

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
October 6, 2008

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2008 in the JOC boardroom located at Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

TEMPORARY SECRETARY

Mr. Hartman asked if there were any objects to Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr. serving as temporary secretary for the October 6, 2008 school board meeting in the absence of Board Secretary Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer. Hearing none, Mr. Follweiler served as temporary secretary for the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (7)

Members absent: Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (2)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mrs. Heather Rehrig, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep.) Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

VISITORS

Approximately six visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News and Sarah Fulton reporter for The Morning Call.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the minutes of the regular school board meetings held on September 2, 2008 and September 8, 2008 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser stated that Mr. Dorshimer was not at the meeting this evening but that the CLIU Board Briefs were distributed and Board members should review them.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos reported that LCTI is now the training institute for many companies. The latest companies to join LCTI are Mack and Volvo. Students can now become certified mechanics for Mack and Volvo. She further stated that the first request for grants will be submitted on Friday to start the process on turning LCTI into a four year technical college in partnership with LCCC.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams stated that the House had scheduled a vote on HB 1277, legislation that would create a statewide healthcare plan for all school employees. PSBA is strongly opposed to this plan because the 20 member benefits board is not equally represented by all groups. There has been vast opposition to the plan and because of that, the vote was pulled and no further action is expected this year.

Secondly, PDE is continuing it's pursuit to implement Graduation Competency Assessments despite the legislatively imposed 1 year prohibition on proposing or approving any regulation to change or establish graduation requirements. PDE has issued an RFP for the development of 10 exams that could be put in effect for September 2009. They have gotten around the 1 year prohibition by saying that the assessments would be voluntary, but since the ban expires July 1, 2009, it is clear they are working towards their implementation by the 2009-2010 school year.

While there is much opposition to the creation of high-stakes tests, PDE has made it clear that they will continue to push for their implementation.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting held on September 10, 2008 was distributed.

bring Mr. Williams stated that it was discussed at the Policy meeting that the Policy meeting is not only for policy. It is a policy and education committee. He stated that the committee wants to education back as a focus of this committee. He stated they will be discussing curriculum and things that are being done educationally either good or bad. Policy and Education Committee wants to be able to go to other committees and make recommendations that would continue moving the district forward with the education process.

Mr. Follweiler asked if there was district policy that prohibited people from standing behind the team benches at athletic events such as field hockey?

Mr. Follweiler was told that this is an athletic director issue and that Mr. Geist will look into this issue.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Michael Showak distributed the written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

giving Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha stated that she would be a report on AYP data at the next board meeting.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber stated that at a recent business manager's meeting they discussed the Pennsylvania School Employees Retirement System. He stated that at the end of the second quarter, June 30, 2008, the pension fund had been rated a -2.82% return. He stated that there is a potential for a 190% increase of the school district contributions in the year 2011-2012. For the 2008-2009 school year, Northern Lehigh budgeted the projected contribution rate of 7.2% but actually is only 4.76%. The current projection for the 2009-2010 school year is to again budget the 7.2%. Projections for 2012-2013 school year are currently a contribution rate of 15.5%. Under a new reform plan, this rate could be dropped to 8%.

a Mr. Melber talked about bond swapping happening at Bethlehem Area School District. He assured the Board that Northern Lehigh's bonds are not subject to bond swapping and are at 5% fixed rate.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Michael W. Michaels

Mr. Michaels stated that at Wednesday's Technology Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting Provident Energy will be doing a presentation on deregulation of energy.

Mr. Michaels stated that he met recently at the high school with the class officers and student council officers. He also had an opportunity to meet with the Kindergarten teachers at Peters and next week he will be meeting with the 1st and 2nd grade teachers. Earlier today he met with Slatington Elementary school teachers at their faculty meeting. A few weeks ago he attended an Education Foundation meeting and last Saturday he attended a community event called The Gathering.

Mr. Hartman stated that the board was in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

PERSONNEL Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

Appointments- Instructional	Christopher Jones Assignment: Salary: Effective Date:	Temporary Professional Employee High School Math Teacher, replacing Abby Bloss who resigned \$40,900 (Step 3 Bachelors on the 2008-2009 CBA Salary Schedule) Upon Release From Current School District
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Non- Instructional	Gail Miller* *** Assignment: Salary: Effective Date:	Special Education Aide at Peters Elementary, replacing Tina Williams who resigned \$9.88** Per Hour/6½ Hrs. Per Day/5 Days Per Week (2005-2008 Educational Support Staff Memorandum of Understanding) Upon Release from Current Employer
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***Upon Verification of Clearances**
****Last year's rates will apply until a new Education Support Staff Memorandum of Understanding is approved.**
*****60 day probationary period ending on or about December 5, 2008**

Resignation/ Retirement	Accept the resignation of Sherry Hoppes from her position as Middle School Personal Care Assistant effective immediately.
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Accept the resignation of Susan A. Dorshimer from her position as Guidance Counselor Secretary at the High School, effective October 3, 2008. At this time she will begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after 22 years of service.

Co-Curricular Appointments 2008-2009	Dawn Wehr Melissa Newhard* Jeremy Battista *Pending Verification of Clearances	High School Student Council Advisor Majorette/Band Advisor ACE Advisor	\$1,986.67 \$1,986.67 \$ 418.14
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Co-Curricular Volunteers 2008-2009	Kyle Follweiler * Gary Andrews	Assistant Baseball Coach Assistant Baseball Coach
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A. Kern Web Page Stipend	Approve a stipend in the amount of \$2,000 for Mr. Andrew Kern for the creation of the new High School website. Stipend to be funded by the Project 720 grant under the initiative of "Increased and Improved School/Parent/Community Communications".
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A. Kern of Stipend webpage Web Page contact Maintenance daily basis the School/Parent/Community	Approve a stipend in the amount of \$500 for Mr. Andrew Kern for the additional maintenance the High School website and for working with students who have a career interest in design and maintenance during the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Kern has constant with teachers, secretaries, and administrators in an effort to update the website on a with the latest information, handouts, and scheduled events. Stipend to be funded by the Project 720 fund under the initiative of "Increased and Improved Communications".
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Salary Adjustments	Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the 2008-2009 school year:
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Marshelle George	From: Step 4B To: Step 4B+24
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Unpaid Leave of	Approve the request of Kathy Showak, Slatington Elementary Special Education Aide, to take an unpaid medical leave beginning September 5, 2008. Mrs. Showak needed this unpaid
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Absence medical leave to care for a sick family member. She has since returned to work effective September 19, 2008.

PERSONNEL

(cont.)

Substitute Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Stephen Shuey – Art
 Peggy Gallagher - Elementary
 Denise Plotsko - Elementary
 Richard Snell – Social Studies
 Joseph Reiter* – Math & Music
 Scott Woodring* - Math & Social Studies
***Pending Verification of Clearances**

Non-Instructional Cafeteria Approve the following individual as a substitute cafeteria worker for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Judy Hoffman
 Colleen Egan

Aide/Secretary Approve the following individual as a substitute aide and/or secretaries for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Judy Hoffman
 Colleen Egan

Custodian Approve the following individual as a substitute custodian for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Richard Nichol

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

CONFERENCE

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of

approves the following conference items:

Laurie Newman-Mankos – Eastern PA Special Education Administrator’s Conference – October 22-24, 2008 – Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA –Lodging: \$420.00, Travel: \$96.53 – Total Approximate Cost: \$516.53 – Funding: Director of Special Education Budget

\$225.00, School Dawn Wadsworth – 2008 ASPP Conference – Resilience and the Role of the School Psychologist – October 15-16, 2008 – Ramada Inn, State College, PA – Registration: Travel: \$171.00, Meals: \$60.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$456.00 – Funding: Psychologist Budget

Hotel Stephen Drake – 2008 TEAP Conference – November 6-7, 2008 – Radisson Penn Harris & Conference Center, Camp Hill, PA – Registration: \$60.00, Travel: \$56.00, Lodging: \$110.16, Meals: \$53.84 – Total Approximate Cost: \$280.00 – Funding: High School Curriculum and Instruction Budget

Convention \$295.00, Cost: \$2,345.00 – Aileen Yadush – 2008 National Association of Secondary School Principals Annual & Exposition – February 25 – March 1, 2009 – San Diego, CA – Registration: Lodging: \$1,300.00, Travel: \$550.00, Meals: \$200.00 – Total Approximate Funding: Project 720 Grant

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)
 NAY: None (0)

POLICY
 Education

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

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy #140 – Programs – Charter Schools, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #206 – Pupils – Assignment Within District, as presented after first reading.

presented Approve school board policy #216.1 – Pupils – Supplemental Discipline Records, as after first reading.

Approve school board policy #615 – Finances – Payroll Deductions, as presented after first reading.

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

Slatington Elementary Guitar Club Approve the request of the Slatington Elementary administration to create a Guitar Club in the Slatington Elementary School. This club will provide students with the opportunity to learn basic guitar and musical skills, experience ensemble playing, and share a common interest/hobby with fellow classmates. The club will meet on Day 5 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be no cost to the district to conduct this club.

Field Trip Gifted Support Students – Slatington Elementary School Grades 5 & 6 – PA Renaissance Faire – October 8, 2008 – Funded by CLIU #21

Team South East – Middle School – Ellis Island, New York – April 22, 2009 – Funded through student fundraising efforts

Team North – Middle School – Historic Area of Philadelphia – May 27, 2009 – Funded through student fundraising efforts

Team West – Middle School – Adventure Aquarium Camden, NJ – May 28, 2009 – Funded through student fundraising efforts

Biology I Class – High School – Philadelphia Zoological Gardens – November 4, 2008 – Funded by students and district budget

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)
 NAY: None (0)

Board Policy Education Second Reading Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve school board policy #006.1 – Local Board Procedures – Use of Teleconferencing, as amended after second reading.

There was discussion among board members about the number of times that any board member can use the teleconferencing in a year's time. Mr. Dengler and Mr. Hartman wanted to put a limit on Board members only being allowed to use the teleconferencing twice in a year's time. Mr. Hartman stated that he really is not in favor of the policy at all.

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams (4)
 NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Hartman (3)
 Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
Education
ULUM
AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of approves the following curriculum and instruction item:

**Induction
Program**

Approve the following teacher as helping teacher in the Northern Lehigh School District Induction Program for the 2008-2009 school year:

Helping Teacher	Inductee	Stipend
Michael Lehtonen	Christopher Jones	\$750.00

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

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

**Abatements/
Exonerations**

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on August 27, 2008 and the LCTI Director's Report for September 2008 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on September 4, 2008 was distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on August 18, 2008 was distributed.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr.
Acting Secretary

ATTEST: _____ Vice-President
Edward E. Hartman