

# BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, July 21, 2025

6:00 p.m. in the High School Library

Board Members Present: Richard White, Ashley Krupp, Adam Green, Tim Birchmeier, Jenn Otter and Joseph Toma

Absent: Wendy Vincke

Others Present: Jay Larner, Drew Severn, Denny Ruddy and 12 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Richard White at 6:00 p.m. in the high school library. The pledge to the flag said.

## **Secretary's Report**

The secretary's report was read by Ashley Krupp. Motion by Krupp, supported by Green to accept the minutes from the special board meeting held on June 30, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

## **Correspondence**

None

We will be deleting #19 from the agenda.

## **Student Section**

None

## **Presentations/Updates**

None.

## **Committee Reports**

Facilities- Tim Birchmeier reported the minutes from the June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup> meetings.

Finance- Adam Green reported the minutes from the June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

## **Visitors**

None

## **Financial Reports**

Adam Green read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$1,231,237.82; school service, \$40,656.14 for a total of \$1,271,893.96.

Motion by Krupp, supported by Birchmeier to approve the payment of bills.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$2,952,873.49; receipts, \$892,093.75; expenditures: \$1,271,893.96; for an ending balance of \$2,573,073.28

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

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

## **Action Items**

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp to approve the Board designate Fifth Third Bank, serving the Michigan Liquid Assets Funds accounts, and Huntington National Bank as the depositories for school funds and the officers of the Board, Superintendent and Director of Finance be authorized as official signatures of record.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve to place Thrun Law Firm on retainer as legal counsel for the school district for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Krupp to approve a levy of 4.6500 mills for the 2014 refunding (2026), 1.2370 mills for the sinking fund, 1.0200 mills for the 2019 school bonds, 0.6600 mills for the 2021 school bonds and 2.1600 for the 2021 refunding bonds as presented for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve a levy of 18 mills of non-homestead properties for the general fund for the 2025-2026 school year.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Krupp, supported by Toma to approve the resignation of Nick Andres, full-time evening custodian, effective June 15, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Otter to approve the resignation of Tom Birchmeier, Varsity Softball coach effective June 17, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Krupp to approve the resignation of Kayla Garcia, Transportation/Athletic Office Manager, effective July 17, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Chad Johnson, JH baseball coach, effective July 7, 2025.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to approve the hire of Rachel Burgess, JH/High School English teacher at MA, Step 2, effective August 18, 2025 contingent upon a successful background check.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp, to approve the hire of Christine Smith, part-time Food Service Worker, effective August 21, 2025 contingent upon a successful background check.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Otter to approve the Mackinac Island trip for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students on May 11-12, 2026 contingent upon enough student interest.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Krupp to approve the Washington D.C. trip for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students on November 22-25, 2025 contingent upon enough student interest.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Birchmeier to approve changing the Neola Policies compliance officer from Wayne Wright to Jay Larner in the following policies: 1422, 1623, 1662, 2260, 2266, 2260.01, 5517, 3122, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4123, 4362 as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp to approve the Fall Schedule B appointments for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Toma to approve the Fall Schedule C appointments for the 2025-2026 school year as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Krupp, supported by Toma to approve the purchase of Curriculum Associates i-Ready Assessment and Personalized Instruction for the 2025-2026 school year at a cost not to exceed \$39,079.50.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Green to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MEA Teacher Association for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years as presented.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Motion by Toma, supported by Birchmeier to approve a 2.50% salary increase for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years for the salaried administrative and central office employees, retro July 1, 2025 as presented.

**Motion carried, 5-0.**

**(Green abstained)**

### **Superintendent Update**

Jay Larner congratulated the School Board and teaching staff on coming to a 2-year contract agreement. He also updated the Board that he has been in contact with Rich Ramsey who did our superintendent search from MASB to set up a date in September for board governance training. Jay provided an update on facilities, including that the FFA barn got their permit for electrical to run out to building and that the lighting project of switching to LED lights has been completed in all the elementary classrooms, with work in progress on the library and hallways. Jay educated on updates of his 90-day onboard plan stating he has connected with all board members, administrators and union leaders. He is working on making connections within the community and has been in contact with our township halls to work on launching a listening tour which will include open door format allowing community members to meet him.

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

**Motion carried, 6-0.**

Adjournment at 6:29 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be on August 18, 2025 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

---

Ashley Krupp, Board Secretary