

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, March 21, 2022
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Richard White, Greg Ruddy, Adam Green, Jessica Unangst, Joe Henige, Jim Eustace and Wendy Vincke.

Absent: None

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 23 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:02 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 Unangst to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting dated February 14, 2022 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Adam Green, Jessica Unangst and Rich White all received calls from community members on the baseball fields.

Student Section

None

Student Observers

None

Presentations/Updates

Recognition FFA State Winners – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kim Kuchar and Dr. Berthiaume recognized Mr. Wyrick and the two FFA State Champion teams. Parliamentary Procedure team consisting of Sara Dammann, Kenny Eickholt, Rilee Masterson, Julianne Michon, Klara Mulcahy and Mackenzie Robins. Demonstration team consisting of Alexis Birchmeier, Kennedy Birchmeier and Olivia Birchmeier. Ms. Kuchar and Dr. Berthiaume thanked Mr. Wyrick for all the hard work and dedication he devotes to all of his students.

Budget Revision – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume presented the March budget revision. The district is currently at 11.15%.

Committee Reports

Facilities/Transportation/Extra-Curricular – Rich White presented the minutes from February 23rd.
Finance – Jim Eustace presented the minutes from March 15th.

Personnel Request

Dr. Berthiaume stated that Employee X has been on leave since August of 2021 and is requesting another leave of absence.

Visitors

Barbie Orr addressed the Board of Education as she has some concerns about the modifications made to the athletic code of conduct.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$734,403.26; school service \$30,268.95; for a total of \$764,672.21.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$1,016,400.36; receipts \$940,332.09; expenditures \$764,672.21; for an ending balance of \$1,192,060.24.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the March 2022 budget revision as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke supported by Green to approve the 2022-2023 school year calendar as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Cody Clontz, JV Baseball Coach effective February 26, 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to approve the resignation of Lauren Riley, JV Girls Basketball Coach, effective March 9, 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Nate Browning, Junior High Head Track Coach, effective March 11, 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Unangst to approve the resignation of Megan Bishop, part-time evening custodian, effective March 14, 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Ruddy to approve the hire of Justin Price, JV Baseball Coach, as a contracted employee of PCMI effective March 14, 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Amari Coleman, Boys Varsity Track Coach, effective March 14, 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the additional hours for Annette Brooks, elementary aide from February until the end of April 2022.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Ruddy to approve the fertilization program for the football and softball fields from Country Club Turf, Inc. in the amount of \$9,976.33 to be paid out of the 2021-2022 general fund.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by _____, supported by _____ to approve an extended one year leave of absence for Ryan Marshall for the 2022-2023 school year.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to amend the current language to the following:

The Board of Education does not approve the request by Ryan Marshall to extend his leave of absence for the 2022-2023 school year. Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke

Motion carried 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy stated that all winter sports had a successful season. Boys bowling were regional champions and wrestling finished 2nd place at team states. Boys and girls basketball both lost in districts, but we are looking forward to next year. Varsity and JV spring sports are now underway and junior high sports will begin on April 4th. We have over ten golfers this season. Mr. Murphy stated that the pole vault pad is very expensive and he is hoping to get through one more year with it. It will be on the top of his list for fiscal year 2022-23.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that Parent Teacher Conferences took place on February 17, 2022. The second window of i-Ready closed on February 25th. The elementary still has room to grow, but overall the results were a positive trend. At the March 11th Professional Development day grade level teams broke down i-Ready math and reading and Acadience data. Track and Field day will take place on: May 25 for 1st/2nd grade and on June 2nd for 3rd – 6th grade as well as the school picnic on June 2nd. The elementary is preparing for the upcoming M-Step state assessments. Mr. Severn stated that with current student numbers he will be looking to shift staff in order to have three sections of 3rd and 3 sections of 4th grade next school year. Also, we will be finalizing adding art class for 5th and 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 for the 2022-23 school year, Mr. Severn stated that it is crucial in continuing to help our students close the gap, while focusing on current grade level material in our accelerated learning approach. Mr. Severn stated that he is currently looking into our ELA curriculum K-12. The elementary is looking to have a summer 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 members monitoring and answering questions weekly.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that quarter three grades have been stored and report cards will be mailed when we return from Spring Break. At the February and March Professional Development days the English department is starting the process of aligning and unpacking standards. Spring testing will take place starting on April 13 with the PSAT for 8th – 10th graders and the SAT for 11th graders. We have 15 students who are currently taking advantage and trying to regain math credit. Summer school will take place this summer – junior high will be for three weeks and high school will take place for five weeks. We have a draft master schedule for the 2022-2023 school year and student requests will be entered after we return from break. National Honor Society induction will take place on April 26. Currently, we induct junior and senior students. The school improvement team has approved to start admitting sophomores and juniors starting with the 2022-2023 school year. Student handbook and discipline changes will take place in May/June. Our outreach group will be hosting a senior citizen spaghetti dinner this coming Wednesday at the Methodist church. The junior high quiz bowl finished the season

9-4 and in 4th place overall. We had eight, eighth grade students inducted into the Shiawassee Scholars. The Steel Stingers Robotics team have a 7-5-0 record after their first competition at Kettering. They made a few more improvements and will be competing in Mason this weekend. Along with the Parliamentary Procedure and Demo teams receiving state titles, the FFA teams had several state winners: the Ag Issues team took 7th, Greenhand Conduct of Meetings 7th, Junior High Conduct of Meetings 3rd, Zach Sigmund earned his state degree and the Labor Auction was very successful.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume stated that one of the pleasures of this job as Superintendent is to see these students progress from the elementary up to the high school and to watch how they develop as young adults, it's priceless. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he applied for another Michigan State Police grant. The Attorney General has reached out to us to come out to meet in April and see what we did with the last safety grant. As far as our Covid numbers we don't have to do a dashboard, but we have 96 parents that have asked for updates when positive cases occur, so we will continue to update it for the remainder of the year. Dr. Berthiaume stated that he is very proud of our district and what we have done.

Closed Session

Motion by Henige supported by Vincke to enter Closed Session for the Superintendent's mid-year evaluation/contract.

Motion carried 7-0.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Item

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve a one-year extension to the Superintendent's contract.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried 7-0.

Adjournment at 8:12 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, April 18, 2022 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary