

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, December 11, 2023
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: None

Others Present: Heather Luznak, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 29 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 special meeting – board workshop held on November 27, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace received a call on Safe Routes.
Joe Henige received a call on Wrestling.

Student Section

Bryce Kuchar was the student council representative.

Presentations/Updates

Band Student, Brenden Olsen

Brenden Olsen was selected to be a part of the University of Michigan Flint Honor Band. Music Teacher, Shawn Sudduth indicated that Brenden is a great leader in the program and he connects well with others.

Neola Second Reading – Dr. Heather Luznak

Dr. Luznak brought the Fall Neola 2023 update to the board and asked if there were any questions. The approval will take place on tonight's agenda.

Discussion

Safe Routes to School

The previous meeting stated there was a contract; discovered that no contract had been signed. The Board committed to \$28,000.00 in vote last month. Jim suggested that we revisit what was voted on based on inaccurate information. Rich brought up that Championship Drive not be part of the scope of the project. Wendy brought up the winter maintenance and didn't think the sidewalk was beneficial down the driveway. Carl Seamon stated that if Championship Drive isn't included the project isn't done, the school cost hasn't been increased more. It is now 58/42 (school) allocation. Carl stated it is \$951,000.00 of improvement to community at a cost of \$42,000.00. Submitted today \$950,000.00 to \$551,000.00. Wendy stated that we add a motion to revoke on original motion. Rich also stated that he spoke with Anthony to verify we didn't

sign a contract and we weren't aware of Championship Drive being included. Carl stated that the state will not fund the project if Championship Drive isn't included.

Committee Reports

Facilities – Tim Birchmeier reported the minutes from November 27th.

Visitors

Brian Bendixon asked the Board of Education what they actually have for documentation for Safe Routes to School? Several amounts have been given. This is a big decision without having the information and very irresponsible.

Carl Seamon stated that the school can login to the website. The state let us go for increased amount and stated \$600,000.00 then changed to \$990,000.00 to now \$951,000.00. Willing to go to Facility meeting, just need to know if school is in favor.

Michelle Campbell addressed the board and said the Wrestling coaches needs to be stated as Co-Head coaches on the agenda for MHSAA.

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$1,055,259.16; school service, \$64,801.03; for a total of \$1,120,060.19.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Henige to approve the payment of bills.

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$641,903.65; receipts, \$1,277,095.37; expenditures: \$1,120,060.19; for an ending balance of \$798,938.83.

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 Krupp to approve the resignation of Justin Skinner, Junior High Boys Baseball coach, effective December 1, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Clint Galvas, Junior High Boys Baseball coach, effective December 6, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to approve Adam Johnson, Freshman Boys Basketball coach, effective December 4, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve replacing the Head Varsity Wrestling coach and Assistant Varsity Wrestling coach positions to a combined position as Varsity Wrestling Co-Head Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve Jeff Campbell and Kevin Clark as Varsity Wrestling Co-Head Coaches for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Tim to approve 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.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the 2nd reading of the Neola Fall 2023 policies: 1540, 2370.01, 7217, 7540.03, 8531.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the Safe Routes to School grant of \$28,000.00

Motion fails, 2-5.

Roll call

Ayes: Krupp, Henige

Nays: White, Green, Eustace, Vincke, Birchmeier

District Updates

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that Granting Christmas Wishes raised over \$10,000.00 this year to purchase clothing and gifts for families in need within the community. Congratulations to our 5th and 6th graders who competed in our Lego League which was last week. Our 5th grade team scored in the top 10 and our 6th grade team took first place overall and received a special award for their robot design. The 6th graders will be heading to the state competition this week in Mason, Michigan. Next month, we will have our recommendation for the Title I/At-Risk teacher.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar that service month continues here at NLHS. Ms. Longtain Junior High classes have collected over 200 items (socks, gloves, mittens and scarves) for the Old News Boys and the Giving Tree. The Blood Drive took place this past Friday. Over 30 FFA students were honored at the Greenhand/Chapter ceremony last week. Students are prepping for exams. Holiday spirit week is this week and the therapy dogs will be coming in. AP Literature class had a bakeoff this week. Kenny Eickholt is the Tri-County Student of the Month for December.

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese congratulated the football student athletes who earned All State: 1st team All-State honors: Jack Kulhanek and Jayden Martinez. Associated Press All-State honors: Jack Kulhanek (1st team); Colton Symons (1st team) and Slade Raleigh (2nd team). The winter seasons are in full swing with all our winter sports. Our wrestlers will be traveling to the Marquette Tournament this weekend. Currently, we have High School Varsity Track Assistant coach opening as well as two Junior High Baseball coaching positions.

District – Dr. Heather Luznak

Dr. Luznak stated that the open teacher positions have been accepted and should be on the January board agenda for approval. We are interviewing for the Custodial position tomorrow. Granting Christmas wishes was aired on Channel 5 and 12. Student surveys were sent out (273

student responses thus far) and parent surveys were sent out (with 150 parents responses thus far). Dr. Luznak will be putting a counsel together in January. Request for Proposals will be sent out for the Barn and Buses. Christmas lunch for the staff will take place next Tuesday.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:04 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, January 8, 2024 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary