

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, April 20, 2020

6:00 p.m. via Zoom video communications (online)

Board Members Present: Rich White, Adam Green, Jessica Unangst, Jim Eustace, Joseph Henige and Wendy Vincke.

Absent: Greg Ruddy and Michelle Barrett

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn and 2 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to accept the minutes from the special board meeting held on April 13, 2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace received continued questions from people on how things will be functioning with the online learning.

Presentations/Updates

Update – Fertilization program softball and football fields & gym floor – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that the district received two bids for the fertilization program for the softball and football fields. The lowest bid was from Stine Turf & Snow in the amount of \$11,036.00. The softball and football fields are still under warranty until July 1, 2020 from the work that was completed during the summer of 2019 from Waste Management Specialists. Mr. Severn noted that if another company comes in, this does not void the warranty as long as the other company does not damage the drainage and irrigation systems. Mr. Severn talked with Stine Turf & Snow to assure that the sand and materials they planned to use would be the same that the other company used last summer. Mr. Severn checked with local school districts including Durand and Morrice of whom Stine Turf & Snow has done several school projects for and both were very happy with the company.

Mr. Severn reported that the district is recommending Victory Gym Floor to complete the re-do of the high school gym floor this summer. Victory Gym Floor submitted the lowest water based bid and all the other companies submitted bids for oil based refinishes. Mr. Severn presented to the board that the oil base is what turns the floors yellow as it ages, as the water base maintains the color. This company comes highly recommended as a lot of universities use them.

Committee Reports

None

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$689,122.33; school service, \$32,333.28; for a total of \$721,455.61.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,131,064.39; receipts, \$872,280.13; expenditures: \$721,455.61; for an ending balance of \$1,281,888.91.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Action Items

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to approve the resolution to grant emergency powers to the Superintendent to comply with Executive Order 2020-35, as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Motion by Green supported by Vincke to approve the fertilization program for the football and softball fields from Stine Turf & Snow in the amount of \$11,036.00 to be paid out of the general fund for 2019-2020.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the gym floor bid from Victory Gym Floors in the amount of \$18,090.00 to be paid out of the general fund for 2020-2021.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to approve the lease of 4 buses at a cost not to exceed \$15,042.00 per bus, per year from Midwest Transit Equipment for three years as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to approve the purchase of a CNC 5' x 10' plasma table with an automatic height control and cutter to accompany the machine to be purchased from PlasmaCAM Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$19,878.93 to be purchased with CTE added cost funding for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Motion by Unangst supported by Henige to approve the hire of Mark Wakefield as a full-time bus coordinator/maintenance worker effective March 17, 2020 which is a correction from the March 16, 2020 board meeting agenda as it was stated part-time.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that with the Covid-19 outbreak winter sport seasons did not completely finish. Mr. Severn has been meeting with coaches via Zoom to perform coach evaluations and he is looking to finalize the ones he has not completed by the end of this week. Mr. Severn has discussed with both varsity boys and girls basketball coaches Red Cedar for next winter. They have decided that 5th and 6th grade will move forward and 3rd and 4th grade is tabled for now, until we know gym availability. The program overall was great this year. The Nazarene church allowed us to utilize their gym and that is what will determine if we will be able to move forward with the 3rd and 4th grade season next winter. Mr. Severn noted that Little Warriors flag football has been canceled for the spring season this year and he has not heard yet on Diamond Lynx. Winter sports banquets are all canceled for now. Mr. Severn mentioned that all awards have been made and when the time is right and the lift for social gatherings happen the coaches all said they would reach out to the team and have some sort of informal gathering over the summer. Mr. Severn reported that after lengthy discussion with the MMAC athletic directors in regards to lettering spring sports athletes we have decided to move forward with some criteria in regards to lettering athletes for the 2020 season. The requirements are as follows: must be a junior or senior, if they are a freshmen/sophomore they will receive a letter as well only if they played the previous spring sport season as a varsity player. The NCAA eligibility center sent out guidelines just this morning regarding adjustments to initial-eligibility requirements due the Covid-19. Student with an expected spring/summer 2020 graduation date who initially enrolled full-time in 2020-2021 will receive a Covid-19 automatic waiver in the academic certification process, provided they: Division 1 – meet core-course progression requirement before the start of the seventh semester and present a 2.300 or higher core-course GPA in such courses. Division 2 – complete 10 core-course units before start of the seventh semester; and present 2.200 or higher core-course GPA in such courses. Due to recent ACT/SAT cancellations, test scores are excluded from these criteria. For the classes of 2021-2023 for NCAA approved core courses completed in spring/summer 2020 that have been issued a grade of pass, the eligibility center will apply the credit earned in these courses toward the core-course requirement in the student's certification. If the student's core-course GPA would increase by assigning a value of 2.300, this value will be assigned to the passed courses. However, if the student's core-course GPA would decrease by including the 2.300 value for passed courses, the student's core course GPA will be calculated based only on courses with assigned letter grades from other available terms. Lastly, Mr. Severn reported that we will be proceeding with scholar-athlete awards for this year's seniors.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mr. Berthiaume reported that Mrs. Barrett will be recommending capping classroom sizes and limited spacing for certain grade levels at the May board meeting. The elementary will be sending out a family survey to see what students will be staying in district and which students might be moving, to get a better idea of where we are at with class sizes. Kindergarten and preschool roundup has been

postponed until a later date and potentially might be held a couple weeks before school starts next fall. Teachers have been in the building putting together packets for students to be sent home. The aides are copying the packets and the bus drivers will be delivering the packets along with an aide assisting them. Dr. Berthiaume reported that the Michigan Department of Education recently released grades for MI Schools and New Lothrop Elementary School received a high B ranking for the 2018-2019 school year.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that quarter three grades have been finalized. Some students have not completed assignments, so those students have been given the opportunity to turn in late work. Student packets have been made up and will be available for students to pick up next week. The high school staff is ready to implement the plan of teaching online, as of today. The Shiawassee areas principals met via Zoom to discuss grading our students for quarter four. Out of eight schools in the county, four of the schools will be using letter grades and the other three schools, including New Lothrop, will be using a Pass/Incomplete. Mrs. Cymbor spoke and updated the board that last week she met with the school leadership team, Kim, Drew and the department heads. Several topics were discussed including AP student rankings. Mrs. Cymbor along with others have been researching how they are handling the grading for their students. Colleges will not be penalizing students because they have a “P” on their transcript. Ms. Kuchar reported that, on a positive note, the Michigan Department of Education recently released grades for MI Schools. New Lothrop High School received an A for the 2018-2019 school year and is listed as a Reward School.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reported that our district submitted our Continuity of Learning plan to the RESD and we should get approval within the next week or two. Chromebook devices will begin to be checked out the week of April 27th. Mr. O'Connor has created a waiver that parents will need to complete before receiving a device. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he has been very pleased with Val Baker and the food service staff with the meals they have been making for students to pick up. When they began distributing lunches on March 20th they were handing out around 50 meals and now they are distributing around 140 meals. Dr. Berthiaume has contacted all the bus drivers, they are on board with getting packets out and delivered to students with an aide assisting on the bus. The district received gloves and masks if staff want to wear them. The district will make sure to communicate times of drop off with parents and also to let parents know that packets will be dropped off by their mailbox and not to approach the bus. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he has several more Zoom meetings to come in the week and one with the state superintendent on Wednesday to get the Michigan Department of Education perspective with what is going on.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

Yes – White, Green, Unangst, Eustace, Henige, Vincke

No – None

Absent – Ruddy

Adjournment at 6:58 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Adam Green, Board Secretary