

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

**Slatington, PA
September 8, 2003**

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, September 8, 2003 in the middle school auditorium. Public notice was given for this meeting in accordance with Act 84 of 1986.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (1) (Arrived at 7:50 p.m.)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip C. Bertolino, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 19 visitors attended the meeting in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News and Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle newspaper.

APPROVE MINUTES A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on August 4, 2003 and the regular school board meeting held on August 11, 2003 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Lehigh Career & Technical Institute – Mr. Jason M. Newhard
Mr. Newhard reported that the bids for the new addition and renovations at LCTI will be opened next week.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.

Dr. Sham introduced Ed Newcom of Secor Associates & Jim Matteo, both representing the NL Educational Foundation, to answer questions and discuss the possibility of a initiating a "Feature Wall" in the senior high school. This wall would be located directly across from the main office and would consist of campaign donors who donate money to the Educational Foundation. Each donor's name would be placed on a slate plaque and arranged in a tiled display on the wall.

After some discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education give the Northern Lehigh Educational Foundation approval to proceed with the project at the senior high school, with the final design to be brought back to the board.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**STUDENT
REP. REPORT**

Ashley Kunkle gave her student representative report for the month of September.

The 3rd Day Enrollment Report for 2003-2004 was distributed. Dr. Sham gave a reconfiguration cost of programs comparison for the 2004-2005 school year PowerPoint presentation. He fielded questions from Donna Kulp, Jane (from Washington Township), Patrice Arnold, Betsy Vasquez, Sharon Karpiszin, Edie Fella, Linda Thompson and Shelly Dotta.

Dr. Sham reminded all in attendance that the October 6 board meeting would be held at the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute in Schnecksville.

Executive
Session

An Executive Session was held, for personnel issues, in the middle school main office conference room beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Personnel:

Resignations
Non-
Instructional

Accept the resignation of Patricia Rabenold from her position as special education aide in the middle school, effective August 27, 2003.

Accept the resignation of Susan Bilheimer, from her position as cook's helper in the Slatington Elementary cafeteria, effective September 5, 2003.

Substitutes
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2003-2004 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Lisa Schael – Chemistry & General Science (Retroactive to 9-2-03)
Kathryn Dyslin – Elementary/Early Childhood

Leave Without
Pay

Approve the request of Jon Prive to take a one-day leave, without pay, on November 14, 2003. He plans to use this day in conjunction with four personal days on November 10, 11, 12 and 13. His request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Supplemental
Personnel
Salary
Schedule

Approve the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule for the 2003-2004 school year, as presented. (See Attachment)

ESL Teacher
On Secondary
Level

Approve to authorize the administration to advertise and hire an English As A Second Language teacher for the secondary level for the 2003-2004 school year.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

POLICY

A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following policy items:

Mrs. Geronikos-
Voting Delegate
At PSBA School
Leadership
Conference

Approve to appoint Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos as the voting delegate to participate in the 2004 Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Policy Council to be held during the School Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA on October 23, 2003. Delegates will debate and vote on items to be included in the association's 2004 Legislative Platform. The platform that is adopted will reflect the majority of those school boards present and

voting at the meeting.

POLICY (Con't.)

Conferences Approve the request of Robert Cox to attend the PSAS-PSBA School Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA from October 21-24, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$265.00 for registration, \$85.00 for meals, for a total cost of \$351.00.

Approve the request of Lori Geronikos to attend the PSAS-PSBA School Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA on October 23, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$159.00.

Approve the request of Roxanne Sagala to attend a SAP Training conference sponsored by Project Care from November 11-14, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration and will be paid for through Drug Free Schools funds.

Non-Resident Students Approve the request of a middle school student and two Peters Elementary School students, whose parents are moving into the district on or about September 30, 2003, to attend school in accordance with School Board Policy #202.

Approve the request of two Peters Elementary School students, whose parents are moving into the district on or about October 31, 2003, to attend school in accordance with School Board Policy #202.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS

Proceed With Reconfiguration Of Elementary Schools For 2004-2005

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve to authorize the administration to proceed with the reconfiguration of the elementary schools, utilizing the Slatington Elementary School as a K-3 building and the Peters Elementary School as a 4-5-6 building.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Escott, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Fedorcha (5)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles (4)

Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education officially hire the names of the summer employees who worked during the summer of 2003 at a salary of \$5.50 for returning workers and \$5.25 for first year workers: Justin Amsden, Stephen Andrew, Dale Beck, Michael Bet, Johnathan Green, Elijah Steinbrecher, Tony Tulio, Kiel Unangst, James Williams, Ryan Hlushak and Alternates Dustin Beck and Patrick Guss.

Dr. Sham indicated that the Board did previously give the administration permission to hire 10 regular summer employees and 2 alternates at the April 14, 2003 board meeting pending approval of the 2003-2004 budget. Mr. Green stated that the administration hired the above individuals in the same manner they had in previous years. Dr. Sham concurred.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Merit Increases For 2003-2004 School

A motion was made by Mrs. Giles, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education reopen the request for merit increases for the Act 93 Administrators and approve merit increases for school administrators, as recommended by the Superintendent, for the 2003-2004 school year,

Year For Act 93 Administrators Reopened to concur with the current Act 93 Administrative Compensation Plan. These increases will be retroactive to July 1, 2003.

Year For Act 93 Administrators Reopened

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox (5)
 NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Dorshimer (3)
 ABSTAIN: Mr. Fedorcha (1) (Conflict of Interest)

OLD

BUSINESS ((Con't.))

2% Salary Increase For Paul Horner 2003-2004 A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve a 2% increase for Mr. Paul Horner, Food Services Manager, for the 2003-2004 school year.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard (2)
 NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

Motion failed.

Mr. Green indicated that he would like to reserve the right to ask questions and discuss other things based on third day enrollment at a future board meeting.

Mr. Green also requested some information on hiring practices, asking if the administration could tell him that, if all the people we hired this year would have been hired at Step 1 Bachelors, as opposed to where they were hired, how much money would the district save over the next sixteen years. He indicated that the administration should presuppose a 3% annual salary increase and presuppose that the individual is hired at Step 1 Bachelors, spends four years on the Bachelors scale, then moves to Bachelors +24, then moves to Masters and remains on Masters for the duration of their career. This should be done for anyone who was hired at anything but Step 1 Bachelors for the 2003-2004 school year. He asked the administration to include the benefits as well in this presupposed report.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Treasurer's Report Approve the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Cox, for the month of August 2003, as presented.

Reports (Info Only) All Board members received the August 2003 Expenditure Reports and Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve Fund.

General Fund Bills Approve payment of General Fund bills, as presented, for the month of August 2003.

Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account for the month of August 2003.

Extended Construction Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account for the month of August 2003.

NL Athletic Fund Financial Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Athletic Fund financial report for the month of August 2003.

NL Sports Account Financial Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Sports Account financial report for month ended August 31, 2003.

Gigabit Ethernet Upgrade Project Approve the purchase Gigabit Ethernet switches, Media Dependent Adapters, Gigabit Ethernet Converters, Engineering and Installation Services, and Maintenance for \$101,076.20 from Corporate Networking, Inc. of Worcester, PA as part of the Gigabit Ethernet Upgrade Project as presented at the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.

IP Video Conferencing Equipment Approve the purchase of IP video Conferencing equipment from RPC Video Inc. of Middletown, PA for \$2527.00 as part of the Gigabit Ethernet Upgrade Project. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.

FINANCIAL (Con't.)

Fiber Optic Cables Approve the purchase of Fiber Optic Patch Cables from CDW-G Inc. of Vernon Hills, IL for Patch \$380.88 (PEPPM bid list) as part of the Gigabit Ethernet Upgrade Project. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.

Relay Rack Approve the purchase of a 19" Relay Rack from Communication Supply Corporation of Harrisburg for \$225.00 (PEPPM bid list) as part of the Gigabit Ethernet Upgrade Project. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Increase Student Lunches A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approve to adjust the price of student school lunches for the 2003-2004 school year, effective October 1, 2003, as follows:

Secondary Student Lunches: From \$1.50 to \$1.55

Elementary Student Lunches: From \$1.45 to \$1.50

Table Increase For Student Lunches A motion was made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education table the recommendation to increase the student lunches until the administration takes a look at what the district's cafeteria budget is before we increase student lunches, possibly the district can absorb the milk increase.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (3)

Motion carried.

**INFORM-
ATION**

All Board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on August 7, 2003.

PEMA Reimbursement (Info Only) Northern Lehigh School District received a check in the amount of \$2,488.98 from PEMA for the Presidents' Day Snowstorm of 2003. This represents 78% of the costs expended by the district for equipment usage, overtime, and materials used for snow removal.

Before adjourning the meeting, Mr. Cox asked to readdress Mr. Green's request for information presupposing salaries of staff hired beyond Step 1 Bachelors. He indicated that the board needs to discuss their hiring philosophy in more detail.

**RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS**

Jane Kropf – Slatington – Addressed a bussing incident involving her daughter.

Kevin Brown – Washington Township -- Clarification on the amount of time his daughter is spending on the bus.

ADJOURN-
MENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Ganser, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos,
Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha