

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education
Monday, October 18, 2021
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, Kevin Murphy and 14 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 September 20, 2021 as presented.

Motion carried 7-0.

Correspondence

Jim Eustace received several people contacting him regarding homecoming. All members received the same concerns and addressed it with Anthony.

Student Section

Maddie Eustace and Jordan Belmer were the student council representatives for tonight.

Student Observers

Carma Brown and Ava Gatza were student observers for tonight.

Presentations/Updates

Construction Update – Christman Company

Rob Crowe of Christman Company updated the board on the summer 2021 projects. Mr. Crowe stated that the locker rooms are still not finished. As of today, the issue is due to labor, working with contractors to improve the project. The timeline is three weeks as of today. Mr. Crowe stated that the flooring is being changed to a more durable product and we are requesting a committee meeting to discuss further. The flooring is more durable and will last longer.

Principals Month – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume recognized both principals and what they go through to keep students in school, working with one less administrative position and taking on more as well as during a pandemic. Dr. Berthiaume stated he's been able to see them grow.

Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Jim Eustace reported the minutes from September 20th.

Visitors

Rondalee Beardslee read a letter to the board stating her resignation was due to the events surrounding the homecoming after party. She was asking why she was put in this position, she held her team responsible and wants all athletes held to a higher standard and the code of conduct. Ms. Beardslee said kids lied and were not held to the standards. Her players confessed and protocol was not followed.

Ms. Beardslee questions why kids were not held accountable as she followed the rules that were established by the school district, she feels she had to do another person's job for them by having to address her kids and question them. Rondalee wants this matter investigated.

Nicole LaBrecque addressed coach Beardslee and admitted her daughter was punished at home. When the coach had them uphold the consequences, she knew the right thing was done. Wondering why the athletic director did not support the coach and question the kids. Nicole wants the board to know they lost a great coach and don't take a coach for granted for holding them accountable.

Heather Osborn stated that she is here to support the coach and stated that New Lothrop was lucky to have her. Ms. Osborn is fully aware of how things were handled. The same did not happen with the other sports.

Rob Warner stated that he has not spoken to Rondalee about this, but he is concerned about the environment that was created and what caused her to quit mid-season.

Sheri Warner stated that Rondalee is one of her kids and great coaches will teach along with caring about the kids. Sheri stated that her heart is broken about what has happened with this situation.

Financial Reports

Jessica Unangst read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: general fund \$690,339.86; school service \$27,767.83; for a total of \$718,107.69.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance \$1,420,466.73; receipts \$59,967.19; expenditures \$718,107.69; for an ending balance of \$762,326.23.

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

Motion carried 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the resignation of Briana Amman, one-on-one aide, effective September 24, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve the resignation of Bayli Malone, one-on-one aide, effective October 8, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Leandra Birchmeier, cafeteria/playground position, effective September 27, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the resignation of Tina LeBourdais, junior high volleyball coach, effective September 28, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

No Motion, no support to approve the resignation of Rondalee Beardslee, varsity volleyball coach, effective October 1, 2021.

No action taken.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Henige to approve the resignation of Kelly Zvonek, bus driver, effective October 8, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Vincke to approve the resignation of Morgan Lillie, music teacher, effective October 22, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Ruddy, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Heather Eickholt, office/aide position effective October 4, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Chris Crump, full-time bus driver, effective October 14, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Wayne Lutze, full-time bus driver, effective October 19, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Jill Severn, junior high volleyball coach, effective October 18, 2021.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Green to approve the hire of Steve Gauger, junior high football coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2021-2022 school year, contingent upon a successful background completion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Unangst to approve the hire of Lauren Riley, JV girls' basketball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2021-2022 school year, contingent upon a successful background completion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Green to approve the hire of Morgan Rombach, co-varsity volleyball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2021-2022 school year, contingent upon a successful background completion.

Motion carried 6-1.

White, Ruddy, Green, Unangst, Henige, Vincke – yes

Eustace - no

Motion by Unangst, supported by Green to approve the hire of Julia Decker, co-varsity volleyball coach as a contracted employee of PCMI for the 2021-2022 school year, contingent upon a successful background completion.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Eustace to approve the First Robotics Lego League as a school sponsored club.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Unangst, supported by Ruddy to approve the purchase of 458 chromebooks from InaCOMP Technical Services Group in the amount of \$124,553.10 to be funded from general fund and reimbursed by the Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) Grant.

Motion carried 7-0.

Jessica Unangst left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

District Updates

Athletics – Kevin Murphy

Mr. Murphy stated that he is getting ready for winter sports. He is looking for a 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball coach. Other than that he is all set with coaches until Christmas.

Elementary – Andrew Severn

Mr. Severn reported that the two positions the elementary is looking for he may hold off on one of the positions, due to the student's push in filling it with sub aides at this time. Interviews will take place this week for the other open position. University of Michigan - Flint team had a meeting with Dr. Berthiaume and five of the student teachers. The future is bright and I am amazed with their goals. Multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS) met on October 8th and showed areas of growth and wants action plans for reading and math to look at what students lost. Mr. Severn stated looking at Acadience and the levels with the diagnostics, growth in phonics and he is hoping EBLI (again, spell this out and put the acronym in parenthesis) closes the gap. We are seeing the trends from the shutdown, our focus is on first grade and keeping them on track. The i-Ready math data was good, a concerned area is vocabulary and comprehension. The PTO attended the SIP meeting and is going to create an Amazon wish list for teachers and classrooms. It's their hope to close the gap between parents and teachers. The Title/At-risk letters were sent home and we served 50 last year, this year we are accessing 106 kids with having both areas together. The Halloween parade for elementary students will be outside this year. Teacher goals and assessments have been completed and we are working on being in classrooms.

High School – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that October is college month, which started with a Saginaw Valley State University field trip. Teachers gave life experiences to their students. The Kettering University field trip is this Wednesday. We've met with seniors for college application process. The SIP team met this week and the focus will be on reading, writing and graphics for math. Discussed testing incentives, especially for juniors. Ms. Kuchar has also worked to setup meetings for teacher goals. Student discipline was discussed at the SIP meeting. The outreach group update will be next month. Focus this month is kindness and Buddy cards have been handed out. Parent teacher conferences will take place this Thursday.

District – Anthony Berthiaume

Dr. Berthiaume recognized Dave Sparks and Tony Kuchar and hoping to have him back on the sidelines with us soon. Parent Teacher conferences take place this week and it's an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers. Starting in January we will increase the sub teacher pay rate. Grandparents luncheon is cancelled for this November.

Mark Wakefield, Transportation Director reported that both new drivers are driving routes currently. Right now we are working with two additional drivers and getting them trained. In hopes by Thanksgiving to have seven full-time drivers.

Scott Sovis – Technology Director reported that the elementary has 332 chromebooks and 155 iPads (many are expired). The grant will replace 458 expired chromebooks, 900 total for district after replacements are received. High School: 425 chromebooks and 145 spare. The labs are underutilized and Scott mentioned updating to Windows 10, if possible. Labs: 64 elementary and 174 high school computers. Twenty-five projectors were updated and originals were from 2008.

Dr. Berthiaume stated that the Health Department testing is helping and working, additional hours will be paid from ESSER III. We need respect from parents, as Renee is doing her job. We will continue to improve the process and work through it.

Motion by Green, supported by Eustace to enter closed session for the Superintendent's evaluation.

Motion carried 6-0.

10-minute recess

Motion by Green, supported by Vincke to adjourn.

Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be Monday, November 15, 2021 in the high school library at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary