

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, March 18, 2024
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

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

Absent: Dr. Heather Luznak

Others Present: Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 80 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 February 12, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

Thank you from the Bethany Burns family for the flowers.

Student Section

Colton Symons and Klara Mulcahy were the student council representatives this month.

Presentations/Updates

Hornet Pride Students – February (Respect)

Mr. Severn highlighted 30 students. These students have shown school spirit and went above and beyond. They are the leaders in being respectful.

Shiawassee Scholars – Class of 2028

Ms. Kuchar recognized the three Shiawassee Scholars: Samuel Heslip, Brady Kohlmann, Rory Mathews.

Bowling State Qualifiers

Caryl Walling, Bowling coach introduced her boys and girls Bowling State Qualifiers. Both boys and girls had a very successful season.

Individual Wrestlers State Qualifiers

Coach Kevin Clark introduced his state qualifiers – Blake Wendling (3rd at State), Jack Kulhanek (5th at State), Colton Symons (State Champ) and Dalton Birchmeier.

Committee Reports

Facilities – Adam Green reported the minutes from March 18th.

Visitors

Jane Devota stated that she sent the information to the board, it was sent unanimously with the person you hired as Superintendent. Rich White, President stated that you are not able to talk to us about a staff member. A closed session must be requested. Mrs. Devota stated that she recognizes you are volunteers and in a tough position when you hire an individual who is not

responsible with finances and personal information. She feels all the people we hire we should do a check of their poor decision making. I just can't believe with the hiring process you were not made aware of that. Ms. Devota stated that this is her home district and she has four more years to work.

Chad Barcholtz stated that his daughter is a 7th grade student who on the evening of March 3 a staff member made them aware that their daughter was a target of a threat made. The text said to tell Bella to not go to school tomorrow. So we did not send her to school. The family asked to meet with Administration. During the meeting we got no answer. Started asking the member of the staff. Member of the staff never reviewed the police report. We were very disappointed in that. In the second meeting with my daughter a member of the staff discussed keeping my daughter away from that student. The meeting went well. School provided a safety measure. We got an email stating that another member of the staff wanted to be part of the meeting. On March 13th my wife and I had a meeting and after a while asked for a recess outside and returned 20 minutes later. When returned was told they had another commitment to attend. We've got no help from law enforcement they said that is up to the school to decide. My daughter missed 8 days. Missed school with no safeguard in place. What do I do board? No explanation of the threat, no explanation of my child and not sure if being implemented. In closing, one staff member has been doing all the work on this and is not getting any support on this. Where do I go next, how can I ensure my daughter to come here.

Kristy Dumond stated that she came back in October to talk of the number of staff members who are leaving this district. This year alone 6 and 7 now. When is it enough? When are you going to find the underlining problem. People don't just leave their jobs. Mrs. Dumond stated that she teaches at a virtual school and only 2 teachers left in over 6 years. Something needs to happen. Is someone actually talking to these people on why they are leaving. Please do your diligence and get to the bottom of the underlying problem.

Matt Goss stated that he has an 8th, 5th and 2nd grader. Every morning he is up to bring his child to morning workouts. When I received the email about no busing for any spring sports. What are we doing, we have to figure this out board. The 7th and 8th grade baseball team has over 30 kids. Are we going to depend on parents with suburban's to drive the kids to all these games. No busing for sporting events, now that is a fail. And again we get an email from the Athletic Director about this. This needs to be addressed and fixed.

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$832,752.58; school service, \$53,608.52; for a total of \$886,361.10.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,269,032.72; receipts, \$1,453,517.62; expenditures: \$886,361.10; for an ending balance of \$1,836,189.24.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the 2024 Refunding Bonds as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the resignation of Amari Coleman, Varsity Boys Track Coach, effective February 16, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve the resignation of Kourtney Bishop, food service worker, effective February 28, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Julie Kieffer, library aide, effective February 29, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Amber Whitman, elementary teacher effective April 1, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of David Hansen, full-time evening custodian effective March 18, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve Adam Wenzlick, Boys Varsity Track coach, as a contracted employee of PCMI, effective March 11, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Birchmeier to approve Justin Agnew, Junior High Track coach, as a contracted employee of PCMI, effective April 2, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Green to approve the hire of Meghan Bobrowski, 4th grade teacher at BA – Step 1, effective April 22, 2024 contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve the Sophos Central Intercept Advanced Server renewal for 36 months from Logisoft in an amount not to exceed \$8,968.26.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the boiler bid for the High School from William Walter, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$82,825.00 to be paid from Sinking Fund.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the portable radios quote from Pro Comm Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$6,578.52 to be paid from the Safety grant.

Motion carried, 7-0.

To approve the mini split bid for the elementary Latchkey room from William Walter, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$15,950.00 to be paid from General Fund (GSRP).

Motion tabled

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the iPad quote for the Preschool program from Apple Store in an amount not to exceed \$14,950.00 to be paid from General Fund (GSRP).

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to rescind the approval of the High School, Elementary and High School Gym Roof Bid from Maximum Roofing Company in an amount not to exceed \$627,761.00 to be paid from the Sinking Fund.

Motion carried, 7-0.

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

Motion tabled

District Updates

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that Parent Teacher Conferences were well attended. M-Step testing is just around the corner. The elementary is looking to have a learning option for all K-6 students through the i-Ready platform this summer. The platform will be student-led with two staff monitoring and answering weekly questions. The other part will look at any recommended student by the teacher who are showing skill deficit. The 3-week enrichment program will focus on foundational reading, writing and math skills for K-6th grade students. March Read a Thon was a huge success. Track and Field Day for 1st and 2nd grade will be May 29th and for 3rd – 6th grade will take place on June 3rd and in case of rain a makeup date of June 4th. Preschool packet drop off took place last week. Kindergarten Roundup on May 3rd by appointment.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that the high school held a school-wide assembly with Anthony Ianni for a motivational speaker. National Honor Society held a successful blood drive. Our High School Student Council participated in the MMAC Student Council exchange at Mt. Morris High School. Our Robotics team competed at Kettering University. Our Junior High Quiz Bowl hosted a meet. The teacher cadet students attended a field trip at University of Michigan Flint. Ms. Kuchar gave a shout out to Lloyd Miller & Sons for hosting our High School students and to Michelle Campbell for speaking with our Jr/Sr. Ag Finance students. New Lothrop parents, community and businesses took part in a successful FFA Labor Auction. Mrs. Barb Andres secured another grant for Ag in the classroom. Ms. Kuchr stated that the Koepplinger and Sovis family provided treats to the Ag in the Classroom students this month. Mock Rock took place last week and was a great success.

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese started out by congratulating Sara Dammann for being selected as the Region 9 – MIAAA Scholarship winner. Sara was honored at the Boys Basketball State finals at the Breslin Center at Michigan State University this past weekend for being a Class C Scholar Athlete winter. Congratulations to August Birkmeier for being named the February Tri-County Athlete of the Month. Colton Symons was awarded the Kiwanis Athlete of the Month for February. Varsity

Wrestling had a great finish to the season. Boys and Girls Bowling teams were Regional Champions. Cole Bradshaw and Ashtin Andres made it to the Championship round. Cole finished 4th and Ashtin finished 5th and Bella Dilts took 7th place. Varsity Girls Basketball was District Champions defeating Ithaca, Ovid-Elsie and St. Charles. Varsity Girls Basketball was also Regional Champions defeating Leslie and Michigan Center. Varsity Girls will complete in Quarterfinals and will travel to Dansville tomorrow to play. At this time, all coaching positions are full.

District – Dr. Heather Luznak

No report this month.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:03 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, April 15, 2024 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary