

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, March 20, 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 25 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 February 13, 2023 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Rich White stated that he received a correspondence from a parent and it went out to the entire board. He sent on to Dr. Berthiaume so he is aware of it.

Student Section

Klara Mulcahy was the student council representative for tonight's meeting.

Presentations/Updates

Hornet Statue Update – Greg Henderson

Greg Henderson updated the Board on his Hornet Statue project and presented pictures of how the project is coming along. Greg expressed his concerns of where he was going to originally place the hornet and would like to move locations as he's worried about theft and damage. The new location by the fire hydrant would have a camera near it. Before setting the statue, a concrete slab would need to be poured.

VFW contest winners, Ty Kohlmann and Brooklyn Bowns – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar recognized Ty Kohlmann and Brooklyn Bowns. Ty placed 4th at Districts for Voice of Democracy. Brooklyn earned a 2nd place at States for the Patriot's Pen.

Ashley Allen and John Wyrick, VFW Teacher of the Year – Drew Severn & Kim Kuchar

Mrs. Ashley Allen (elementary teacher) and Mr. John Wyrick (high school teacher) were recognized as VFW Teachers of the Year for 2022-2023.

FFA State Convention Awards – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar recognized all the FFA students that attended State Convention March 8-10. Thirty-three students attended the event and the Chapter brought home several trophies.

Prepared Public Speaking, Sara Dammann - State Winner

Sara Dammann presented her speech to all those in attendance. Sara won 1st place in the state, in which she will move on to Nationals next Fall representing the New Lothrop Chapter.

Hornet 15 Board Recognition – Kim Kuchar

Durning Hornet15 time in February the JH/HS students learned about gratitude. Ms. Kuchar presented the cards that were made for the Board of Education members.

Teacher Cadet – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar states that a group of High School Teacher Cadet students traveled to MSU with Mrs. Andres to compete in the College of Education's Scholar to Scholar poster competition. The team of Klara Mulcahy, Josie Bauman and Rilee Masterson explored growth mindset and earned a third-place finish and Madeline Eustace researched on the impact of classroom environment and earned a first-place. The students had an opportunity to hear a keynote address from the college associate dean for academic and student affairs, meet the Dean of College of Education and learn more about MSU and their education program.

Committee Reports

Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular – Adam Green presented the minutes from the February 22, 2023 meeting.

Visitors

None

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$826,179.69; school service \$42,632.54; for a total of \$868,812.23.

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 \$845,981.45; receipts \$1,261,696.19; expenditures \$868,812.23; for an ending balance of \$1,238,865.41.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Melanie Pappenheimer, part-time evening custodian effective, June 9, 2023.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Krupp to approve the hire of Margie Jacobs, 1-hour elementary recess/lunch aide effective February 21, 2023.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve Drew Severn, Varsity Assistant Track coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 4-3.

Roll call:

Ayes: White, Green, Henige, Vincke

Nays: Eustace, Krupp, Birchmeier

Motion by Henige, supported by Krupp to approve Drew Severn, Junior High Assistant Track coach for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion failed 3-4.

Roll call:

Ayes: Green, Henige, White

Nays: Eustace, Birchmeier, Vincke, Krupp

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve Colleen Bishop, Head Varsity Girls Track coach for the 1-year temporary position for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Birchmeier to approve the 2023-2024 school year calendar as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve the fertilization program for the football field from Stine Turf & Snow in the amount of \$5,210.00 to be paid out of the 2022-2023 general fund.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Henige to approve a stipend to be paid to John Long in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the 2022-2023 school year for his duties as the CTE Department Chair and CTE District Coordinator. The amount to be paid from the 61a CTE added cost funds that are received from the State of Michigan for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Vincke to approve the lease of a 2017 bus at a cost not to exceed \$12,638.00, per year from Midwest Transit Equipment for 16 months as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese reported that the Varsity Westling team captured the Regional title and went onto team states where they lost a heartbreaker to Martin/Climax-Scotts on February 24th. We had 8 wrestlers advance to the MHSAA Division 4 Wrestling Finals; 6 of them earned all-state honors: Daven Lockwood (2nd place), Dalton Birchmeier (8th), Caleb Sharp (3rd), Parker Noonan (3rd place), Colton Symons (5th place), Grayson Orr (2nd). Varsity Girls Basketball captured the District title defeating Millington, then went on to Regionals and lost to Cass City. Four girls earned MMAC All Conference honors: Ashlyn Orr (1st team), Lily Bruff (1st team), Izzy Heslip (2nd team) and Kelsey Kohlmann (Honorable Mention). Our Varsity Boys Bowling team earned 2nd place in the State finals in Battle Creek. The Varsity Girls Bowling team won a Regional title and finished 15th at the State tournament. Cole Bradshaw earned all-state honors with a 4th place finish in the individual component of state tournament. Bella Dilts earned all-state honors with a 4th place finish in the individual component of state tournament. Varsity Boys basketball honors: Ty Kohlmann (1st team and league MVP), Ryan Heslip (2nd team), Greg Henderson (Honorable Mention). High school spring sports have started practices; competition begins the week

we return from spring break. Junior high sports will start practices after spring break. Looking ahead we will be hosting Softball regionals at New Lothrop on June 6-10. As of today, we are still searching for a JV Baseball Coach and JH Track Assistant Coach.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that Parent Teacher Conferences took place on February 16, 2023. Teachers are still catching up from the weather that cut conferences short that evening. The second window of i-Ready closed on February 24th and at first glance we are very proud of our students. Still room to grow, but a positive trend overall. The elementary had grade level team breakdown i-Ready math and reading and Acadience data on the March 17th Professional Development Day. Every grade level has a focus moving forward in the last push of the school year by creating an “action plan”. We are preparing our building to prepare for the upcoming M-Step state assessment. The elementary will begin in April with 5th grade students. Mr. Severn stated that he is looking to keep art for 5th/6th grade students next year and the opportunity for band at the 5th grade level. As we continue to discuss and address keeping our At-Risk position. It is crucial in continuing to help our students close the gap while focusing on current grade level material in our Accelerated Learning approach. Special Ed/At-Risk, Title 1 Update – currently 8 initials are in the process right now. Looking to shift At-risk when we come back from Spring Break to focus on the most concerned students in reading and math. Progress monitoring students to help us make educated decisions moving forward. Special Education staff is nearing number for caseloads. The elementary is currently investigating our current ELA curriculum K-6. This school year we have been undergoing a curriculum investigation review on knowledge-based curriculums. It’s been narrowed to three knowledge-based curriculum. We are looking to pilot one of three curriculums for the 23-24 school year after more investigation from staff. For the 2023-2024 school year the elementary is looking at a district-wide focus on “Science in Reading”. Again, this summer we are looking to have a learning option for all K-6 students through i-Ready platform. The i-Ready summer platform will be student-led with 2 staff monitoring 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 on foundational reading, writing, and math skills for K-5th grade students. The enrichment program will run from July 31st – August 17th Monday – Thursday. Preschool packet pickup took place on Friday, March 3rd. Kindergarten roundup will take place on Monday, May 5th.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that the Class of 2027 Shiawassee Scholars are Nolan Henige, son of Jon and Chrissy Henige; Sophia Henige, daughter of Tim and Jackie Henige; Frederick Ziola, son of Jeremy and Leslie Ziola. These students were recognized at a banquet last week. The Junior High Quiz Bowl ended the season with a 4-8 record. They placed 13th out of 16 teams, and several of their matches were lost by only 1 or 2 questions. All of our team members were new to quiz bowl this year. This team received a trophy for sportsmanship, which was awarded to two teams. Their level of respect and responsibility was noticed by other schools. Ms. Kuchar stated that she has two master schedules drafted up. We have around 80 students that are interested in Zoology, as well as Ag Finance which is full. Several 10th-12th graders requested skill trades class. Ms. Kuchar noted with the SAEBRS winter testing academic was the greatest concern. Ms. Kuchar displayed the video that was the H15, 4th quarter activity for the start of the 4th quarter today.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that he will be hosting a Community Forum on Wednesday, March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. in the High School Library and via Zoom to discuss the upcoming Sinking Fund renewal election on May 2, 2023. This renewal will help the district maintain facilities and address any technology and safety needs. It’s like a savings account and we don’t have to spend it all at once. In April, the district will finalize the master schedule for 2023-2024 once we have a better idea of enrollment numbers. In May we will act on limited and cap seating for School of Choice as well as our tuition enrollment program. We will continue to wait to hear from the house on what they will provide per pupil for next school year. Dr. Berthiaume thanked Kim, Marty, Drew and Emily for all their help

with the winter sports season. He also addressed the game manager and he's not sure we can go without three people at Friday night games especially with the behaviors we are seeing from our adult spectators. He mentioned we need to hold these people accountable, and something may be put into the code of conduct.

Closed Session

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to enter closed session for a student discipline hearing.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to return to open session.

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Item

Motion by Eustace, supported by Krupp that the Board of Education recommends Student A is expelled for 180 days.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Henige to enter closed session for the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation/contract.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to return to open session.

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Item

Motion by Krupp, supported by Henige that the Board of Education recommends a one-year extension to the Superintendent's contract.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 9:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, April 17, 2023 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary