

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, April 15, 2024
6:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium

Board Members Present: Richard White, Wendy Vincke, Adam Green, Jim Eustace, Joe Henige, Tim Birchmeier and Ashley Krupp

Absent: None

Others Present: Heather Luznak, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 200 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:01 p.m. in the high school library. The pledge to the flag said.

Secretary's Report

The secretary's report was read by Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Henige to accept the minutes from the regular meeting dated March 18, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

A conversation regarding an incident on the playground.

Student Section

Klara Mulcahy was the student council representative this month.

Presentations/Updates

Hornet Pride Students – March (Integrity)

Mr. Severn highlighted all the students who have shown Integrity in the Elementary school this month.

MMAC Honor Band Students

Mrs. Sudduth, Band Instructor introduced Brenden Olsen and Alex Blake as the MMAC Honor Band Students.

FFA State Convention – students attended

Mr. Henige, Mr. Wyrick and Mr. Butcher introduced all the students that attended the FFA State Convention and recognized them for their hard work and dedication.

Sara Dammann – National Merit Scholarship Finalist, FFA State Officer

Mr. Butcher stated that Sara Dammann was elected as the 2024-2025 State FFA Vice President.

Committee Reports

None

Visitors

Cindy Gillie stated her concerns about the background search on behalf of one of our new staff members. Not only some outstanding legal issues, but several issues, fraud been found. Now she's been put in charge of administration.

Rich White reminded Mrs. Gillie that we can't allow you to talk on a staff member they have rights as employees. You have a right to ask for it, they have a right to request closed.

Cindy Gillie – why are you guys afraid of the public knowing.

Matt Goss – last month you said everyone wasn't here all the aboard members weren't here.

Rich White - I did not say that.

Sheila Hornak - you said the Superintendent wasn't here.

Friends Community News Group – never heard of a board meeting where the public is shut down. He covers news in Shiawassee County and has been for over 16 years in the Shiawassee area.

Country Kimball-Corbin – since you won't address anything here, we can request a private meeting?

Rich White – notify us that you want a meeting. They have a right and if they want it closed.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin stated that we want our concerns to be heard. How do we go about being heard? Tons of people here and we have concerns.

Rich White – we have to protect the right of the employee.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin – who protects the right of our children.

Nicole Eagan stated that she has a meeting with the Superintendent. She said I agree with you Mrs. Eagan she is not safe to be around our children. Those are words she can't deny. I think we deserve an explanation. Why are we not keeping our kids safe.

Jeri Birchmeier stated when you take proper routes to follow procedures and don't get a call back, no show to the meeting. How do we voice our concerns then?

Nicole Eagan – Why is nothing being done? We are following all the chain of commands. No plan in place and we have yet to be informed of a plan.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin – confidentiality around a public position.

Reynolds – one employee is public record when it's out in the public. public record

Sheila Hornak stated she is confused and I have been a part of this district for a long time. We are all aware that a few years ago something happened with a secretary and the former Superintendent. We all got to say our peace, we weren't shut down and got to say our peace. My Grandma just died, I don't have time for this. Not sure why you can't talk this is ridiculous. We took time out of our schedules tonight.

Rich White I've been in contact with our school attorney and this is the route we need to take.

Sheila Hornak – how long is this route going to take? Don't know what we have to do to be heard? She's never introduced herself to the district. You work for us.

Cindy Gillie – you still didn't address my question. About how a background check is done.

Nicole Eagen – problem is they have no answers to give us.

Brett Taylor stated since when did the rules you can't talk on a situation, when was that put into place recently?

Jeri Birchmeier asked if I go through proper channel, what's my next step.

Cindy Gillie is there a form because I sent you the information twice.

Rich White stated don't talk when I'm talking.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin at the beginning of this school year I emailed all of you about an issue at the elementary, it was about pride. You got a room here full of Hornet pride. We turn to you as school board members. We don't feel like you have our best interest. It's sad, it's disheartening. We once were mighty, mighty New Lothrop. How do we get back? Listen to your people, stop being defensive. Don't understand why this is such a push and pull, it's sad.

Matt Goss stated that last month he voiced his concern over busing for spring sports. Fast forward, it's been over 30 days and no update on busing. Junior High Baseball starts tomorrow in Lakeville. Again do we have to ask parents with suburban's to try to get the kids to the games. Again it's been over 30 days and I was really hopefully for a response but have got none.

Rich White stated that response needs to come from Administration.

Barbie Orr asked if there been a discussion on stipends for coaches for transporting kids. Assistants don't get paid and now they are taking money out of their pocket to drive them.

Kerrie Hughes asked in what timeframe can we expect an update on transportation. She stated next week she has to take several afternoons off work to transport kids to athletic events. What are we doing with that extra money and are we putting back into the people being impacted.

Heather Luznak stated you would have an answer on Athletic by Friday.

Tim Birchmeier stated that he has lived in the community his entire life and his kids play sports here as well and we have a budget, we only have so many buses. In the spring we have a lot of teams and limited drivers. This change is not going to happen overnight. We don't have enough drivers. Mr. Matt I know you conversed with the head baseball coach, we will do what we can when we can.

Matt Goss asked if we could have an option like a shuttle bus or a non cdl style transportation.

Tim Birchmeier stated I understand that but you need to understand there is only so much money to go around. We have a budget here and athletics is not something we have to offer.

Reynolds last comment if we don't offer athletics, every kid in this school would be gone.

Jane Devota stated that she is a teacher here, my father started school here, my in laws attended here, my family attended New Lothrop as well. I'm in my 17 year of teaching. This is my teaching certificate (this is my last one). Listed on my certificate is a code of ethics, truth and honesty. I had to swear under oath and it be notarized. As a teacher if I see something I have to say something. Any educator - I'm responsible I can't ignore that.

Jeri Birchmier stated that another concern is all the wonderful teachers and a lot of turnover we are seeing. Can you speak on that.

Courtney Kimball- Crobin how many have to leave before something is done?

Tracy Raleigh stated that she recently heard a school board member comment that New Lothrop is a stepping stone for teacher and then they move on. This is not true. That comment made is not ok. I'm an proud to be a New Lothrop Hornet and I hope my grandkids attend here someday. My sisters family attends another school and they've recently brought up New Lothrop and said we are a laughing stock.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin stated that when you go to pass another millage, do you think you will have our support?

Jeri Birchmeier commented that we have teachers and administrators telling us that a D- is not a big deal. Why do we have to pay for a tutor? I have a special needs son and he started school in Chesaning because New Lothrop would not accept him. My inlaws and husband are lifelong residents here.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin lose good teacher who give good education.

Josh Morgan said if you can't talk on someone specially, what is the background process for any employee.

Rich White said that every school employee is required to be fingerprinted and a criminal background check.

Josh Morgan said if you have a civil warrant and you fail to appear in court it becomes criminal.

Courtney Kimball-Corbin shouldn't the school lawyer be here, who represents the district.

Rich White - Thrun law firm.

Josh Morgan asked you guys have been in contact with school attorney. My point is I have 3 kids in this school, no one is listening do we need to get together an get an attorney. We have issues with a sub in the 4th grade classroom all year, busing issues, transportation, warrants out. We want answers.

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$1,201,176.45; school service, \$58,795.46; for a total of \$1,259,971.91.

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, \$1,836,189.24; receipts, \$1,300,918.70; expenditures: \$1,259,971.91; for an ending balance of \$1,877,136.03.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Brady Simons, Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, effective April 1, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Henige to approve the audio and video bid for the High School Auditorium from Advanced Lightning and Sound in an amount not to exceed \$32,276.00 to be paid from capital projects and sinking fund.

Motion carried, 7-0.

To approve the audio controls system bid for the High School Gym from Allcomm in an amount not to exceed \$16,128.68 to be paid from general fund.

Motion tabled

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Eustace to approve the bid for the High School Roof, High School Gym Roof and any visual repairs to the Elementary Roof from the TIPS program through Durolast in an amount not to exceed \$563,577.58 to be paid from the Sinking Fund.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve 31aa Mental Health and Safety Grant items in the amount of \$228,825.00.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to approve the out-of-state travel for Ben Butcher to attend the Beginner CTE Instructor Stroke Engine Conference from July 9 to July 11th in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

Motion carried, 7-0.

District Updates

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that M-Step is rolling. The elementary had a few hiccups, but we are on track to finish on time with our testing schedule. Looking to post summer positions in the upcoming weeks. We will have a learning options for all K-6 students through our i-Ready platform. The other part we will look at will be for any recommended student by the teacher who is being considered for retention or who is best fit for the program. The read-a-thon winters will be announced on April 30th at the elementary assembly.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that the high school inducted 50 new members to the National Honor Society. We hosted a band clinic right before Spring Break here at the High School. We have several upcoming events taking place in the coming month. Those events are: Top Ten Luncheon, FFA Spring Skills/Special Olympics, FFA Banquet, CTE Banquet, NL Showcase/MITES/Prom and several senior events with Graduation taking place on Sunday, May 19th. Ms. Kuchar gave a shoutout to Kayla Brunner and Marissa Rombach as the Tri-County Students of the Month.

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese started out by congratulating Izzy Heslip as the March Tri-County Athlete of the Month. Sara Dammann is the MMAC nominee for Kiwanis Athlete of the Month for March. Isabella Dilts, Ashtin Andres and Cole Bradshaw received Division 4; 1st team all-state for Bowling. The Varsity Boys Basketball posting will close on April 22.

District – Dr. Heather Luznak

Dr. Luznak reported that we did receive the grant to build an additional FFA barn. The 2024-2025 calendar has been approved by the teachers and will come to the board next month. The baseball fields are extremely wet and Denny has been working with contractors to fix those issues moving forward.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:07 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, May 20, 2024 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary