

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**Slatington, PA  
November 3, 2003**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the Vice President, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, at 7:42 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2003 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles (7)

Members absent: Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (2)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

**VISITORS** Approximately seven visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Mr. Dorshimer talked about the Governor's Schools of Excellence banquet held at Parkland High School. He indicated he was disappointed that no one from Northern Lehigh was at the banquet. He asked the administration to urge students from our district to apply for this outstanding opportunity next year.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve to accept the minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on October 20, 2003 and the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on October 27, 2003.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)  
NAY: None (0)

Student Representatives To The Board Report – Ashley Kunkle distributed a written report and reviewed it with the board.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp

Attorney Stopp discussed two court cases that dealt with Construction Projects and one additional case which dealt with Veterans Preference.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos reported on the Pennsylvania School Boards Association legislative conference that she attended in Hershey.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Curriculum and Instruction report and highlighted its contents.

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

1. Dr. Sham called on Brian Geiger to discuss the construction situation with regard to the General Morgan Bridge in Slatington. Brian also reported on the results of the Environmental Air Quality Study at Peters Elementary School.
2. Dr. Sham distributed the Reconfiguration Transition Committee Meeting minutes from the October 28 meeting which contained the timeline and assignments for the process.
3. He congratulated the 2003 high school football team on their incredible 12-0 season and he wished them luck on their future games.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(Con't.)**

4. He announced that the addition to our senior high school was pictured in a national architectural magazine with a caption under the picture – “Simple Elegance”.
5. He talked about the predicted growth in our district as indicated in the “draft” of the Joint Comprehensive Plan for the Northern Region of Lehigh County. This information was based on the latest information by the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. There is significant growth predicted for Washington Township in the publication. When the final document is received it will be available to anyone on the board who would be interested in seeing it.

Executive Session      An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting for personnel issues.

**PERSONNEL**      Mrs. Giles made a motion, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Personnel:

Amend Motion      Mr. Green made a motion, with a second made by Mr. Cox, to remove personnel addendum items III A. b. and G. for further determination.

Vote On              YEA:    Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)  
Amendment          NAY:    None (0)

Appointment      Grace Reppert\*  
Non-                  Assignment:              New Position – Peters Elementary School  
Instructional        Special Education Life Skills Aide  
Salary:                \$8.90 Per Hour/3 Hours Per Day In The PM/5 Days Per Week - IDEA Funded  
Effective Date:      November 4, 2003

Kay Rau              Temporary Vacancy Replacement  
Assignment:          Administrative Secretary – Support Services Office  
Replacing Debra Bealer who was granted a child rearing leave.  
Salary:                \$28,439.00 (Pro-Rated)  
Effective Date:      On or about November 24, 2003  
Termination Date:    April 30, 2004

Margaret Butz\*  
Assignment:          Lunchroom Aide – Senior High School replacing Shirley Beil, who resigned.  
Salary:                \$8.90 Per Hour/3 Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week  
Effective Date:      October 28, 2003  
\*60-Day Probationary Period

Resignations      Accept the resignation of Christopher Iacobelli from his position as Elementary Principal in the Slatington Elementary School, effective October 28, 2003.

Accept the resignation of Brenda Cermak from her position as study hall monitor in the senior high, effective at the end of the day on November 7, 2003.

Accept the resignation of Phillip Otto from his position of fifth grade instructional aide in the Slatington Elementary School, effective the end of the day on November 12, 2003.

Unpaid              Approve the following individuals as unpaid volunteer aides in the Peters Elementary School for the 2003-  
Volunteer Aides    2004 school year: \*Indicates New Volunteers Pending Verification of Clearances

Lisa Cayne\*  
Theresa Corcoran\*  
Colleen Heller\*  
Kathryn Miller\*  
Teresa Pohlmann\*

**PERSONNEL**

(Con't.) Regina Raubenhold\*  
 Kim Rex\*  
 Starlotte Ybanez\*  
 Evelyn Barone  
 Maria Beltz  
 Lori Bevans  
 Sharon Boyesen  
 Katherine Danish  
 Ruth Davies  
 Mary-Beth Fatzinger  
 Melissa Fliszar  
 Ann Stoss

Co-Curricular Appointment For 2003-2004  
 SADD Advisor – Sandra Michalik -- \$505.00

Vote On Main Motion ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (6)  
 NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion carried.

**POLICY**

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

Conferences

Approve the request of Karen Nicholas to attend a Fourth Annual School Leadership Conference at Lehigh University on November 21, 2003. Expenses include \$125.00 and were included in the 2003-2004 budget.

Approve the request of Robert Hicks to attend the Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania annual conference from November 6 & 7, 2003 in Camp Hill, PA. Expenses for this conference include \$35.00 for registration, \$60.00 for travel, \$60.00 for meals, \$51.84 for lodging for a total cost of \$206.84 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and will be paid for through Title IID funds.

Approve the request of Earl Snyder to attend a Pesticide Short Course conference at Penn State Cooperative Extension on December 4, 5, and 9, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$145.00 for registration, \$40.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$185.00 and will be paid for through the buildings and grounds department budget.

Approve the request of Dr. Linda Marcincin to attend a CLIU 21 conference on November 13, 2003 January 13, 21, 27 and February 3, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$200.00 for registration and will be paid for through Title IID funds.

Approve the request of Kristin Helfrich to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference on November 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for each day and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Board Policy  
 Second Reading

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #906 – Public Complaints, as presented after second reading.

Approve to replace existing school board policy #324 – Personnel Files, with PSBA recommended policy #324, as presented after second reading.

Approve to replace existing school board policy #424 – Personnel Files, with PSBA recommended policy #424, as presented after second reading.

Approve to replace existing school board policy #524 – Personnel Files, with PSBA recommended policy #524, as presented after second reading.

**POLICY**

(Con't.)

Approve to replace existing school board policy #404 – Employment of Professional Employees, with PSBA

recommended policy #404, as presented after second reading.

Approve to replace existing school board policy #504 – Employment of Classified Employees, with PSBA recommended policy #504, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #202 – Attendance of Non-Resident Students, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #127 – Assessment of Educational Program, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #213 – Assessment of Student Progress, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #807 – Opening Exercises/Flag Displays, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy #251 – Homeless Students, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy #919 – District/School Report Cards, as presented after second reading.

Policy  
First Reading

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #235 – Student Rights/Responsibilities, as presented after first reading.

Approve revisions to existing policy #707 – Use of School Facilities and Equipment, as presented after first reading.

Approve to adopt new school board policy #912.1 – Research Involving District Students, Faculty, and Staff, as presented after first reading.

Approve to adopt new school board policy #918 – Title I Parent Involvement, as presented after first reading.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-  
ULUM AND  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

Mrs. Escott made a motion, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of the administration to add a new course, entitled Child Development -- The Elementary Years to the senior high school curriculum for the 2004-2005 school year.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

PC  
Abatements

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

Construction  
Account Bills

Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account, as presented.

**FINANCIAL**

(Con't.)

Extended

Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented.

Construction  
Bills

Capital Reserve #1 Bills Approve payment of bills from the Capital Reserve #1 Account, as presented.

Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrange Cash Management Portfolio for the month of September 2003.

Refund of Real Estate Tax Approve the following 2003-04 real estate tax refunds due to duplicate payment:

1. Commonwell Abstract (mortgage company) o.b.o. owner Albert Meckes for Bill #504 (Walnutport) -- \$ 1,618.62
2. Daniel and Jeanette Berta for parcel #556120069156 (Washington Township) \$4,034.11.

Budgetary Transfers Approve 2002-03 budget transfers which are necessary after completion of the local audit and for GASB-34 compliance. (See Attached)

Contract With Simplex-Grinnell Approve a 3-year contract with SimplexGrinnell for fire alarm system testing and inspection. The total cost for 2003-04 shall be \$4,559.40 and will include all four buildings; the total cost for 2004-05 shall be \$1,971.20 for the middle and high schools; the total cost for 2005-06 shall be \$2,081.60 for the Peters and Slatington Elementary Schools.

Lease To Purchase Computers Approve to enter into a three year lease to purchase 50 computers from NCS Technologies at a price of \$749.00 per unit to replace the out-of-date Apple PowerPCs in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 at Slatington and Peters Elementary Schools. The lease payments will be approximately \$16,276.00 per year. These computers will be purchased to transition grades 3-6 to a PC platform as part of the reconfiguration of the elementary schools.

Public Comment Donna Kulp – Washington Township – What does lease purchase mean?

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)  
NAY: None (0)

**LEGAL**  
Municipal Rate For Legal Services Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approve to adjust the municipal rate for legal services conducted above and beyond the retainer fee through Steckel & Stopp Law Offices from \$88.00 per hour to \$90.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2004.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)  
NAY: None (0)

**CORRESPONDENCE** All board members received a copy of the following minutes:

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on September 15, 2003.

Minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on September 9, 2003.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on September 24, 2003.

**INFORMA-  
TION**

Notification has been received from the PA Department of Education of their approval of PlanCon Part J: Project Accounting Based on Final Costs for additions and partial alterations of the high school. Copies of this document and appended materials will be entered into the official minutes of this meeting. (See Attached)

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green (7)  
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ Vice-President  
Lori H. Geronikos