

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, October 16, 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 (arrived at 6:07 p.m.)

Absent:

Others Present: Heather Luznak, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 13 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 board meeting held on September 18, 2023.

Motion carried, 6-0

Correspondence

Thank you from the LeAnn Birchmeier family.

Student Section

Klara Mulcahy was the student council representative.

Presentations/Updates

Safe Routes to School – Ashley Connelly

Ashley Connelly presented an update for the Safe Routes to School grant that was submitted in February 2023 to improve sidewalks and lightning infrastructure. She stated what the district and village would each need to contribute with the deadline of November 15th.

2022-2023 Audit – Maner Costerisan, Joel Korson

Joel Korson, Senior Auditor of Maner Costerisan presented the 2022-2023 audit to the Board. As of June 30, 2023 the district has a fund balance of 13.7%. Overall, the district is in good financial standing.

Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) – Greg Sieszputowski

Greg Sieszputowski presented to the Board of Education several workshop opportunities for members if they are interested. They also discussed setting a date for the Superintendent/Board Workshop with MASB.

Principals Month

Dr. Luznak recognized our building principals as October is Principals Month.

Committee Reports

Facilities – Adam Green reported minutes from September 26 and October 16.

Visitors

Krista Dumond stated that she is a teacher and what she is seeing happen in this district with teachers is very concerning. Kristy is a 1998 graduate and has lived in New Lothrop for years. The elementary school has lost around thirty staff members; including secretaries, 1-1 aides, teachers. That is almost over a 50% turnover. I once had someone tell me that teachers will leave schools, but teachers will not leave New Lothrop. This is extremely alarming and maybe an exit survey needs to start taking place.

Why do we have such a large turnover? What has changed and our NL way. I challenge the board to get more involved, some of you have no students. Get involved with our teachers and support staff, take a day to visit and volunteer to see what they have to deal with. Our students and staff deserve much better and we can't deserve much more turnover.

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$1,050,560.06; school service, \$51,930.54; for a total of \$1,102,490.60.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$1,659,340.05; receipts, \$46,347.83; expenditures: \$1,102,490.60; for an ending balance of \$603,197.28.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Krupp, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Beth Moore, part-time evening custodian, effective September 26, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve the resignation of Krista Ketterer, Title I/At-Risk Teacher, effective October 20, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Stacey Napier, elementary teacher at MA, Step 9, effective October 16, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve the domestic boiler replacement bid from William Walter, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$51,275.00 to be paid out of the sinking fund.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to accept the settlement of ongoing vaping litigation and authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Altria Group Inc. (Case No. 3:19-md-2913-WHO in the United States District Court for the Northern District of California) on behalf of the Board of Education of New Lothrop Area Public Schools.

Motion carried, 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese reported that it's been a busy and successful fall for the Girls and Boys Cross Country teams with the girls finishing 2nd place in the league. Klara Mulcahy earned 1st team All-Conference, Sarah Dammann, Josie Bauman, Liv Gillett and Lexy Andres all earned 2nd team and Emmie Hebekeuser and Laura Sharpe earned Honorable Mention. Boys Cross Country finished 3rd place in the league. Lieu Vincke and Kevin Heslip earned 2nd team All-Conference, Jasper Andres, Ty Sweers, Marshall Kruske earned Honorable Mention. The JV and Varsity Volleyball are wrapping up their seasons and are both 5-1 in league with Durand to play tomorrow. Varsity Football will make the playoffs this fall with a possibility of hosting through Regional finals. Volleyball Districts will be in Montrose on Monday, October 30th, Regionals at Ithaca on November 7 and 9 and we will be hosting Division 3 Volleyball Quarterfinals on November 14th. Cross Country Regionals will be held at Dewitt on Friday, October 27th and Finals at MIS on November 4th.

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn stated that the elementary has gained a few more teacher sub/sub aides but we need more. The first MTSS meeting was held on October 6th at the RESD. Data shows some good areas of grade level growth and other areas that we need to focus on. This information was relayed in the School Improvement meeting last week. School Improvement goals have changed to be SMART measurable goals. Mr. Severn talked about the Halloween parade that will take place at 1:00 p.m. on October 31st. Elementary students will parade through the High School. Teacher goals and self-assessments are due and Mr. Severn will be looking at each teachers goals at this time. Learning walks have been going on. Other upcoming events include: Fun Friday on November 3rd and Bus Safety next week.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that homecoming was successful and gave a shout out to Mrs. Andres and the Student Council members. The CTE program is looking to purchase a Weaver machine for the program. These machines will allow our construction students to gain industry standard experience building doors and cabinets parts while being as safe as possible. The district was notified of an FFA grant in which all Shiawassee schools were awarded this, which can be used for capital improvement/equipment. The grant and funds are due to be spend by December 15th. Klara Mulcahy with the help of Mrs. Andres is starting an after school Ag program. The class is already at capacity with 10 students K-2 and 10 students 3-5 grade. This program will start on November 8th. October is College Month and we have had several college representatives here at New Lothrop this month, as well has many students taking college field trips. The high school is also allowing seniors to work on college applications this Friday. Ms. Kuchar has met with staff to review goals. This Friday is the end of quarter 1, grades will be stores and report cards prints for parent-teacher conferences next week. Tri- County student/athlete of the month are: Maryn Kisser (student) and Delany Gross (athlete). The DAR Good Citizen award was recently awarded to Klara Mulcahy. This award is based on qualities of good citizenship and seniors who possess qualities dependability, service, leadership and patriotism. This selection is made my teachers. The New Lothrop Alumni spotlight this month is Harry Helmick and Donny Van Valkenburgh.

District – Dr. Heather Luznak

Dr. Luznak stated that it's been a great first day for her in the district. This morning we had our bi-weekly administrative meeting. She has started working on her 30, 60, 90 day plan and has started to set up meetings with each Administrator. Dr. Luznak is excited and ready to get going here in New Lothrop.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 7:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be a board workshop on Monday, November 20, 2023 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary