

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
New Lothrop Board of Education  
Monday, June 16, 2025  
6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Wendy Vincke, Richard White, Adam Green, Tim Birchmeier, Joe Toma and Jenn Otter

Absent: Ashley Krupp, Marty Weese

Others Present: Wayne Wright, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn and 10 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Wendy Vincke at 6:01 p.m. in the high school library. The pledge to the flag said.

**Secretary's Report**

The secretary's report was read by Adam Green. Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to accept the minutes from the special meeting dated June 16, 2025.

**Motion carried, 7-0.**

**Correspondence**

None

**Presentations/Updates**

*Report of Bullying Incidents for the 2024-2025 school year – Principals*

Ms. Kuchar reported that the elementary had one confirmed bullying incident reported for the 2024-2025 school year.

Mr. Severn reported that the high school had no confirmed bullying incident reported for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Committee Reports**

Facilities – Rich White reported the minutes from May 19<sup>th</sup>

Contract Formation Committee – Tim Birchmeier reported the minutes from May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>.

Personnel – Tim Birchmeier reported the minutes from May 29<sup>th</sup>

Finance – Rich White reported the minutes from June 5<sup>th</sup>

**Visitors**

None

**Financial Reports**

Adam Green read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$1,047,256.03; school service, \$47,962.82; for a total of \$1,095,218.85.

Motion by White, supported by Toma to approve the payment of bills.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$2,876,988.75; receipts, \$1,171,103.59; expenditures: \$1,095,218.85; for an ending balance of \$2,952,873.49.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Toma to accept the monthly financial report as submitted.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

### **Action Items**

Motion by Toma, supported by White to accept the final amended budget, including general fund, capital projects, food service, debt retirement and special revenue accounts for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to accept the initial projected budget, including general fund, capital projects, food service, debt retirement and special revenue accounts for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Toma to approve the resignation of David Baldwin, Junior High Baseball coach, effective June 5, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Otter to approve the resignation of Steve Gauger, J.V. Baseball coach, effective June 5, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Hope Bauman, certified teacher aide, effective June 6, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of DeeDee Brunet, Freshmen Volleyball coach, effective June 9, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve the resignation of Alex Blake, High School English teacher, effective June 30, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Otter, supported by Toma to approve the resignation of Cassie Pajtas, Title I/At-Risk teacher, effective August 17, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by White, supported by Birchmeier to approve Leandra Birchmeier, Carrie Bennett and Kaylee Kozel as summer Latchkey aides.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to approve Steph Freed and Vickie Vincke as summer food service workers.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Otter to approve the hire of Rachal Ranger-Scott, elementary teacher (6<sup>th</sup> grade) at BA, Step 5 effective August 18, 2025, contingent upon a successful background check.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Otter to approve the hire of Emma McKalko, elementary teacher (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) at BA, Step 1 effective August 18, 2025 contingent upon a successful background check.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Toma to approve the hire of Mattea Belanger, part-time custodian, effective June 16, 2025 contingent upon a successful background check.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by White, supported by Green to approve a 3 year contract with Jay Larner, Superintendent of New Lothrop Area Public Schools effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028, contingent upon a successful background check.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by White, supported by Toma to adopt the MHSAA resolution for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Otter, supported by Birchmeier to approve the following overnight team camps: Girls Varsity Volleyball to Central Michigan University, Varsity Wrestling to Olivet College and Varsity Girls Basketball to Northwood University as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Otter to approve all administrative and non-instructional administrative contracts for the 2025-2026 school year, effective July 1, 2025 as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Otter to approve the Board meeting dates be scheduled on the third Monday of each month with the exception of January 2026, February 2026 meetings as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier that the Board approve the lease of 1 bus at a cost not to exceed \$28,872.00 per year from Midwest Transit Equipment, Inc. for three years as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Toma that the Board approve the Stage bid from Hertz Furniture Systems in an amount not to exceed \$10,238.92 to be paid from general fund, FAFSA Grant.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

### **District Updates**

#### *Athletics – Marty Weese*

Mr. Severn presented the Athletic report for Mr. Weese this month. Congratulations to the following girls that competed in the MHSAA Division 3 State Track Finals

- Katelyn Wendling: 8th 200m; 4th place 400m; 17th place High Jump
- 4x200m Relay team: 28th place Zoie Buterakos, Laina Yates, Ashley Krupp, Cassie Green
- 4x800m Relay team: 22nd place Lexy Andres, Olivia Gillett, Ally Andres, Ava Wenzlick

- Congratulations to our June Tri-County Athletes of the Month:
  - Hunter Wolfe
- Congratulations to the MS Track members who competed in the Megastar Meet in Shepherd on June 6
  - Cale Yates 11th place High Jump
  - Miriam Sharpe 9th place Pole Vault
  - Hailey Severn 2nd place Shot Put – MS Record 42' 1.5"
- Congratulations to the Softball and Coach Birchmeier
  - District Champions
  - Coach Birchmeier was chosen as MMAC Coach of the Year
- We hosted Baseball and Softball Districts (May 27 and May 31)
  - Huge thank you to the following:
    - Denny Ruddy, parent volunteers, and coaches for preparing the fields
    - Baseball parents for running concessions on May 31st districts
    - Workers for both events - nothing gets done without them.
- Congratulations to these student-athletes for the following accolades:
  - Baseball
    - Hayden Wendling – MMAC 1st Team (Outfield), All-District (Outfield)
    - Logan Judd – MMAC 2nd Team (Infield)
    - Nathan Kuchar – MMAC 2nd Team (Pitcher); All-District (1B); Academic All-District
    - Jameson Kopschitz – MMAC 2nd Team (Catcher); Academic All-District
    - Cody Kopenski – MMAC HM (Infield); Academic All-District
    - Kaven Unangst – Academic All-Region
    - Sean Damman – Academic All-Region
    - Reece Eustace – Academic All-Region
    - Logan Lienau – Academic All-Region
    - Zane Rumisek – Academic All-Region
    - Micah Kisser – Academic All-State
  - Softball
    - Victoria Henige – MMAC 1st Team (Catcher); All-District, All-Region, All-State 1st Team (Catcher)
    - Ava Thorsby – MMAC 1st Team (Outfield); All-District, All-Region, All-State 1st Team (Outfield)
    - Ashlyn Orr – MMAC 1st Team (Infield); All-District, All-Region, All-State Honorable Mention (Shortstop)
    - Mallory Heroux – MMAC 1st Team (Pitcher); All-District, All-Region, All-State Honorable Mention (Pitcher)
    - Alexandra Knieper – MMAC 2nd Team (Utility); All-District, All-Region (Utility)
    - Savannah Knieper – MMAC HM (Infield)
    - Addison Phillips – MMAC HM (Outfield)
  - Boys Track
    - Samuel Heslip – MMAC HM (4x200m Relay)
    - Blake Hornak – MMAC HM (4x200m Relay)
    - Hunter Burr – MMAC HM (4x200m Relay)
    - Ethan Wesener – MMAC HM (4x200m Relay)
  - Girls Track

- Ally Andres – MMAC 1st Team (4x800m Relay); MMAC HM (1600m Run); MMAC HM (4x400m Relay)
- Lexy Andres – MMAC 1st Team (4x800m Relay); MMAC 2nd Team (1600m Run)
- Zoie Buterakos – MMAC 1st Team (300m Hurdles); MMAC 1st Team (4x100m Relay)
- Olivia Gillett – MMAC 1st Team (4x800m Relay); MMAC HM (3200m Run)
- Cassie Green – MMAC 2nd Team (4x200m Relay); MMAC HM (4x400m Relay); MMAC HM (Shot Put)
- Sophia Henige – MMAC HM (4x400m Relay)
- Ashley Krupp – MMAC 2nd Team (4x200m Relay); MMAC HM (4x400m Relay)
- Ella Mulcahy – MMAC 1st Team (4x100m Relay); MMAC 2nd Team (4x200m Relay)
- Riley Neubecker – MMAC 1st Team (4x100m Relay)
- Katelyn Wendling – MMAC 1st Team (400m Dash); MMAC 2nd Team (100m Dash); MMAC 2nd Team (200m Dash); MMAC 2nd Team (High Jump)
- Ava Wenzlick – MMAC 1st Team (4x800m Relay)
- Elyssa Williams – MMAC HM (Discus)
- Laina Yates – MMAC 1st Team (4x100m Relay); MMAC 2nd Team (4x200m Relay); MMAC HM (100m Dash)
- Boys Golf
  - Kevin Heslip – MMAC 2nd Team
  - Cameron Naessens – MMAC 2nd Team
  - Hunter Wolfe – MMAC 2nd Team
  - Kyler Campbell – MMAC HM

### **Upcoming Events:**

- Youth Camps and other camps
  - Girls Basketball June 9-11, grades K-8
  - Football June 11-12, grades 3-8
  - Volleyball June 16-18, grade K-8
  - Boys Basketball June 16-18, grades 1-8
  - Cross Country June 23-24, grades 6-12
  - Wrestling June 21-22, All grades

### *High School – Drew Severn*

Mr. Severn stated that the Special Ed, 504 team met to discuss those students transitioning to the JH/HS. We are looking at a self contained ELA/Math class to provide extra supports to students and we are able to do this with the current staff. Summer school is in full swing at the JH/HS. Students in grades 7 and 8 grew in iReady. Right now we have two 1-1 aide positions to fill. We are conducting interviews for the open ELA position. Mr. Severn stated that the team has looked at the Professional Development agenda for the fall and topics that will be discussed include: AI – guidelines and best practices, iReady and iReady Pro, PBIS. The Sophomore class won the attendance war and celebrated with a pizza party. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade class won the iReady challenge. Mr. Severn took a minute to thank Mr. Wright for all that he has done for the District.

*Elementary – Kim Kuchar*

Ms. Kuchar presented end-of-year data. She noted that every grade improved. The state dictates that the school should strive for 80% on grade level and the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading law is based on this percentage as well. The elementary continues to address the 4-6 Reading with consistent Tier 1 instruction, which consists of small group instruction on a consistent basis. The elementary had several end of the year activities. A successful Field Day, Food for America, Field Trips (Crossroads, Comerica, Potter Park Zoo, Impressions 5 Sci Mus., Bavarian Inn/Heritage Park, MI Capitol) Tuesday Trivia (Hokey Pokey, Macarena, YMCA or Cupid Shuffle for ice cream) Tri 3 Pride Assembly (thank you PTO for prizes) and Staff vs. 6th grade boys basketball game. Ms. Kuchar stated that the master schedule for 2025-2026 is almost complete. We are excited to welcome Rachal and Emma to be part of the elementary staff. Ms. Kuchar has a meeting set with Mr. Severn to plan the Bash on the Blacktop which will take place at the open house.

*District – Wayne Wright*

Wayne Wright reported that the state is taking some categoricals away. We should know more on the school aide budget as a district by August, September. The elementary lightning project has been started and it should be completed by the end of the month. The district will be looking at putting the electrical out to the FFA barn too. Lastly, it's been almost 18 months that I've been in New Lothrop. It's been a pleasure to work with this Board. You are very fortunate here and you picked a strong individual to move the district forward.

**CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by White, supported by Birchmeier to enter closed session the following:

Complaint and Disciplinary action – Section 8a

Negotiations- Section 8c

Superintendent Evaluation – Section 8a

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

It was moved by White, supported by Birchmeier to accept the evaluation of Superintendent Wayne Wright.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to adjourn.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Adjournment at 8:34 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on Monday, July 21, 2025 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

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Ashley Krupp, Board Secretary