

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, April 17, 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: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 5 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:01 p.m. The pledge to the flag was 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 dated March 20, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace stated that he received a couple communications regarding our last board meeting on the votes of an administrative item.

Wendy Vincke received a couple correspondences.

Joe Henige stated that he talked to Anthony on an incident that happened as well as having a ball game on Good Friday.

Student Section

No student council representative for tonight's meeting.

Presentations/Updates

None

Committee Reports

None

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$1,493,400.38; school service \$54,715.65; for a total of \$1,548,116.03.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$1,238,865.41; receipts \$1,515,318.36; expenditures \$1,548,116.03; for an ending balance of \$1,206,067.74.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Henige, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Drew Severn, Varsity Assistant Track coach, effective March 22, 2023.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Fred Priest, full-time custodian, effective April 6, 2023.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Jen Otter, elementary office manager, effective June 30, 2023.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp to approve Jennifer Gillett, Junior High Assistant Track coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Vincke abstained

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to approve Steve Gauger, JV Boys Baseball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 6-0.

Eustace abstained

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve the Varsity Wrestling team to attend the Maumee Bay Classic overnight tournament on January 12-13, 2024 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to authorize and direct the Superintendent to sign the Attorney-Client Fee contract on behalf of the school and to take such other action as necessary to obtain monetary damages and injunctive relief for the school, as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace supported by Vincke to approve the purchase of 2 heated cabinets and 3 milk coolers for a total cost of \$27,895.20 to be paid from the Food Equipment Assistance Grant for \$24,106.00 and the remaining \$3,789.20 from the Food Service Fund.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese reported that the Varsity Girls and Boys Basketball teams both received Academic All-State. Ty Kohlmann earned Top 10 Free Throw Shooter in Division 3 and he also earned the Associated Press 2nd team All-State in Division 3. Varsity Bowling received several honors: Cole Bradshaw – 1st team All-State, Ashtin Andres – 2nd team All-State and Isabella Dilts – 1st team All-State. Spring sports are in full swing. Varsity Softball is hosting a tournament this Saturday. Junior High Track will be hosting a track meet on April 25th. Varsity Track will be hosting a track meet on May 10th. Kiwanis Club, Student Athlete of the Year banquet will take place on May 11th; Hayden Andres, Nolan Mulcahy, Grayson Orr were athletes of the month for the MMAC throughout the year. Varsity Softball will host regionals on June 6-10.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that M-Step is rolling. For the 2023-2024 school year the elementary will be recommending limited spacing for the 3rd and 5th grade. Mr. Severn is recommending keeping our At-Risk/Special Education teacher and to add on another teacher. The elementary is looking to move to a block schedule for 5th and 6th grade next year. The reasons why include: Fidelity – Math/ELA (90-120 minutes), reduce class sizes and built-in Intervention ELA/Math groups with teachers. Summer positions for the i-Ready Summer Blitz have been posted. We will have a learning option for all K-6 students through our i-Ready platform. The i-Ready summer learning platform will be student led with two staff motoring and answering questions weekly. The other part we will look at will be for any recommended student by the teacher who are being considered for retention or who best fits the program. The 3-week enrichment program will focus on foundational reading, writing, and math skills. The focus will be on K-5 students.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the high school had a presenter from Arizona come to share their story of losing his father to a distracted driver. Students were deeply impacted and challenged to remember making good decisions when behind the wheel. It was a very powerful presentation and students were highly engaged. The high school had 100% participation for the SAT/WorkKeys testing. Juniors attended the Baker College Fair to learn about tuition costs, housing, programs offered and extracurricular activities. Top Ten of 2023 students are: Ty Kohlmann, Adam Andres, Hayden Andres, Alex Milks, Ryan Heslip, Nick Barnette, Taylor Moore, Sydney Rodriguez, Sam Wendling and Craig Gross. The National Honor Society induction ceremony will take place this week and 33 students will be inducted. On Monday, April 24th the Varsity Boys Basketball team will take on the Varsity Wrestlers in a charity basketball game. All proceeds go to Team Tim and Prom. Several students will be attending and helping at the Special Olympics event. FFA students will be attending the Skills contest at Michigan State University. Ms. Kuchar mentioned that she has two different master schedules drafted up. One with added staff in an effort to lower class size and keep all classes. Another schedule without added staff, which means larger class size and losing elective classes. Several events will be taking place this coming month, which include: May 4th – Mock Drunk Driving simulation and NL Showcase, May 5th and 6th – MITES competition, May 5th – Prom, May 11 – Baccalaureate/Honor's night, May 18th – Senior Sunrise, May 21 – Graduation at 2:00 p.m. in the High School Gym. Ms. Kuchar spotlight student for this month is Jacob Burgess who graduated with the Class of 2021. Jacob is studying business at University of Michigan Flint, interning with Fesler & Bowman and working on his writing career.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that we have a big election coming up on Tuesday, May 2nd. Thus far, Dr. Berthiaume has hosted three community forums. He explained that a sinking fund is like a savings account that can be used for technology, building maintenance and security improvements at the schools. With Mr. Severn and Ms. Kuchar asking for additional staff this sinking fund will be able to help maintain facilities. This time of year it is great to celebrate our students and recognize them. This past weekend it started with our FFA banquet. The district is looking at handbooks, athletic code of conduct for our upcoming Policy committee meeting. We are also looking to pilot a 7-12 grade tuition enrollment which for a small fee students would be able to attend New Lothrop Schools. This would be renewed yearly on these students based on their attendance and behavior. We will also discuss our capping and limited spacing next month for our School of Choice program. The district needs to know what the budget looks like. In early June, we should have some idea of what the increase per student will be, in which this will help with staffing. We had a Facility committee meeting before tonight's board meeting. It was a long agenda and we will be scheduling a Facilities walk through very soon.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 6:53 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, May 15, 2023 in the High School Library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary