

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, March 20, 2017

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

Board Members Present: Rich White, Curt Bitterman, Greg Ruddy, Jessica Unangst, Jim Eustace and Adam Green

Absent: Kevin Birchmeier

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Stephanie O'Dea, Michelle Barrett, Wes Webster, and 38 visitors.

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

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Greg Ruddy. Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on February 20, 2017.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Student Section

Student observers for tonight were Maria Costillo and Reagan Martin.

Presentations/Updates

Recognition – Mrs. Courtney Henige, VFW Teacher of the Year

Mrs. Henige was recognized by the Board for her recent achievement of being chosen for the VFW's Teacher of the Year. Elementary Principal, Mrs. Barrett, spoke highly of Mrs. Henige affirming she is a top notch teacher. Mrs. Henige plays an avid role with the granting Christmas wishes program that the district sponsors every Christmas season. Mrs. Henige also organizes the Annual 4th grade Hartley trip, and is involved with the Science Fair. Superintendent Dr. Anthony Berthiaume affirmed Mrs. Barrett's comments stating Mrs. Henige was a very dedicated teacher who shows her loyalty to the district day in and day out. You can always count on her.

Lisa Fulton's 6th grade newspaper staff

Mrs. Fulton 6th grade students Taylor Moore and Ty Kohlmann gave a presentation to the Board on the school newspaper that they are publishing.

Committee Reports

The Facilities Committee meeting minutes were reported by Jim Eustace.

The Finance Committee meeting minutes were reported by Jessica Unangst.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$615,956.08; school service, \$35,518.41; for a total of \$651,474.49.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$698,426.37; receipts, \$855,125.18; expenditures: \$651,474.49; for an ending balance of \$902,077.06.

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

Motion carried, 6-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to accept the resignation of Nancy Ebenhoeh, Title I Teacher, effective June 30, 2017.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Green to approve the hire of Chad Henige, 7th grade girls softball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2017 season.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Bitterman, supported by Ruddy to approve the additional spring Schedule C Appointments as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Bitterman, supported by Eustace to approve leasing 4 buses at a cost not to exceed \$12,975 per bus per year from Capital City Bus Sales for three years as presented.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to approve the purchase of the IP camera surveillance system from Honor Security, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$42,930.12 to be paid out of the Technology Bond.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Bitterman to approve the purchase of the networking switches from Sehi, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$9,700 to be paid out of the Technology Bond.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the lean-to addition onto the Agricultural barn from Rod Kulhanek Builders at a cost not to exceed \$10,003 and the graded concrete from Gross Construction at a cost not to exceed \$4,800. Funds for this addition will be covered by a student grant and the FFA alumni association.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve a one year extension to the Superintendent's contract.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Correspondence

All board members received an email from a concerned parent regarding the Developmental Kindergarten Program we offer in our district.

Building/District Updates

Athletics - Wes Webster

Mr. Webster presented that we are trying to expand the GAC conference. We are still looking at the possibility of forming our own league. Spring sports are in full swing. Our numbers for spring sports have been really good. Today, we interviewed for the Varsity Volleyball position. Hopefully, a decision will be made by Friday and the committee will have a recommendation for the April Board meeting.

Elementary - Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett talked about the next steps for the Title I program, with Nancy Ebenhoeh's retirement at the end of the school year. This year our Title I program supports 1st - 4th grade reading. We have found that 4th grade has not been very successful. We have implemented the 1st and 2nd graders going to Title I reading groups in the morning and afternoon. Next year, we will implement 1st - 3rd grade reading supports with the 1st and 2nd graders getting additional support in the afternoon and also i-Ready lessons for every student. Also, next year for 2nd and 3rd grade we will be offering additional math supports and i-Ready extra lessons for every student. Mrs. Barrett and the teachers see great value in adding the extra lessons. The district is looking to implement a new handwriting curriculum - Handwriting Without Tears. We are looking to roll this out with the PreK and Kindergarten grades starting with the 2017-2018 school year. This is a hands-on approach to handwriting. Mrs. Barrett recently attended a Literacy Conference on the Third Grade Reading Law. At the conference a lot of information was presented, keep in mind that the state is still changing a lot of the information that was presented at the conference. This rule would go into effect when our current Kindergarteners are in 3rd grade. Students that are struggling will need to be put on an individualized reading plan documenting what the teacher, student, and parent responsibilities are for the student. Students who are not proficient (reading within one year of grade level) will be required to stay back if they don't meet certain qualifications.

High School - Stephanie O'Dea

Mrs. O'Dea informed the board that the choir concert on February 28, 2017 was phenomenal. This was Mr. Czymbor's last performance before he left his position here in New Lothrop and went to Birch Run. The person that is currently subbing in that position, Miss Ayling, just graduated from Central Michigan University and is doing a really nice job with the students. Recently, we hosted a Dual Enrollment and Early College meeting with parents whose child may be interested in receiving college credit while still attending high school. Mrs. O'Dea also stated that since Main Street Academy in Owosso closed the district has had no option of where to send our Cosmetology students. For the 2017-2018 school year those students that are interested in the Cosmetology program have the option to attend the Beauty Parlor Academy in Clio. The Human Trafficking Presentation for parents will take place this Monday, March 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium. Parents that have opted for their students to watch the presentation will watch it on Wednesday, March 29th. Students will be separated by grade and gender. Mrs. O'Dea thanked the board for all their support and she appreciates all their efforts. The SAT and PSAT testing will take place on April 11th. On that day the 7th graders will be visiting WNEM TV 5 and the Castle Museum, 8th graders will be attending Potter Park Zoo and the 12th graders have the entire day off because they did so well last year on the testing. Last year, we offered the junior high students an opportunity hour for their 1st hour rotation. The district saw some really good results and we started that same opportunity up again this year.

District - Anthony Berthiaume

Student Achievement - Dr. Berthiaume talked about the upcoming spring assessments (SAT, PSAT, M-STEP) that our students will be tested on after they return from spring break.

Math Curriculum - The math curriculum team is looking at purchasing a new 6-8 math curriculum called Connected Mathematics. The group will continue to do further research on the curriculum. Dr. Berthiaume stated that math is a needed area for this district.

Safety and Security - Dr. Berthiaume has been in contact with the Village of New Lothrop for continued police coverage for the 2017-2018 school year. The agreement will be on the April board agenda.

Finance - Dr. Berthiaume is currently working on the 2017-2018 budget. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the numbers are raw at this point. He also discussed enrollment and our Kindergarten numbers. We will have a better idea of our Kindergarten numbers for next fall after registration takes place on May 8th.

Technology - Dr. Berthiaume thanked Mr. O'Connor for all the time and effort he has put forth with the current camera surveillance project.

Communication/public relations - Dr. Berthiaume made mention to the Board of Education the switch he has made to his weekly board communication after attending the recent board workshop. He mentioned that he is willing to revert back if they would like him to, but with his current evaluation tool this is the format that was recommended. As far as the Sinking Fund/Bond that was made mention here tonight at the meeting, Dr. Berthiaume stated that he is doing his due diligence and looking into the potential of passing one of these to better our facilities.

Grievance Appeal Hearing

The Board of Education agreed to uphold the Superintendent's decision on grievance #2016-17-2 and adopted the superintendent's response to the grievant dated March 2, 2017.

Adjournment at 7:17 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, April 17, 2017 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Gregory E Ruddy, Board Secretary
New Lothrop Board of Education