

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, March 19, 2018
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

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

Absent: Jessica Unangst and Kevin Birchmeier.

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Michelle Barrett, Kim Kuchar and 12 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 Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on February 12, 2018.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Correspondence

Rich White mentioned the nice email that the board received from a staff member on behalf of Gayle Sigmund. Gayle goes above and beyond and her positive work performance in the district is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of the Ruddy family, Greg Ruddy thanked the board of education and administration for the condolences on behalf of his mom's passing.

Student Section

Student observers for tonight were Veronica Moody and Alyssa Schnell.

Presentations/Updates

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

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

Junior High Hornet Hot Shot, Madison Wheeler (8th grade); High School Hornet Hot Shot, Evan Wendling (11th grade) and Staff Hornet Hot Shot Julie Kieffer (Staff).

Committee Reports

The Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular committee meeting minutes were reported by Rich White.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund, \$830,314.59; school service, \$26,721.64; for a total of \$857,036.23.

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

Motion carried, 5-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,134,631.27; receipts, \$814,716.89; expenditures, \$857,036.23; for an ending balance of \$1,092,311.93.

Motion by Henige and supported by Green to accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Action Items

Motion by Eustace, supported by Ruddy to approve hiring Cody Clontz, JV baseball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to approve hiring Justin Price, 7th grade baseball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2017-2018 school year.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve moving forward with a district facility audit to be completed by THA Architects Engineers and Christman Company in an amount not to exceed \$12,000.

Motion carried, 5-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that he recently interviewed for the 7th grade baseball position. We have several coaches that will be completing the CAP (Coaches Advancement Program) this coming weekend. On March 15th several of our coaches took a CPR/First Aid course. Congratulations to the wrestling team, who were state runners up. We had four (4) wrestlers who placed at individual state, they include: Austin Wolford – 1st place, Justin Carnahan – 2nd place, Logan Zell – 6th place, Cameron Dusenberry – 7th place. New Lothrop wrestling team was also named Academic All-State. Girls varsity basketball made it to the district finals and lost a hard fought battle to Laingsburg. Boys varsity basketball lost to Bath in a back and forth battle. The boys bowling team were state qualifiers and made it all the way to semi-finals. We had three (3) qualify for the individual state bowling competition: Vaughn Filkins, Sam Bitterman and Kate Muron. Our boys Jr. High basketball ends this week. Winter coach evaluation for parents have been finalized, players will complete coach surveys during Channel 1 tomorrow. Mr. Severn is looking to have all coaching evaluations done before spring break.

Elementary – Michelle Barrett

Mrs. Barrett shared that spring parent-teacher conferences were by appointment and they were 95% attended. "March is Reading Month" and the library has been providing fun incentives to the students. Several guest readers have went into different classrooms to read during the month of March, including Dr. Berthiaume, Ms. Kuchar, Jessica Unangst and Mrs. Barrett. Student council did a read-a-thon fundraiser and part of the money they raise will help to clean our fish tank. Five (5) teachers from the elementary building recently attended the MACUL (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) Conference last Thursday and Friday in Grand Rapids. This past weekend, four (4) teachers from the elementary attended the Michigan Reading Conference. The teachers learned lots of great tips/strategies for small groups and they found the conference to be refreshing. The ELA Curriculum Council recently met and discussed having the 3rd graders join the summer reads program. It was decided at this time to not have the 3rd graders join. The leadership team recently met and created a document of what lock-down procedures look like in each part of the building. The elementary will be practicing a lock-down with 5th/6th in the cafeteria and 3rd/4th on the playground. Kindergarten packets started to be distributed earlier this month. So far, we have 54 new kindergarteners for next fall. Ideally, we would like to see 65; in which several will register during the summer months. At this time, we also have 19 students that are interested in the developmental kindergarten (DK) program. If DK was not an option: 10 would go to kindergarten, one is undecided, one would go to DK in another district, and seven would stay in Pre-K, in a nutshell we would lose nine kids to other programs if we did not offer DK. Preschool numbers: the elementary has passed out 47 Pre-K packets and we have 39 slots available. We have nine guaranteed Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) scholarship funded slots. Recent events that have taken place include: family game night, dodgeball, and candy bar bingo. The mother/son event this past weekend was lots of fun. This was the highest attendance we've had with about 150 participants. Hartley is coming up next month for our 4th graders, a representative came out today to talk to kids and their parents about the upcoming trip.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that she has a tentative master schedule completed for next fall. We have 71 potential dual enrollment students for next year as well as 14 students interested in electrical and 14 students interested in carpentry. Our student council hosted a GAC day with seven schools from Genesee and Shiawassee counties. Student council also spent a day of service at the Flint food bank. Our 7th and 10th graders visited the Holocaust Museum in Dearborn and they also put on a WWII Museum here in our high school gym for parents and community members. The selection process for National Honor Society has started. Last week, a blood drive took place here at the high school and they surpassed expectations on the amount they collected. Students participated in a “green” out supporting Matt Bishop and MDA. Tom Mynsberge came out last week and talked with staff about safety. Kendra’s CTE class participated in LifeSmarts team which finished 3rd in the state. LifeSmarts is Career and Technical Student Organization. Author, Margaret Peterson Haddix came out to visit students in grades 5-9. FFA State Convention Ag Issues team finished 8th in the state. Ten students received their state degree; five students received their outstanding Jr. award and 12 students received State Academic Excellence Award. FFA Labor Auction took place last week; it was a very successful event raising \$12,000. One of our Odyssey of the Mind teams brought home a state championship trophy and the other team a 2nd place finish. Both teams will be competing in World Finals the end of May at Iowa State. In the coming weeks we will be holding testing meetings with proctors, mock rock and the dodgeball tournament will also take place.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume spoke that safety is a top priority in our district. We have been working with local law enforcement and providing necessary materials to our staff making sure we are keeping everyone safe. We will continue our annual training with staff. Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that he recently sent out a couple letters to our district families. Dr. Berthiaume is really impressed with the open communication we have and noted that we are very lucky, but not taking for granted the students that we have in this district. Dr. Berthiaume also wanted to recognize the village police that we have here on duty, he appreciated the collaboration moving forward with them.

Budget – the district is waiting to hear what the state and the house will decide as far as the per pupil increase. Dr. Berthiaume also noted that he and Mrs. Barrett will be looking into possibly implementing a full day preschool for the 2019-2020 school year. The principals are both looking at the master schedules, looking at the current numbers that we have for next year. Christman and THA will be in the district early next month to start a facility assessment of the district.

Lastly, Dr. Berthiaume was very proud to mention that on behalf of the 48 staff members that took the district culture and climate survey, 46 staff members stated that it’s a positive or very positive environment here at New Lothrop Area Schools.

Closed Session

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to enter closed session for the superintendent’s mid-year evaluation.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Henige to return to Open Session.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Action Item

Motion by Henige, supported by Green to approve a one-year extension to the Superintendent’s contract.

Motion carried, 5-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Green to adjourn.

Motion carried 5-0.

Adjournment at 7:58 p.m.

The next meeting of the board will be Monday, April 16, 2018 in the high school library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary