

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, February 10, 2020

6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

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

Absent: Greg Ruddy and Adam Green

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Michelle Barrett, Drew Severn, and 10 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Jim Eustace. Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to accept the minutes from the special board meeting held on January 27, 2020.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Correspondence

Jessica Unangst received two correspondences from parents. One was regarding a bus issue last week and the other was a parent concern with an issue.

Student Section

Student council representatives – none

No student observers for tonight's meeting.

Presentations/Updates

Hornet Hot Shots of the Month – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar recognized the Hornet Hot Shots for the month of February.

Junior High Hornet Hot Shot, Hayden Hopkins (7th grade) and High School Hornet Hot Shot, Dylan Simpkins (11th grade).

Budget Revision – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume presented the February budget revision.

Committee Reports

Finance – Rich White reported the minutes from February 4, 2020.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$691,214.97; school service, \$25,230.87; for a total of \$716,445.84.

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

Motion carried, 5-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$835,087.14; receipts, \$850,810.97; expenditures: \$716,445.84; for an ending balance of \$969,452.27.

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

Motion carried, 5-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the February 2020 budget revision as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the online, dual enrollment, independent study and seat-time waiver roster for second semester as presented.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the Gracon Inc. contracted service agreement for technology consulting and design services for the bond and sinking fund projects.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported Jr. High Boys Basketball last game will take place on February 24th. Wrestling team districts are this Wednesday at Michigan Lutheran Seminary and New Lothrop will host individual districts on Saturday, February 15th. Team states will take place on February 28th and 29th and individual states to follow on March 6th and 7th. Both of the new wrestling mats were used this past weekend for the MMAC Tourney and youth wrestling. We've received \$1,500.00 from athletic boosters to put toward the mats. Youth wrestling will be putting money toward them as well, they just wanted to wait to see where they sat after their youth tournament this past weekend. Coach Campbell will be contributing as well, but wants to see what his internal account looks like after the season is over. Boys Varsity Basketball post season begins on March 9th with districts at Reese and Girls Varsity Basketball districts will take place in Vassar on March 2nd. On January 17th, Girls Basketball partnered with Coaches vs. Cancer with the American Cancer Society for the sponsored New Lothrop vs. Ovid-Elsie game. Steve Browning from State Farm offered to purchase uniforms for both teams for the game. A little over \$5,000.00 was raised that evening for the American Cancer Society to put toward the fight against cancer. Post season for Bowling will begin on February 28th with regionals taking place in Bay City. High School spring sports begin on Monday, March 9th. Mr. Severn would like to finalize winter coaching evaluations by the end of March. In Science, we just wrapped up and finalized K-5 NGSS science curriculum maps. Special thanks to all of the elementary teachers who put the wrench time in. At Friday's Professional Development Day 6th- 12th grade science will be working on Unit #3 district assessment.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett discussed how the Community District Library is moving to their own building up town in New Lothrop. Both the school and the library will benefit from this change which include improving safety, splitting up foot traffic, allowing for quiet areas for students to work in small groups, the circulation desk will be moved to a more central location which will be closer in proximity to the students. The elementary is looking at the preschool entryway and closing off some of the space right by the entryway. This will be better on the carpet to keep them closer to the door and also will have benches to sit on. The i-Ready window is closed and the elementary is showing a steady growth in proficiency levels. In Reading 38% were proficient this past fall while 59% was proficient this winter. In Math 23% were proficient this past fall and 50% proficient this winter. Mrs. Barrett discussed that the elementary is looking to change the recess structure for 2nd – 4th graders next year. This change would be to lengthen the lunch recess to a 50-minute period instead of 30 minutes and to eliminate the afternoon recess. Recently, a lot of discipline issues have been arising at the afternoon recess and it is very disruptive to the classes when pulling students out so close to the end of the school day.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar mentioned that the New Lothrop Odyssey of the Mind team placed 1st last Saturday at the regional tournament as well as received the coveted creativity award. They will be moving on to the state competition next month. High School students that competed at the Frankenmuth Ice Fest last month finished in 5th place. Thirty-five of our FFA students moved on to regional competition in Perry this past Thursday. Ms. Kuchar stated that recently she had two K-9 sweeps over the last few weeks. Ms. Kuchar and Mrs. Czymbor met with 8-11 grades to discuss class offerings and gauge interest for next year's scheduling. Ms. Kuchar discussed in depth the average class size, dual enrollment/online students and potentially moving to a six-hour day instead of a block schedule for Junior High students.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reported that the district has twelve junior high students that will be inducted into the Shiawassee Scholars this year. This is the most we've had in several years. Dr. Berthiaume noted that we will begin to negotiate next year's school calendar very soon. The district will be developing two calendars just to be on the safe side with the construction that will be taking place this summer. The hazardous material assessment has been completed and the district is moving forward with that. The district is looking into a possible well and sewage. The water bills have been a lot because of the redo of the football and softball fields last summer. The district is exploring our options in case the village doesn't allow us to have a well here. Dr. Berthiaume spoke on the preschool bathroom in the elementary library as we are exploring options. Dr. Berthiaume also mentioned that the district is definitely having conversations about the safety of our students. Ms. Kuchar and Mrs. Barrett are keeping up on discipline and the new social worker is helping the students out so much. The district recently sent out the staff climate and culture survey to all staff members. Dr. Berthiaume touched on school of choice tuition based program that he recently has been researching. It would allow a school of choice family to come, if accepted by our district guidelines, and pay \$1 fee to come into our district. Annually a review is done on the students' academics, behavior and attendance. Dr. Berthiaume stated that this is something definitely on his mind, but doesn't know if the time allows for this to be implemented for next school year. Obviously, certain guidelines will need to be developed as well as meeting with the policy committee to discuss.

Recess 7:21 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.

Closed Session

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to enter closed session under Section 8h of the open meeting act to consider material exempt from disclosure.

Roll call:

Ayes: Vincke, Eustace, Henige, White, Unangst

Nays: None

Absent: Ruddy, Green

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to adjourn.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Adjournment at 7:59 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary