

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, January 15, 2018
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Richard White, Greg Ruddy, Adam Green, Jessica Unangst, Kevin Birchmeier (arrived at 6:05 p.m.), Jim Eustace (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), Joe Henige.

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Michelle Barrett, Kim Kuchar and 20 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.

Statutory Topics for Board Consideration/Organization Action

Nomination of Rich White for President by Adam Green.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Rich White as President.

Motion carried 5-0.

Nomination of Greg Ruddy for Vice President by Adam Green.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Greg Ruddy as Vice President.

Motion carried 5-0.

Nomination of Adam Green for Secretary by Greg Ruddy.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Birchmeier to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Adam Green as Secretary.

Motion carried 6-0.

Nomination of Jessica Unangst for Treasurer by Kevin Birchmeier.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Jessica Unangst as Treasurer.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to appoint Adam Green as liaison from the Board to the MASB.

Motion carried 6-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to appoint Jessica Unangst as liaison from the Board to the Shiawassee RESD.

Motion carried 6-0.

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 dated December 20, 2017 as presented.

Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence

A thank you from Sue Spiegel thanking the Board for the engraved picture frame memory box given to her for her retirement.

Student Section

The student observers for tonight were Paige Bishop and Maddie Kulhanek.

Staff Recognition

School Board Recognition – January is School Board Recognition month. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the Board for their voluntary hours and commitment to the kids of our school district. Our Board always has a vision of what's next for our district. Courtney Henige and Melissa Jacobs presented to the School Board several books that will be donated to both the Elementary and High School Library in honor of the 2017-18 school board members.

Presentations/Updates

Arthur Devota, Eagle Scout Service Project Presentation

Arthur presented his Eagle Scout Service Project to the Board of Education. Arthur would like to install two benches on the nature trail behind the elementary school. Once Arthur has final plans for his project he will come back to the Board for final approval and if a go, the project will be ready by spring.

Hornet Hot Shot Students and Employee of the Month – Kim Kuchar

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

Junior High Hornet Hot Shot, Luke Henige (8th grade); High School Hornet Hot Shot, Delaynee Bitterman (9th grade) and Staff Hornet Hot Shot John Long (Teacher).

CTE Industrial Arts Walk Through

The meeting recessed from 6:24 p.m. – 6:50 p.m. to take a walk through the Industrial Arts classroom.

Greater Michigan Construction Academy Presentation

Bridget Sadenwater, Director of Education from Greater Michigan Construction Academy (GMCA) presented to the Board of Education. New Lothrop Area Public Schools is exploring the possibility of entering a partnership with (GMCA) in regards to program expansion. GMCA provides partner schools with a rigorous curriculum in many specific trades and would allow students who complete that curriculum to gain valuable industry recognized certifications in many high demand, high wage, highly skilled, technical careers. Superintendent, Dr. Berthiaume stated that the district surveyed students and based on the survey results most students were interested in electrical, carpentry, welding and HVAC.

Committee Reports

The Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular Committee meeting minutes were reported by Adam Green. Dr. Berthiaume noted that he will be meeting with two (2) other vendors in the upcoming week and plans will be to hold another Board Facilities Workshop later this month. Dr. Berthiaume will update the other two (2) vendors with where we are at with this process.

New Committee Assignments – President, Rich White noted that each member received a list of the current committee assignments, if anyone wishes to be placed on a different committee you are to contact Rich and let him know. At the February board meeting we will have a complete listing of the committee assignments.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$775,582.33; school service, \$35,320.70; for a total of \$810,903.03.

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, \$885,462.92; receipts, \$733,832.95; expenditures: \$810,903.03; for an ending balance of \$808,392.84.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Unangst to accept the resignation of Jeff Polzin, Varsity Girls Softball Coach, effective January 2, 2018.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Birchmeier to accept the resignation of Alyssa Rivette, J.V. Girls Softball Coach, effective January 4, 2018.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Birchmeier to accept the resignation of Leo Harris, night time evening custodian, effective January 12, 2018.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Bitterman, 8th grade Boys Basketball Coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Justin Skinner, 8th grade Boys Baseball Coach for the 2017-18 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reported that our Athletic Director/Assistant Principal, Drew Severn will be coming on board Monday, January 22. Dr. Berthiaume also stated that the girls and boys basketball are up and running and their numbers are holding strong. The wrestling tournament that we hosted here in New Lothrop a couple weeks ago went really well.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Today's professional development day for teachers included a Social Emotional Training. Teachers will be following up with the leadership team on the next steps which will include focusing on an asset a month and what teachers can do to explicitly teach these skills to students. Our Preschool/Latchkey licensing is due again this coming May. This will take months to prepare for as the program has implemented a new fingerprint requirement for those staff that work with the program. The M-Step schedule has been created, the schedule seems to be the least disruptive schedule than what we have had in the past. Less testing dates and time than any previous year. 3rd, 4th and 6th grade: 2 days (2 hours of ELA and 90 minutes of Math); 5th grade: 60 minutes of Social Studies and 45 minutes of Science.

The testing times will not impact the overall school much, no missed specials for non-testing classes and the dates that impact religion release time have been communicated. Upcoming events include: Daddy Daughter Dance – January 20th, Delta Smile Clinic – February 13th, Valentines Day Parties – February 14th, Parent-Teacher Conferences – February 15th, Family Game Night – February 22nd. The goal of the Family Game Night is to provide families a fun evening to play games and learn how to incorporate math/reading skills into the games.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that during Christmas break, she was given a tutorial on the new PA system from a SoundCom consultant. Ms. Kuchar also performed a secure mode drill with her building through her phone as well as the new PA system. Mr. Bennett and Ms. Kuchar are learning the new system together and each morning music is playing in the hallways when the students arrive to school. Mrs. Czymbor and Ms. Kuchar have been working on the master schedule. Baker College representatives are coming to New Lothrop on February 1st to speak with our 9th – 11th graders on Dual Enrollment, Early College and Baker programs. On February 2nd Joanna will be working with students on course requests and on February 5th the district is holding a parent meeting on Dual Enrollment and Early College. February 5th – Juniors are traveling to Delta/SVSU campus to hear more about Health Sciences/Skilled trades. Exams went smoothly, Junior High team had students prepare projects for ELA/Social Studies and Math/Science and present in front of their classmates. At today's professional development day, staff worked in departments analyzing SAT questions, looked for pitfalls, trends, commonalities and looked at ways to make instructional and assessment changes.

Mrs. Robison and Mrs. Devota begin SAT prep tutoring this week. Mrs. Wickerham is taking a group of students to Snowfest in Frankenmuth next week January 25 and 26. In early February, a couple teachers will be taking all 7th and 8th grade girls and any interested High School girls to the Women in STEM conference.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Student Achievement – i-Ready second window opens up tomorrow. At the February professional development day teachers will be analyzing i-Ready and preparing student for the 3rd diagnostic and M-Step testing.

Curriculum - Teachers have been working diligently on the district brochures. After the brochures go to the council, they will then go to the board for approval and then be distributed to parents.

Technology - In February, Gracon will present to the Board of Education a 1, 3, and 5-year plan and where we are at with our Technology Bond money.

Dr. Berthiaume has been searching for a couple more vendors to interview for our possible sinking fund/bond interviews.

Public relations – Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that we are here for our students, staff is doing a great job. In regards to snow days, the district has had four (4) snow days so far and we are allotted six (6) per year. Student safety is put first and foremost.

Executive Session

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to enter Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations.

Motion carried 7-0.

Recess was taken from 7:40 p.m. until 7:43 p.m.

Jessica Unangst left at 8:45 p.m.

Closed Session was entered at 7:43 p.m. and exited at 9:45 p.m.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Henige to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 9:45 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, February 12, 2018 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary
New Lothrop Board of Education