

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA**  
**March 9, 2015**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, March 9, 2015, in the Administration Office Board Room.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Natalie J. Green, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams and Mr. Edward E. Hartman (9)

Members absent: (0)

Non-members present: Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Paul Leonzi, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mrs. Tanya Simms, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

**VISITORS** Approximately six visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News.

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 11, 2015 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha reported that he is recommending the approval of the 2015-2016 LCTI budget that is on the board agenda this evening.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory Williams reported that top republican state senators are warning public schools not to count on the money proposed in Governor Wolf's budget.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on March 2, 2015 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Mr. Vlasaty reported that both student representatives are absent this evening because they are rehearsing for the High School Musical, The Wedding Singer, which runs March 12 – 15, 2015.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Strohl reported that there has been a battle in the court systems for the last five years regarding a Right to Know request for public school employee home addresses. After temporarily being lifted, an injunction is back in place until a decision is reached by the State Supreme Court; therefore, if a request is made, home addresses will not be disclosed.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas stated that at the board seats is the Chapter 339 School Counseling plan that is a requirement from PDE. The purpose of the plan is to help our students become college or career ready by the time they graduate. Mrs. Nicholas asked the board members to review the plan as it will be on next month's board agenda for approval. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Nicholas.

Mrs. Nicholas informed the board that we currently have nineteen (19) ESL (English as Second Language) students in our district. Mrs. Alice Lieberman teaches all of these students K-12. As part of the Title III (ESL) grant, we are supposed to assimilate these students and their families into the culture of our district. An invitation has been sent to all of the ESL families to attend a meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2015. Following the meeting, these families will be seeing The Wedding Singer. This type of event was successful two years ago and it helps to integrate these families to the district.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Mrs. Nicholas reported that our eighth grade team won “The Outstanding Team Spirit” award for the “What’s So Cool About Manufacturing?” video contest. The regional manager from Amcor was so impressed with our students and the video they produced, that he wanted to meet them personally so he flew from Chicago to be at the awards ceremony. In fact, the manager is, at his expense, ordering the same award for each of the students who participated in the project. There were twenty-two (22) teams who entered the contest, and Northern Lehigh was one of eight (8) teams to win an award.

Business Manager’s Report – Mrs. Molitoris introduced Ms. Audrey Bear, from Robert W. Baird & Co. and Mr. Jon Cox, from Rhoads & Sinon LLP. Ms. Bear explained that at the board seats is a bond purchase agreement that sets the parameters and minimum savings target for the bond refinancing. Mr. Jon Cox explained that the bond resolution has been advertised and reviewed with the solicitor’s office, as required. He explained that the resolution authorizes the refinancing of a maximum of \$11,285,000 of the 2010 and a portion of the 2011 bonds so long as the required savings target of \$157,000.00 is met. Mr. Green questioned whether the \$11 million number interferes with the \$10 million issuance threshold discussed at last month’s meeting. Ms. Bear explained that she will only issue an amount under \$10 million. Mr. Cox explained that when the paperwork is filed it is filed with the not to exceed number of \$11,285,000; but once the final numbers are determined, follow-up paperwork is filed reducing the principal amount on the debt statement to refund the actual amount of bonds that were issued.

Mrs. Molitoris reported that the LCTI General Fund and Academic Center budgets are on the agenda this evening for approval.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Michaels reported that each board member has a copy of the letter from the four senators cautioning school districts not to build their budget based on the governor’s projections.

Mr. Michaels reported that he watched a recent program about the school nutrition program and the group in Washington made it very clear that the kids will just have to get used to eating this type of food. Unfortunately, the waste is monumental. Mr. Michaels thanked Mrs. Bahnick for meeting with Congressman Dent and bringing it to his attention.

Mr. Michaels stated that at the board seats is a letter from Representative Harhart’s office regarding the snow removal on the bridges. Other than a portion of the Walnutport side, the issues seem to be rectified. Mr. Michaels added that we would like to meet with them in October to make sure we can keep the bridges clean throughout the winter.

Mr. Michaels distributed a notebook to each of the board members that was made locally by one of our Walnutport residents, Ronald Kuntz.

Mr. Michaels stated that the best option for graduation is June 12, 2015 which gives us flexibility if we have any more snow days. The last day for students is Tuesday, June 9, 2015.

Motion  
Graduation  
June 12, 2015

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, seconded by Mr. Williams to set graduation for the 2014-2015 school year as Friday, June 12, 2015.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Hartman reported that an executive session was held prior to tonight’s meeting to discuss legal issues.

Mrs. Green asked that Item A under Personnel be voted on separately.

**PERSONNEL** Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel item:

Termination C. Saville Approve the termination of Candice Saville for failure to return to work upon conclusion of leave effective January 20, 2015, and in order to assist making her PSERS Disability eligible.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

ABS: Mrs. Green (1)

Motion carried.

**PERSONNEL (cont.)** Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

Appointment Instructional Deanna Suozzo  
Assignment: Temporary Vacancy Replacement  
Slatington Elementary School 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher replacing an employee on Maternity leave.  
Salary: Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30; Day 31 and beyond \$45,680 prorated (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2014-2015 CBA Salary Schedule)  
Effective: March 9, 2015  
Termination Date: On or about June 9, 2015

Co-Curricular Appointments 2015-2016 Motion to renew the appointment of the following Co-Curricular positions for the 2015-2016 school year:

Joseph Tout	Head Football Coach	\$7,227.00
Stephen Hluschak	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,697.00
Mark Lavine	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,697.00
Andrew Lynn	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,697.00
Cory Hartsell	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,697.00
Manny Guedes	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,697.00
Alden Farber	Assistant Football Coach-Shared Stipend	\$2,348.50
Michael Strohl	Assistant Football Coach-Shared Stipend	\$2,348.50
Jessica Frew	Head Field Hockey Coach	\$5,224.00
Kelly Follweiler	Assistant Field Hockey Coach	\$2,902.00
David Oertner	Head Cross Country Coach	\$4,330.00
Elizabeth Case	Assistant Cross Country Coach	\$2,814.00
Jason Reinhard	Head Girl's Soccer Coach	\$5,224.00
Patricia Jones	Assistant Girl's Soccer Coach	\$2,902.00

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY** Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy #004 – Local Board Procedures – Membership, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #806 – Operations – Child/Student Abuse, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #818 – Operations – Contracted Services, as presented after first reading.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-  
ULUM AND  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction item:

Headstart Pre-K Program 2015-2016 Authorize Community Services for Children to operate the Head Start Pre-K program at Peters Elementary School from September, 2015 through the end of May, 2016. The only obligation of the district is to provide one classroom.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Williams noted that he was pleased to see that our portion of the LCTI budget has decreased when the Academic Center budget has increased almost 11%. Mr. Fedorcha explained that it is based on a five year average and we still owe a portion for our students that attended in the past, even though we no longer send students to the academic center.

Mrs. Bear asked that item K be separated as a roll call vote.

**FINANCIAL**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items:

Financial Reports

General Fund Account month of January  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of January  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Account month of January

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund months of February and March  
Refreshment Stand month of February  
Cafeteria Fund month of February

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute 2015-2016 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute general fund budget and Academic Center expenditures for the 2015-2016 school year. The general fund budget total is \$24,725,700.00, an increase of \$427,600 or 1.76%. Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2015-2016 general fund budget is \$891,825.43, a decrease of \$14,211.46. The expenditures for the Academic Center budget for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016 total \$1,613,620.00, an increase of \$158,740.00 or 10.91%. Northern Lehigh School District's portion is \$12,075, a decrease of \$10,001.00. A copy of the budget was distributed to board members at the February 11, 2015 school board meeting.

Renewal Verizon Wireless

Approve the renewal of our cellular phone service agreement with Verizon Wireless for two (2) phone lines to be used by our maintenance department and one line each for the Superintendent and Athletic Director at a total cost of \$243.64 per month. This is a month to month agreement and there are no cancellation fees if the agreement is terminated early.

CLIU#21 Edmentum Agreement

Approve to authorize proper officials to enter into an agreement with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to provide instructional technology related services through Edmentum Products & Services for a three year agreement commencing on July 1, 2015.

District Plow Truck Bid

Authorize Administration to bid for a district plow truck.

Resolution Waive balances of \$20 or less

Approve the resolution authorizing collector of delinquent tax claims to waive interest balances of \$20 or less.

Resolution Exonerate de Minimis Balances

Approve the resolution exonerating certain delinquent tax claims with de minimis balances and directing Northern Lehigh School District's delinquent tax collector to cease collection of same.

**FINANCIAL****(cont)**

BCIU Agreement July 1, 2015- June 30, 2017 Authorize administration to renew an agreement through June 30, 2017 with Berks County Intermediate Unit for tax bill services related to the 2015 and 2016 tax years.

RFP Trash & Recycling Removal Authorize administration to advertise a Request for Proposal for District Wide Trash and Recycling Services effective July 1, 2015. Current contract with Waste Management expires, June 30, 2015.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL****(cont)**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves the following financial item:

Rhoads & Sinon Resolution Recommend that the Board of Education adopt a resolution presented by Bond Counsel Rhoads & Sinon LLP for future nonelectoral debt for the refinancing of the 2010 and a portion of the 2011 bonds.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Budget Discussion Mr. Hartman asked Mrs. Molitoris to discuss the 2015-2016 budget proposals. Mrs. Molitoris stated that if taxes are raised to the maximum, 2.6%, it would raise the millage rate by 0.5398 per \$1000 of assessment, which would generate \$415,000.00 in revenue for the district. A 2% increase would raise the millage rate by .4152 per \$1000 of assessment resulting in \$319,000.00 in revenue. At 1.5%, it would be raised .3114 per \$1000 of assessment resulting in \$239,000.00 in revenue and a 1% increase would raise it .2076 per \$1000 of assessment resulting in \$159,000.00 in revenue. Mrs. Green asked what the millage rate was for surrounding districts. Mrs. Molitoris stated that she did not have that information in front of her but would send it to all board members.

Mr. Green stated that as he noted last month, LCCC has gone to electronic meetings and he would like to see our district go electronic for our meetings and also move our students forward with technology. Other districts are moving away from the paper and pencils and he asked administration to look into moving in that direction and we may realize a cost savings as well. Mr. Fedorcha added that LCTI is also sending information electronically. Mr. Michaels added that he came from a district that did everything electronically and it is costly and he noted that not every board member is capable of receiving documents electronically. Mr. Green stated that he is also looking for our students to have the technology as well. Mr. Michaels stated that our Language Arts program is mostly online. Mrs. Nicholas added that most of the modules are online for Language Arts and our math curriculum is completely digital at the Middle School and High School. Mrs. Nicholas stated that we are buying technology as we can while being fiscally responsible. Mrs. Nicholas added that at the High School, we have Bulldog Academy where teachers are teaching completely online and we also have blended learning where students do some of their work online.

Mr. Hartman asked if anybody had any other comments about the budget. He stated that every board member is here to give our students the best education. Mr. Williams stated that he believes the business office is giving the board what they asked for and they are still preparing the budgets. Mrs. Green stated that she would like to see no tax increase but questioned whether that was feasible. Mr. Williams added that we need to have some options available to see where it takes us, even though we won't have a state budget before the budget needs to be adopted. Mrs. Molitoris agreed that we are building a budget based on state funding from last year's numbers. Mrs. Frantz added that there are too many unknowns; for instance, if the minimum wage is increased it could affect us dramatically. Mr. Michaels added that the district has debated next year's spending plan

since November. Mr. Michaels noted that under his tenure as superintendent, the district has had several years without a tax increase; however, he went on to say that he is not sure we can do that again this year. If we keep coming up with a zero increase, somewhere down the line, we will have to cut programs district wide. Mr. Michaels added that every year, we have a budget freeze mid-year thus allowing us to put money back into the budget. Mr. Michaels added that between health care and pensions alone, next year's budget will be increased \$700,000.00 and even raising taxes to the index (2.6%), we will still be short almost \$300,000.00. Mr. Michaels stated that we can always come down, but if we start at zero, you can't come down. Mr. Fedorcha stated that almost 20 years ago when he first got on the board, taxes hadn't been raised and they were forced to raise taxes 10 mils and music and sports were being cut just to survive. He noted that he does not ever want us to be in that situation again. Mr. Fedorcha stated that he needs to see the budget with everything built in and he would never vote in favor of a budget that included an increase in class sizes K-6. The board decided it will revisit the budget at next month's board meeting with different options.

**INFORMATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on January 8, 2015 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on January 28, 2015 were distributed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Edward E. Hartman