment test scores. Scores are still embargoed, but out of the 20 areas evaluated, New Lothrop ranked first place in 17 out of the 20 areas in Shiawassee County and 2nd place in the other 3 areas. Dr. Berthiaume stated that it’s a team effort and he thanked the staff and students who took this seriously.

Mr. Wakefield updated the board on bus drivers. As of today, we have four full-time drivers and one more that completed the road test today. The 2nd and 3rd candidates have completed the exam, but still have to complete 14 days of driving and then the road test. Mr. Wakefield stated that he doesn’t see it happening where we will have enough drivers to go back to the normal start/end times of school until around Thanksgiving. Dr. Berthiaume noted that we’ve increased our principal’s salaries. We have looked at our top teacher’s salary and what our principals do on a daily basis and that’s why we increased compensation. The district hired a company to produce and film our Bond Series 2 projects that took place this summer. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he attended a PTO meeting this past week. Our food service department is having issues getting food and supplies in. Our annual grandparent’s luncheon is still on the table and we are hoping we can still pull this event off for this year. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he will be attending the annual Superintendent’s conference in Traverse City this week.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to enter closed session for the Superintendent’s evaluation.

Motion carried 7-0.

10-minute recess

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 9:31 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, October 18, 2021 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary