

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, December 13, 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 9 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:01 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 Henige to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting dated November 15, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace received several calls from community members regarding the baseball fields asking about the timeframe and another call regarding Varsity and JV sports teams not getting practice time, while Red Cedar League is getting practice times.

Joe Henige received a phone call regarding the same topics as Jim.

Student Section

None

Student Observers

None

Presentations/Updates

Operating Millage – Thrun Law Firm, Jeff Soles

Jeff Soles from Thrun Law Firm discussed the upcoming operating millage renewal with the Board. If this is approved by voters no increase will occur for taxpayers. The district needs to decide what ballot they want to place the operating mileage on.

Dow Fellow – Jessica Marcet

Mrs. Marcet presented to the board a project her math students had worked on. Students were comparing the food waste in the cafeteria and looked at the possibility of using reusable trays. The district Food Service Director has already looked at making some changes in the cafeteria to be more environmentally friendly. Mrs. Marcet also stated the National Honor Society hosted a blood drive last week and 25 units of blood were donated. Also, National Honor Society distributed care packages for exam week to students. Parents and students had the chance to purchase them and they sold over 100 packages. Mrs. Marcet stated that she looks forward to doing other activities like this in the years to come.

Committee Reports

Facilities Committee – (12-13-21) to be reported at the January meeting.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$887,353.95; school service \$41,805.91; for a total of \$929,159.86.

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 \$545,487.40; receipts \$1,025,305.29; expenditures \$929,159.86; for an ending balance of \$641,632.83.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Jenn Otter, elementary secretary, effective November 16, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to approve the Energy Management System from Commercial Control Systems in the amount of \$111,888.00 to be paid from ESSER II funds.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy took a minute to highlight the student athletes that we have recently had sign to play a sport at the college level next year. Brady Birchmeier signed to play baseball at Bowling Green, Amaya Brown to play softball at Mott Community College and Isiah Pasik to wrestle at Michigan State University. Mr. Murphy also mentioned that the varsity football team received recognition for academic all-state. Boosters raised \$10,000 at their recent fundraiser and are already starting to give back to different groups.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that the second Acadience/i-Ready window of the school year is open. We have some students that are graduating out of title and at-risk classes. We are really excited to see what the data is going to tell us with this next assessment. This Friday the staff vs. student's basketball game will take place as well as the holiday parties. Mr. Severn thanked the board for approving the hire of Mrs. Jenn Otter as the new elementary secretary. He is very excited to have her as part of the team. After the holiday break, the playground zones will be moved into two zones instead of seven. The elementary will also be performing drills while at lunch and latchkey areas after students return from break. Mr. Severn stated that the Granting Christmas Wishes at the elementary raised over \$8,000.00 this year to purchase clothing and gifts for families in need within the community. A big thank you to 5th and 6th grade teachers for making this experience happen for our 6th grade students. Mr. Severn noted that he has been discussing the computer lab wing with the Technology Director in hopes to move the lab to the elementary library and that would free up another room.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the Outreach group recently went into the town of New Lothrop the week of Thanksgiving and raked leaves and decorated the pavilion area. Also that week an awards assembly was held for students and academic awards were given out. Last week, FFA celebrated Greenhand and

Chapter Degree recipients. This coming Friday during 6th hour upper classmen will compete against underclassmen for a volleyball match. Ms. Kuchar stated that the Oxford tragedy had a huge impact on her students. The common thread coming from students is how they could help. A couple students came up with the idea to design t-shirts to sell to students and staff and with the money raised given back to the Oxford families.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned the recent tragedy at Oxford Schools and it makes you take a deeper look at what you're doing. Since our last board meeting, we've had a lot of internal questions. Last week, Dr. Berthiaume met with first responders which included fire, police and ambulance to have those conversations. Also, at the county superintendent's meeting school safety and protocols were discussed. When the buildings perform lockdowns they will be communicated to families, but safety protocols are confidential. Dr. Berthiaume stated that over the last 12 years we have done a lot with safety including the State Police grant that the district was awarded a few years ago. The district will continue to work with our local health department and will continue to monitor our COVID-19 numbers. The health department will evaluate, and if needed, make a recommendation for the two weeks after we come back from the holiday break. Dr. Berthiaume wanted to take a moment to honor Ms. Leanne Parker who gave a lot to our district for the 24 years she was employed here. Our district was very well represented at her funeral service and she will be greatly missed. Popcorn Fridays are back at the elementary school and Granting Christmas Wishes was a great success. Dr. Berthiaume noted that it's not all about the inside walls of the classroom of what students are doing, but it's on the outside as well. It's all about being a good individual. The student's support is truly appreciated and it's great to see our kids giving back.

Mark Wakefield updated the board on the bus routes and returning back to one start time for both buildings. As of today, Mr. Wakefield has verbally secured the 7th driver for the district. The 8th driver will be taking the road test later this week. As of right now, Mr. Wakefield has been working on the route and has three routes for the high school and five for the elementary. Dr. Berthiaume will communicate with staff and parents when he plans to make this change happen.

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 6:51 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, January 10, 2022 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary