

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

New Lothrop Board of Education

Monday, August 19, 2024

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

Board Members Present: Richard White, Wendy Vincke, Adam Green, Jim Eustace, Joe Henige, Ashley Krupp and Tim Birchmeier

Absent: None

Others Present: Wayne Wright, Kim Kuchar, Drew Severn, Marty Weese and 18 visitors.

The meeting was called to order by President Richard White 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 Henige to accept the minutes from the regular board meeting held on July 15, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Correspondence

None

Presentations/Updates

Athletic Annual Report – Marty Weese

Athletic Director, Marty Weese presented the 2023-2024 Athletic highlights of our sports teams and athletes.

Neola – 2nd reading

Superintendent, Wayne Wright read the 2nd reading of the Neola policies.

Committee Reports

Finance – Jim Eustace reported minutes from July 17th, July 23rd, July 29th, and August 13th

Facilities – Tim Birchmeier reported minutes from August 1st

Visitors

Jim Sovis addressed the board stating that he is a 10-year Athletic Booster member and someone who comes to the bond approval meetings to support. My 3 oldest children are New Lothrop grads, my mom is a former teacher, my father is a former board member and I am here to tell you why I am pulling my sophomore out of New Lothrop. New Lothrop has always been the school everyone wanted to go to. Fifteen years ago, my oldest mentioned wanted to go to Corunna so he could play soccer. His mother quickly filled out the paperwork to move him. It never happened but Corunna bragged that “they got one”. That was the pedestal that New Lothrop was on. My current sophomore had dealt with being bullied in the past. We had a meeting with administration regarding specific situations which to me took too long to resolve and in some instances, there was never really resolution due to specific individuals involved. She loves her friends here, but she wanted to leave a year ago. We didn't take it to heart with how unhappy she was until winter came and she was not the same kid. She was struggling with depression. What really pushed me over the edge to let her change was her being singled out and, in my opinion, mentally abused by a staff member. I took my concerns to this staff members, followed by another staff members and finally an administrator. I can provide copies of what I covered in these meetings for anyone that is interested or meet with the board in closed session to speak more openly. I was given assurances that things would be corrected by the staff, but it quickly became apparent that I was lied to. If this is how any of you were treated, would you want to stay? It wasn't an easy decision, and it had weighed on me heavily. What was surprising to me was the number of parents that have

shared their happiness for my daughter leaving and said that their child/children have wanted to leave but they only have 1 or 2 years left to get through or they do not have the ability to move. I was shocked by the number of people that say their children are unhappy here. I realize that I am very fortunate to be able to provide this opportunity for my child and remove her from a negative environment. I am here for all those families that are not as fortunate as I and do not have the option of moving their child out of district due to logistics. I could have easily just walked away however this would not help the situation that is going on here. I am hoping that this serves as a wakeup call to the board and administration that there are some serious problems and I hope people begin paying attention to it.

Amanda Elston – asked what time Latchkey services end in the evening.

Financial Reports

Jim Eustace read the financial report and presented the following bills for payment: General fund, \$880,078.99; school service, \$19,302.00; for a total of \$899,380.99.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

The monthly financial report was read as follows: beginning balance, \$2,370,137.92; receipts, \$1,203,036.47; expenditures: \$899,380.99; for an ending balance of \$2,673,793.40.

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

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Items

Motion by Eustace, supported by Birchmeier to approve the resignation of Shawn Sudduth, music teacher effective August 12, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Krupp to approve Kim Bowns, elementary part-time Office Manager effective July 29, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Birchmeier to approve the hire of Kayla Garcia, Athletics/Transportation Office Manager, effective August 5, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Vincke to approve DeeDee Brunet as the Freshmen girls Volleyball coach for the 24-25 season.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the transfer of Samantha Irwin to DK/Kindergarten certified teacher aide, effective August 22, 2024.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Vincke to approve the hire of Kristi Plumb, elementary certified teacher aide, effective August 22, 2024 contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Eustace to approve the hire of Tayler Hill, elementary one-on-one aide, effective August 22, 2024 to be reimbursed by the SRESA/State Aide (Special Education) contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Henige to approve the hire of Nicole Heslip, elementary certified one-on-one aide, effective August 22, 2024 to be reimbursed by the SRESA/State Aide (Special Education) contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green supported by Krupp to approve the Fall Schedule B appointments for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to approve the following novels be added to the High School Curriculum: *"Tuesdays With Morrie"* for 11th grade and *"Fire Keeper's Daughter"* for the 12th grade.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Eustace, supported by Birchmeier to approve changing the Neola Policies complaint officer from Dr. Heather Luznak to Wayne Wright in the following policies: 1422, 1623, 1662, 2260, 2266, 2260.01, 5517, 3122, 3123, 3362, 4122, 4123, 4362 as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Krupp to approve the 2nd reading of Title IX Special 2024 Policies: 2264, 2266.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Henige, supported by Birchmeier to approve the district and building emergency operations plan, as presented which will be a working document and modified as needed.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Krupp, supported Henige to approve the purchase of i-Ready, K-8 Diagnostic Tool for the 2024-2025 school year at a cost not to exceed \$25,448.50, as presented

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported Krupp to approve the hire of Mitchell Clark, music teacher at BA, Step 10 (pending certification of education on transcript), effective August 19, 2024 contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion carried, 7-0.

District Updates

Athletics – Marty Weese

Mr. Weese stated that the new All-State display case was installed and updated over the summer. Varsity Volleyball is scrimmaging at Mt. Morris this evening. Girls Golf opened their season tonight at Laingsburg. This Thursday Freshmen, JV and Varsity Volleyball with host matches against St. Charles and Corunna. JV and Varsity Football will scrimmage at Millington. Varsity Cross County will compete at St. Johns Under the Lights meet on Friday evening. We currently have three junior high open positions for winter/spring sports.

Elementary – Kim Kuchar

Ms. Kuchar reported that summer enrichment at the elementary was a success as well as we had several students participate in the iReady summer blitz. Currently at the elementary we are fully staffed. Ms. Kuchar met with the PTO group and have discussed several exciting opportunities for fundraising for the 24-25 school year. The PTO group also added numerous items to the elementary playground this year, including: added basketball poles, replaced existing basketball hoops, backboard and nets, added two new half courts, repainted existing courts, added brand new blacktop and soccer field, repainted four square game and added two new hopscotch games. Staff had a successful day of Professional Development today. Ms. Kuchar met with support staff to discuss expectations and focus on building relationships. Elementary staff will attend Baker College on Tuesday and the Open House will take place

that evening from 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. Ms. Kuchar also gave a shout out to Val Baker and her staff for breakfast and lunch at the opening Professional Development day and to Denny Ruddy and his staff as the buildings looks wonderful.

High School – Drew Severn

Mr. Severn gave the custodial staff a special thanks for all their hard work over the summer, the building looks wonderful. The High School had 17 students attend summer school, with a total of 27 total classes and 25 classes were completed. We have 3 teachers teaching on their prep. FFA students were busy this summer with numerous activities. We had 3 students raise lambs, 4 students raise steers and 9 students raise pigs.

District – Wayne Wright

Mr. Wright stated that today was the first day back with staff. We started the morning off with Dan Martin addressing the staff on bullying, neglect and mandatory reporting. Also, mentioned the use of social media. It was a great presentation and perceived well by staff. At this point all positions in the district have been filled. The custodian did a great job this summer cleaning our buildings. We are looking forward to students returning on Thursday.

Closed Session

Motion by Vincke, supported by Henige to approve the Board enters Closed Session, Section 8 (1) (e) of the Open Meetings Act, for pending litigation Case #AAA01-24-0006-1692 and in connection with Section 13 (1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, to consider attorney-client privileged correspondence and Section 8c for Negotiations.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Action Item

Motion by Birchmeier, supported by Vincke to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MEA Teachers Association for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Green, supported by Henige to approve the tentative agreement between the New Lothrop Board of Education and the MESPA (Support Staff) for the 2024-2025 school year as presented.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Motion by Vincke, supported by Krupp to adjourn.

Motion carried, 7-0.

Adjournment at 8:10 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be a Monday, September 16, 2024 in the High School Library beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Adam Green, Board Secretary