

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
January 8, 2001

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha at 8:00 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2001 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: 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, Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (8)

Members absent: Mr. Robert J. Cox (arrived at 8:25 p.m.)

Non-members present: Dr. Kenneth Koberlein, Dr. Nicholas Sham, Dr. Brian Gessner, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Pamela Grammes, Ms. Lisa Vaughan, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 11 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Lehigh Career and Technical Institute -- Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler
Mrs. Sechler gave a brief report on the 1999-2000 LCTI audit.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer gave his report for the month highlighting several items which were a part of the CLIU December meeting.

Solicitor's Report -- Attorney Charles Stopp
Attorney Stopp reported that the legislature made a little change in the Power of Attorney statute where it is now possible for parents to provide a medical proxy to another adult for their child when non-emergency medical treatment is appropriate. He will be supplying the Superintendent with a written report on this issue for referral to the Policy/Education Committee.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos gave a report on Senate Bill 1403 now Act 91 of 2000; House Bill 1416 (Act 93), Senate Bill 769, now Act 105 of 2000; House Bill 2498, now Act 119 of 2000; House Bill 2189. She also updated the board with regard to recent federal news.

Federal and Other Programs Update -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham
Dr. Sham distributed a Curriculum Update for January and highlighted several items in his report. He introduced Mrs. Cathy Groller who made a presentation on behalf of the Northern Lehigh Educational Foundation.

Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Kenneth G. Koberlein

1. Dr. Koberlein read a Proclamation in honor of Pennsylvania School Boards Association "January School Board Member Recognition Month". Each board member received a certificate of appreciation.
2. He announced that the February 7 Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting will be moved to January 29, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom.
3. The Audit Report for fiscal year ending June 2000 was distributed.
4. He gave special thanks to the community, school staff and school board for providing him with the opportunity to serve the district.

Executive Session An Executive Session was held for personnel following the meeting.

PERSONNEL Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Personnel:

Appointments Kelly L. Kromer Temporary Vacancy Replacement Teacher
Assignment: Grade 3 – Slatington Elementary School
Replacing Kori Dibilio who has been granted an unpaid leave.
Salary: \$35,200.00 (prorated) (Appendix A – Step 1 Bachelors on the 2000
2001 CBA Salary Schedule)
Effective Date: On or about February 12, 2001
Termination Date: On or about June 13, 2001

Substitutes- Instructional Employ the following substitute teachers for the 2000-2001 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:

Amanda Glassic – Effective December 18, 2000 –Elementary Education/ Mentally &/or Physically Handicapped
Joseph Tout – Social Studies
Lynn Haab – Elementary K-6

Non-Instructional Employ the following substitute cafeteria worker for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute cafeteria rate of \$6.25 per hour:

Kathleen Peters – Effective December 15, 2000

Sub Sr. High Administrative Detention Monitor Appoint Roxanne Sagala, as a substitute senior high administrative detention supervisor. She will work two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the 2000-2001 school calendar year as needed. Salary will be \$15.00 for each day worked.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

POLICY Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conferences Approve the request of Rhonda Frantz to attend a “Notary Public Training” seminar in Allentown on January 26, 2001. Expenses include \$139.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$10.00 for travel for a total cost of \$159.00.

Approve the request of Michele Dotta to attend an Appelbaum Training Institute seminar entitled “Succeeding with Angry Students – Tools for Anger, Aggression, & Oppositional Defiant Disorder” in Allentown on February 27, 2001. Expenses include \$139.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$6.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$155.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Sandra Hopkins to attend an Appelbaum Training Institute seminar entitled “Succeeding with Angry Students – Tools for Anger, Aggression, & Oppositional Defiant Disorder” in Allentown on February 27, 2001. Expenses include \$139.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher and has been approved by the district’s Continuing Professional Education Committee.

POLICY (Con’t.) Approve the request of Julie Everett to attend a Bureau of Education and Research conference in Allentown on February 7, 2001. Expenses include \$169.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute

teacher for one day and has been approved by the district's Continuing Professional Education Committee.

Approve the request of Lori Geronikos and Jane Escott to attend the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Leadership Conference in Hershey on January 26 & 27, 2001. Expenses include \$150.00 each for registration, \$99.36 for lodging, 40.00 for meals, \$48.00 for travel for a total cost of \$487.36.

Continue
German
Exchange

Approve the request of Victoria Burse, German teacher in the senior high school and Rose Timbrell, German Exchange Club Advisor, to continue the Student Exchange Program between interested students from the Northern Lehigh School District and the Eduard Spranger Gymnasium in Program Landau, Germany. Interested students will depart for Germany on June 8 or 9, 2001 and return to the USA on June 30, 2001. Trip participants will be responsible for all expenses; however, they do request liability insurance coverage for the entire group as in the past. The district will also be responsible for substitute coverage for Ms. Burse if it is needed.

High School
Student
Activities
Account

Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Account Statement for November 2000.

Junior High
School Student
Activities Acct.

Approve the Northern Lehigh Junior High School Student Activities Account Statement for November 2000.

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

NAY: None (0)

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education approve Michelle Raber-Gass and Karen M. Kern to serve as community representatives for the Northern Lehigh School District Continuing Professional Education Plan Committee.

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Cox indicated that the Board has many educational issues to discuss and a budget that needs to be prepared without a business manager on staff. He would like to spend some time under new business to discuss some of these issues.

Mr. Newhard addressed the issue of the district not having an appointed Superintendent, only an Acting Superintendent. He felt that the Board and school district does not need to go through a long search for a new Superintendent and that to do so would be detrimental to the district at the present time under the present circumstances.

Appoint Dr.
Nicholas Sham
As Permanent
Superintendent

Mr. Newhard made a motion, with a second to his motion made by Mr. Cox, that the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors appoint Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr. as the permanent Superintendent of the Northern Lehigh School District.

After some discussion, Attorney Stopp informed the Board that the School Code requires that when there is a vacancy the school board must set an appointed hour for the consideration of appointing a Superintendent and that the secretary shall give at least five days notice to the school board. In light of this, the motion was ruled out of order by President Fedorcha.

**NEW
BUSINESS
(Con't.)**

Annette Farber – Slatington – Felt the board should not rush into this action. She asked if there were no other individuals in the district who would be qualified to be Superintendent of Schools. By allowing a search it would afford those individuals the opportunity to apply for the position of Superintendent.

Public
Comment

Earl Snyder – Walnutport – As President of the Northern Lehigh Educational Support Personnel Association, who has worked in this district for 21 years, he supports the appointment of Dr. Sham as Superintendent “The district knows what they have with Dr. Sham who is a qualified individual who has put his heart into Northern Lehigh School District”. “The district does not need to go through a search when the district has a qualified individual on staff, promote within the district”.

Cathy Groller – senior high school teacher – She has had an opportunity to work with Dr. Sham – his heart is in the district and she feels the district would have a bonus hiring someone who is familiar with the district.

As Mrs. Sechler reviewed the recent Pennsylvania School Boards Association Information Legislative Services publication one of the things that was addressed was that there is finally an act that has opened the door for school districts to apply for a waiver for some of the mandates. She photocopied information she obtained from the web site listed in the publication and requested the Finance Committee look at this information as the budget is developed.

FINANCIAL

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Amend Motion

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education amend the motion and remove Item A – Abatements from the motion.

Vote On
Amended
Motion

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Walnutport
Real Estate
Tax Payment
December 2000

Approve a refund for overpayment of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes for the property owners as listed for the month of December 2000.

Cash Manage-
Summary

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of October ment 2000.

Refund of Per
Capita Taxes

Approve the refund of the following 2000-2001 per capita taxes. These taxes were paid in duplicate.

1. Marcie Rosen
313 on, PA 18080 \$11.00
2. Jane Green
251 Main St., Apt. #2, Slatington, PA 18080 \$11.00

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Abatements

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve abatement of per capita taxes for the resident(s) that fall within the guidelines.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSTAIN: Mr. Dorshimer (1) Relative on List

**INFORM-
ATION**

All Board members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on November 20, 2000.

All Board members received copies of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 7, 2000.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Carl Andreas – What is the smoking policy on school property. He said he sees many cigarette butts all around the property.

Art George – Youth Soccer Program Representative – Wanted to know if the Board had any questions from the information he distributed to them at their last meeting. They are willing to work with the Board on this issue. Mr. Dorshimer invited them to attend the Finance Committee meetings.

Earl Snyder – President of Northern Lehigh Educational Support Personnel Association informed the Board that after Saturday representatives from the support personnel association would be willing to set up a time to meet and discuss with representatives of the school board.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President)
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha