

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education – High School Library

Monday, January 10, 2022

6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: Greg Ruddy

Others Present: Anthony Berthiaume, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Kevin Murphy and 5 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Rich White at 6:00 p.m. The pledge to the flag was said.

## **Statutory Topics for Board Consideration/Organization Action**

Nomination of Rich White for President by Adam Green.

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Rich White as President.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Nomination of Greg Ruddy for Vice President by Adam Green.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Greg Ruddy as Vice President.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Nomination of Adam Green for Secretary by Wendy Vincke.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Henige to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Adam Green as Secretary.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Nomination of Jessica Unangst for Treasurer by Joe Henige.

Motion by Henige, supported by White to close nominations and that a ballot be cast for Jessica Unangst as Treasurer.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Unangst, supported by Eustace to appoint Adam Green as liaison from the Board to the MASB.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to appoint Joe Henige as liaison from the Board to the Shiawassee RESD.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

## **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 December 13, 2021 as presented.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Correspondence**

Jim Eustace received four to five emails from people regarding bussing. Jessica Unangst and Wendy Vincke also stated they received calls regarding bussing as well. Jessica and Jim also received another email today and Dr. Berthiaume responded to it.

### **Student Section**

Student council representative for tonight was Maddie Eustace.

### **Staff Recognition**

*School Board Recognition* – January is School Board Recognition month. Ms. Kuchar presented the Board of Education members a gift from her and her staff and Mr. Severn presented the members a book that would be donated to the elementary library in honor of each member. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the Board for their support over the last twenty-two months and all their voluntary time and energy that they put into the district.

### **Presentations/Updates**

None

### **Committee Reports**

Facility Committee – Rich White reported the minutes from December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Discussion**

New Committee Assignments – President Rich White noted that each member received a list of the current committee assignments, if anyone wishes to be placed on a different committee you are to contact Rich and let him know. At the February board meeting we will have a complete listing of the committee assignments.

### **Visitors**

Norma Gross stated that she has been a part of this community since birth and she has three short issues: 1) what will it take to mandate masks at New Lothrop Area Public Schools; 2) students making fun of other students wearing masks is bullying; and 3) this may be a rumor, but why would the district get rid of the safety officer position? In conclusion, Mrs. Gross stated that she has three requests: to develop a mask mandate, address bullying through some form of a student assembly and to reinvest in the safety officer. Mrs. Gross stated that she voted for the sinking fund because it made sense, I am a voice, I vote and we are watching and listening. President White and Dr. Berthiaume noted to Mrs. Gross that the safety officer has been in place for the last seven years. That rumor is false.

### **Financial Reports**

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$841,619.60; school service \$32,587.43; for a total of \$874,207.03.

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$641,632.83; receipts, \$853,598.86; expenditures: \$874,207.03; for an ending balance of \$621,024.66.

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

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### **Action Items**

Motion by Green, supported by Unangst to approve the CTE purchases in the amount of \$89,285.65 to be paid from the 61c CTE equipment grant.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

### **District Updates**

#### *Athletics – Kevin Murphy*

Mr. Murphy reported that the wrestling Hall of Fame tournament took place here at the High School over the weekend. Mr. Murphy thanked the facility team, the coaching staff, the 200 athletes and 25 schools that made the event possible. This event was our first with our new locker rooms. We had a slight plumbing issue that day and it's since been fixed.

#### *Elementary – Andrew Severn*

Mr. Severn stated that the second window to Acadience/i-Ready is now open. Data is coming in and so far the results have been positive. The elementary is focusing on current 2<sup>nd</sup> graders who were in Kindergarten when the shutdown took place. Mr. Severn noted that he is hoping to send our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers and then hopefully 4<sup>th</sup> grades teachers to EBLLI training which would go through our literacy grant. Mr. Severn updated the playground zones after the students returned from Christmas break. The zones are separated into two zones instead of seven, they still have a rotation but it's been opened up a bit. Students have really enjoyed being able to see more of their grade level classmates. The elementary was notified that they will be receiving the Early Childhood Grant which is around \$168,000.00. The elementary will be looking to update our PreK playground with things that we did not get last year, also we will be looking at the PreK program by remodeling a room in our library to turn into a future full-day PreK classroom. Mr. Severn thanked Mrs. Sheila Mulcahy and Mrs. Megan Roggow for their efforts in applying for this grant. Mr. Severn stated that the elementary will be adding lockdown drills to our schedule for the remainder of the school year. Parents will be notified before the lockdown takes place via School Messenger, so no one is alarmed of the drill. Congratulations to Mrs. Stephanie Anguilm on receiving the VFW "Teacher of the Year" and she also won at the district level.

#### *High School – Kim Kuchar*

Ms. Kuchar reported that currently she has 414 total students in grades 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. We have four students on Edgenutiy and six students on Graduation Alliance. Ms. Kuchar stated that grades will be stored on Wednesday and Mrs. Kieffer will be inputting all online grades. The junior high/high school is moving forward with arranging for Saturday school. We have 45 students that have missed over 8 days. Ms. Kuchar stated that we have been flexible with those students that had to isolate, quarantine or were at home waiting for a test, these students were not charged an absence. Ms. Kuchar mentioned Mrs. Betty Ivan's passing and she was a huge part of our FFA program. Mr. Wyrick took five officers in official dress to her funeral, the family was very grateful for their presence. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders took a field trip to the Holocaust Museum today and the 10<sup>th</sup> graders will take the same trip next week. The Mackinaw trip this spring for 7<sup>th</sup> graders is still a go. Only fifteen 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup> graders are signed up for the Washington, D.C. trip, if the trip is a go we may open it up to the 10<sup>th</sup> graders to attend, if interested. SAT testing will take place on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Current 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have the day off that day. The High School is once again hosting a Career Fair on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Around fifty vendors, many who are past graduates of NLHS will be attending. Snow Fest will take place in Frankenmuth on January 27-29 and Mrs. Wickerham will be taking a group of students. The upcoming Professional Development day will consist of special education training accommodations and modifications, as well as teachers reviewing PSAT results. Ms. Kuchar attended the recent VFW banquet to honor some of our students and staff. Students recognized were Nolan Henige 7<sup>th</sup> grader who is the Patriot's Pen winner. Nolan is the son of Jonathan and Chrissy Henige. Sara Dammann, 10<sup>th</sup> grade was the Voice of Democracy winner, she is the daughter of Mike and Elaine Dammann. Ms. Kuchar congratulated Mrs. Jessica Marcet as she was honored as the district VFW "Teacher of the

Year” and it was also announced at the banquet this past weekend that Jessica was selected as the VFW state “Teacher of the Year.” The celebration will take place on January 29<sup>th</sup> in Kalamazoo. Mrs. Marcet has also been working with the VA hospital in Saginaw for veterans who are new moms. Due to Covid, donations have been limited so the VA’s baby panty has been depleted. The Christmas tree at the entry way is decorated with baby items and NLHS will have a 4-day baby drive to collect items for newborns and moms.

*District – Anthony Berthiaume*

Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that school safety is our top priority. Tom Mynsberge will be present at our February 18<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day. Dr. Berthiaume has also invited local police, ambulance and fire department to come that day as well. It’s important that we are all on the same page with safety. The district will continue our partnership with the local police department, it’s been great to see officers here on campus. The district will continue to run drills and parents will be notified when those take place. Dr. Berthiaume stated at this time we have had no credible treats and administration will continue to investigate if any come up. Dr. Berthiaume said as far as Covid-19 sometimes he’s at a lost with the various requirements between the CDC, MDHHS and Shiawassee County. Above all, he is trying to provide a safe environment for kids, with the least restrictive and finding a balance. Dr. Berthiaume spoke about our busing situation and stated that hopefully we can move back to the “normal” start time for the JH/High School soon. We will be having five elementary routes and three high school (7-12). Dr. Berthiaume mentioned that the operating millage will be on the August ballot for renewal, which is no increase to our existing. Dr. Berthiaume thanked the Facility Committee for having the consistency that we needed over the past 6 years with the passage of our bond/sinking fund. The district will be starting to negotiate the 2022-2023 school year calendar with teachers.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to enter closed session under section MCL.15.268(k) to consider security planning to prevent potential threats to the safety of the district’s students and staff.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

**Jessica left at 7:09 p.m. before closed session began.**

**10-minute recess**

Motion by Henige, supported by Eustace to adjourn.

**Motion carried 5-0.**

Adjournment at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, February 14, 2022 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

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Adam Green, Board Secretary