

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, August 21, 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: Wayne Wright, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 62 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 Vincke to accept the minutes from the special board meeting held on August 17, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0

Correspondence

Wendy Vincke stated she received a correspondence about the Superintendent search and spoke to Rich on it.

Presentations/Updates

Challenge 24 – Student Presentation

High School Students: Klara Mulcahy, Julianne Michon, Rilee Masteron presented to the Board of Education the Challenge 24 conference that they attended last spring.

Athletic Annual Report – Marty Weese

Athletic Director, Marty Weese presented the 2022-2023 Athletic highlights of our sports teams and athletes.

Committee Reports

Finance – Jim Eustace reported minutes from July 25, 27, August 15.

Visitors

Angie Barnette addressed the Board stating she has lived in the New Lothrop community for 20 years and is a former employee. She took a pay cut to come here to work. Both of her sons were part of the Football State Championship teams. Recently, a lot of teachers have left the district. The lies around this district are hurtful and the only ones being affected are the students. Shame on the Administration for all the drama, before one talks they need to think. "Be a Better Human" signs are posted all around the High School. We know you all have skeletons in your closet. I am leaving a job I love here in New Lothrop because of the toxic environment New Lothrop has become.

Angela Lane mentioned that she came tonight as I heard the current coaches are maybe being questioned at being hired. She said she came here three years ago from Traverse City and she's always heard talk about New Lothrop Football. If there are any concerns about the current staffing, I'd support them 100%. Sometimes it's hard to get into a community. When we moved here the coaches were so welcoming and have such good communication. I do have one son that doesn't play sports and Coach Galvas has been wonderful with him. Angela said her family moved here for the football program and coaches.

Angie Kulhank stated can you tell us what you are questioning? Not one of us here that doesn't support the football coaches. It's not just about sports it's about how these coaches have influenced my son.

Jessica Unangst said she's not sure what's going on guys, but you've got to figure something out. The City of Owosso with police unions if someone comes in with seniority there is a letter of agreement going. All in support of Galvas, Barnette, Long and all the football coaches. The past two years I've really interacted with the football program and these coaches help these boys and continue the relationships with them after High school. We have a class act program and support them year round. I support all of them.

Frank Fanzone stated that the board needs to think of the negative impact you can have if you decide not to support the football staff.

Clint Galvas stated he appreciated everyone for their support. He wanted to remind the Board that we are on the same team. This whole thing if handled with better communication could have been taken care of. Unanimous pictures and getting the MHSAA involved. What I can tell you is I've done a pretty good job with these kids with respect, high character and values. It's too small of a town when you try to be unanimous. Again, a quick conversation and it could have been handled. I love New Lothrop and I assume you all do too because you're on the Board of Education.

Shawn Unangst stated we expect these kids to turn their homework in on time. I feel like you guys on the board have procrastinated with waiting until the season starts to hire these coaches. Poor and you failed on this.

Austin Newman stated that he drove two hours from Detroit to this meeting. I consider the head football coach like a second father. When I graduated 14 years ago I had no idea about life and he helped me so much. A lot of you have skeletons in your closet as well.

Kayla McCormick addressed the board stating the recent turnover of teachers is a little scary as a tax payer. I'm curious what the problem is with teachers turnover as I feel it will be reflecting students and test scores. We need to lead by example and figure out how to turn this around.

Barbie Orr stated that as a parent of two kids in college playing football its because of Coach Galvas and his football connections. That is something to say on his ability to coach.

Patti Brink said she is so proud of the man, father, son and coach that Clint is. As a parent we all want to be able to stand up and say how proud we are of our kid.

Steve Gauger stated that he coaches numerous sports here at New Lothrop. It's not about the name on the jersey, it's about the heart that is under it. You are setting the next discipline act. It needs to be consistent across the board and if it's not done the same in the future then it's not fair.

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$955,194.08; school service, \$27,068.60; for a total of \$982,262.68.

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, \$1,208,548.19; receipts, \$1,570,892.08; expenditures: \$982,262.68; for an ending balance of \$1,797,177.59.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Closed Session

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the Board enters Closed Session for a student discipline hearing – Section 8b.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the Board enters Open Session.

Action Items

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke that the Board of Education recommends to discipline the student identified in closed session as follows: after review of the seven discretionary factors in Section 1310d of the Revised School Code, the Board will require the use of restorative practices and the lesser intervention (behavior contract) as discussed in Closed Session.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Kim Ryan, preschool aide, effective July 14, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Amanda Schardt, one-on-one aide effective August 11, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Cortney Selk, elementary teacher, effective August 13, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve the resignation of Mary Webster, elementary teacher, effective August 21, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Aubrey McClain, Jr. High English teacher, effective August 18, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Krupp to approve the resignation of Ashley Zervan, elementary special education teacher, effective August 30, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Green to approve Sarah Devota as elementary summer enrichment program teacher for the summer of 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to approve the hire of Shawn Sudduth, Music Teacher at MA Step 9, effective August 21, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Emily McCollom, elementary 2nd grade teacher at BA Step 0, effective August 21, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Krupp to approve the hire of Paige Brown, Preschool Aide, effective August 21, 2023 contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Hope Bauman, elementary one-on-one aide, effective August 21, 2023 to be reimbursed by the SRES.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to approve the hire of Wayne Lutze, full-time bus driver, effective August 24, 2023.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Birchmeier to approve Courtney Krupp, Assistant Cross Country coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 6-0.

Vincke abstained

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to approve hiring Clint Galvas, Varsity Football coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp to approve hiring Brad Barnette, Assistant Varsity Football coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve hiring John Long, Assistant Varsity Football coach for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve hiring Steve Gauger, J.V. Football coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve hiring Kevin Clark, J.V. Assistant Football coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve hiring Justin Agnew, Junior High Football coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the Mackinac Island trip for 7th grade students on May 13-14, 2024 contingent upon enough student interest.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Henige to approve the Washington D.C. trip for 9th and 10th grade students on March 10-13, 2024 contingent upon enough student interest.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Birchmeier to approve the 2023-2024 police coverage agreement with the New Lothrop Village Council, as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the purchase of 24 document cameras to be purchased from Precision Data at a cost not to exceed \$7,374.24 to be paid from the general fund for the 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve the film quote for the elementary and high school from American Glass Tinting at a cost not to exceed \$16,783.50 to be paid from the 97 school safety state funding.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve the playground fence removal and repair quote from Gross Construction, Inc. at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.00 to be paid from the 23-24 general fund, capital projects.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, support by Eustace to approve the cameras and card reader quote from Honor Security at a cost not to exceed \$7,430.00 to be paid from 97 school safety state funding.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to approve a levy of 18 mills of non-homestead properties for the general fund for 2023-2024 school year.

Motion carried, 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese reported that Varsity Volleyball opened their season this past Saturday at Owosso by taking 2nd place in the tournament. Varsity Cross Country opened their season last Friday night at St. Johns, participating under the lights. It was a cool experience for our students. The implementation of FinalForms has been fairly successful. As well as the implementation of the single communication platform the Band app has been successful and all coaches in the fall are onboard.

Upcoming events: 1st home event JV Football this Wednesday vs Swartz Creek, 1st Varsity Football game at Muskegon Catholic Central on Thursday, 1st Varsity home Football game will be next Thursday vs. Chesaning, 1st home Varsity Volleyball quad will take place next Wednesday, JV Volleyball Tournament at home on September 16 and the Varsity Volleyball Tournament (Team Buddy Forever) will take place on October 7. We are still searching for a volunteer to fill the Girls Golf Coach position.

Elementary – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn welcomed all his new staff to the elementary. We still have a few open positions, which include a 1-1 aide, At-Risk Special Education teacher and a 1st grade teacher. i-Ready summer learning blitz finished up on Friday, August 4th. Approximately 51 students have maintained good attendance in the program. Today our teachers met with Natalie Wexler to learn more about The Knowledge Gap – Science of Reading. We had Bridges trainers in person today to discuss how to build fluency within our math curriculum. Mr. Severn gave a special thanks to our custodial staff, summer enrichment and iReady summer learning blitz teachers and the PTO for their outstanding work through the summer working with our students and preparing our building for open house.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar stated that we had 13 Junior High students that attended summer school and all those students completed the requirements to move to the next grade. We had 9 High School students who recovered 10 semester classes. The High School reworked the master schedule as we had no viable applicants for the Chemistry position. We rearranged the JH and have 4 teachers teaching on their prep. We currently have a sub in the Junior High English position until it gets filled. The High School has two foreign exchange students. Also, has gained 15 new students of which 9 moved in and 6 are part of the tuition enrollment program. 7th grade new student orientation was a great turnout. Staff Professional Development today went very well. Ms. Kuchar stated that she is looking forward to the Bash on the Blacktop tomorrow evening for the district open house. She also gave a shout out to the custodial staff for the beautiful job they did with the buildings this summer as well as to the Food Service staff for a fabulous lunch today.

District - Wayne Wright

Mr. Wright reported that today was opening day with staff and it was an excellent day. We are all ready for students to start on Thursday. The buildings looks great and the floors just shine. Kudos to the custodial staff. Bus inspection took place this week, we had one bus red tagged as the cylinder needed to be replaced. We are looking forward to the students starting back on Thursday.

Discussion

Review New Superintendent's Contract

The Board was given drafts of Superintendent's contract to review.

Closed Session

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to enter closed session for negotiations – Section 8c.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the Board enters Open Session.

ACTION ITEM

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace that the Board approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MEA Teacher Association for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MESPA (Transportation) for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MESPA (Support Staff) for the 2023-2024 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmier, supported by Vincke to approve the Schedule B Appointments for the 2023-2204 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 9:02 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be a board workshop on Monday, September 18, 2023 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary