

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, May 18, 2020

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

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

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Michelle Barrett, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn and 4 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 Eustace to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on April 20, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace received a phone call from someone and brought it to Anthony's attention.

Joe Henige received a call on graduation. This person prefers an outside celebration, and sooner rather than later, if possible.

Rich White received a phone call on some seniors needing diplomas. The copy will be sent out this week and the original will be handed out when we are able to have graduation.

Presentations/Updates

District Service Awards – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume read off all of this year's service award recipients. Even though the district was not able to hand out awards in person, Dr. Berthiaume stated that awards will be handed out this coming fall when school starts back up. All staff members were thanked for their hard work and dedication.

Construction Update – Christman Company, Jacob Kulhanek

Jacob Kulhanek updated the Board on the construction projects that have started at the high school. Mr. Kulhanek stated that Christman has been in contact with all sub contractors and they are all scheduled to be here at an earlier date to get the job underway. He stated that we were very lucky to have a contract with all of these contractors in place before Covid-19. Currently, the contractors are working on abatement. High school bleachers are scheduled for August 13th installation. Christman has advised contractors to hold off on demoing the high school student lockers until they get a confirmation date that the new ones will be delivered before the 2020-2021 school year.

Elementary, Latchkey and Preschool Handbook – Michelle Barrett presented the elementary, latchkey and preschool handbooks with changes for the 2020-2021 school year.

High School Handbook – Kim Kuchar presented the high school handbook with changes for the 2020-2021 school year.

Athletic Handbook – Drew Severn presented the athletic handbook with changes for the 2020-2021 school year.

Committee Reports

Personnel/Curriculum Wendy Vincke reported the minutes from May 6, 2020.

Policy – Jim Eustace reported the minutes from May 13, 2020

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$619,195.78; school service, \$21,613.27; for a total of \$640,809.05.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,281,888.91; receipts, \$813,910.07; expenditures: \$640,809.05; for an ending balance of \$1,454,989.93.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the 2020-2021 SRES budget, as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Henige supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Betsy Gross, food service worker, effective April 17, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Eustace supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Dajuan Massey, J.V. Football coach, effective April 29, 2020.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the participation in the Schools of Choice program under Section 105 and 105 c of the Revised School Code for the 2020-2021 school year except for 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th grade which will be capped for the 2020-2021 school year and limited spaces available in Kindergarten, 3rd, 8th, 10th, 11th, and 12th.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the lunch price increases for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Vincke supported by Henige to approve the second reading of the Spring 2020 NEOLA policy (new, revised, replacement) and guidelines as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Unangst supported by Green to approve the 2020-2021 elementary handbook changes as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Ruddy supported by Unangst to approve the 2020-2021 Latchkey handbook changes as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Green supported by Eustace to approve the 2020-2021 preschool handbook changes as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Unangst supported by Vincke to approve the 2020-2021 high school handbook changes as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Motion by Green supported by Vincke to approve the 2020-2021 athletic code of conduct changes as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Building/District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that there are multiple unknowns that we are dealing with and the MHSAA has said that they want to plan for fall sports. As long as we are under the “stay home, stay safe” order, there will be zero athletic contact. After the executive order is lifted they will be going week-by-week to determine what the summer and fall will look like. Mr. Severn has been looking at pricing to get the Pixellot system in the elementary gym. Mr. Severn stated that there is a new form that students who

had a valid sports physical in 2019-2020 (completed on or after April 15, 2020) can complete with required signatures to meet the pre-participation health status requirement in 2020-2021. Mr. Severn updated the board on CAP classes that are required for coaches. These classes will be offered online and those that need to complete them will still need to do so. The classes should be up in the next few weeks. Mr. Severn discussed several big changes happening in athletics: for all sports the completion of an NFHS (National Federation of State High School Associations) sportsmanship course as a stipulation for coaches and players to return to competition after having been ejected from a contest has been adopted, all officials for all sports will have to complete the 2021-22 school year rules meeting for an MHSAA registered official to be eligible to officiate high school contests, the dead period will take place July 1 – July 5 for New Lothrop, the downtime period (first week of August) will still take effect as per MHSAA.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett discussed her class numbers for the 2020-2021 school year and what her class numbers would look like if we were able to hire another elementary teacher. Mrs. Barrett talked about the student, staff and parent results of a survey that were recently taken. It was noted that our computer class is lacking curriculum. Mrs. Barrett will be meeting with Mrs. Emmendorfer next week to discuss taking i-Ready out of computer class, getting a curriculum and then this would move i-Ready back into the classroom. Mrs. Barrett talked about how the elementary is doing preschool registration in a couple weeks in front of the elementary in the circle drive. Kindergarten Roundup is tentatively set for August 3rd. Lastly, the elementary is planning a reverse parade on June 3rd for elementary students and parents. The parade will allow students to wave goodbye to their teacher(s) from a distance.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Mrs. Kuchar reported that she is moving forward with her master schedule without hiring a new teacher. She has had to take some of the electives originally planned off the schedule. We were able to keep the new CTE – Teacher Cadet program, in which we have twenty students interested. Computer Science and Forensics have been deleted from the schedule. This means limited numbers in those classes, those kids that do get into those classes will probably opt to do online classes. Our numbers are going to be pretty high, that's why we are capping. Ms. Kuchar stated that she told Dr. Berthiaume today she's willing to forgo and move ahead with the master schedule that she and Mrs. Czymbor created, without hiring any staff, knowing that we may have an Economics class with 33 or 34. If budget allows one teacher to be hired, Ms. Kuchar would rather see the elementary get that. Ms. Kuchar stated that the little kiddos need small class sizes and they will make it work at the high school. We are going to move ahead and start scheduling students as we have staff that can help do that now. Ms. Kuchar mentioned that she is really happy that we have 90% of our students actively engaged in our distance learning plan. She would like to attribute that to a lot of phone calls made to parents on how to get students connected. Kim has been meeting every week with grade levels via Zoom and also working together collaborating with staff. The high school has been working with the RESD finalizing grading system and what that will look like, so Kim can pass along to her staff. Ms. Kuchar discussed graduation, setting a date and what it may look like. At this point, administration has dates picked out for June, July and August to try to do a face-to-face ceremony on the football field, dependent on the Governor's orders and if we are allowed to have large gatherings. The high school is celebrating seniors this week, as this would have been their last week of school. Ms. Kuchar mailed postcards out to every senior, videos will be posted everyday this week, honoring them and on Friday staff is helping Ms. Kuchar deliver yard signs. On Friday evening, a parade has been planned by some parents for the seniors to parade through town starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Nazarene church. Lastly, in mid-June seniors will be asked to do a drive-by to pick up a goody bag with honor cords, medals and one last lunch from the cafeteria.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume reported that he wanted to share some positive news that the district should celebrate. This past weekend The Argus Press newspaper published the US News and World report article and New Lothrop High School finished 193 out of 645 high schools, which puts us in the top 30%, and also top in the county. This is a great accomplishment of our students and it takes all of us involved to reach that. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he had a three prong statement that he would like to talk about: let's make it through the rest of the school year to June 5th and celebrate our Class of 2020 seniors. Next, looking at next year's budget. As we all know, numbers are all over the place. The Finance committee will be meeting in early June to go over some scenarios. The biggest thing to keep in mind as we talk about additional staff, looking at class sizes, capping and limited spacing and trying to take responsibility and be proactive in regards to the individual learning we are looking for. However,

enrollment numbers are up in the air until school starts on Aug. 20th. Our July meeting we will know more on number of students that will be enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year. The district still has to negotiate with the teachers union on the teacher's contracts. Finally, what's next fall look like? It's so fluid right now, I can't give you guys an answer. Hopefully, we get more info and guidance as this will be a process. In closing, Dr. Berthiaume recognized all the staff members who received years of service awards this year.

Unangst left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to adjourn.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Roll call:

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

No – None

Absent – Unangst

Adjournment at 7:40 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be a regular school board meeting on Monday, June 15, 2020 beginning at 6:00 p.m. place TBD.

Adam Green, Board Secretary