

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
April 2, 2001

- PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the Vice-President, Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, at 8:10 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2001 in the gymnasium of the Peters 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., Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler (6)
- Members absent: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (3)
- Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Dr. Brian Gessner, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Lisa Vaughan, Mrs. Doneta Merkle
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Art George – Financial - Item I – Wants to comment on proposed renovations to Athletic Stadium Complex.
Allan Boyer – Curriculum and Instruction – Wants to comment on Title I situation at Peters Elementary School.
- VISITORS** Approximately 85 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's report included the following topics: High Schools That Work Assist Visit, Job Fair 2001, House Project, and LCTI Preliminary Budget for 2001-2002.
- Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer gave his report highlighting items from the CLIU Board Brief, which was distributed to all board members.
- Committee Reports and/or Meetings The Policy/Education Committee meeting scheduled for April 2, 2001 was CANCELLED.
- All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on March 26, 2001 and the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee meeting held on March 21, 2001.
- Solicitor's Report Attorney Stopp reported on a recent case dealing with school bus stops and the establishment of school bus stops which reestablished the proposition that the school district has full discretion in establishing school bus stops.
- Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos reported on the Lehigh County Spring Legislative meeting held at the Parkland High School. She also reported on General Assembly deliberations on the 2001-2002 proposed state budget and various other legislative issues.
- Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
Dr. Sham's report included the following:
1. Peters Elementary Showcase:
 1. Mrs. Peggy Gallagher/Mrs. Marilyn Steckel Presented Differentiated Instruction
 2. Mrs. Donna Marushak & Tech Team Presented The iLab
 3. Ms. Janet McKelvey & Fourth Grade Students Presented Projects
 2. Dr. Sham presented an Appreciation Award to Dr. Kenneth G. Koberlein, former Superintendent.
 3. Mrs. Cathy Groller and Mrs. Ellen Sutjack, representing the Educational Foundation, presented invitations to all board members inviting them as their honored guests to the Foundation's Charter Support Dinner scheduled for April 21, 2001.
 4. Mr. Donald Snyder, Lehigh Carbon Community College President, gave a budget presentation to the board.

5. Brian Geiger gave an update on the Peters HVAC Claim.
6. Dr. Sham discussed information he received with regard to the Issuance of General Obligation Bond Series A 2001.
7. Over the next year, the administration will be committed to conducting a grade configuration study of the ramifications of a K-3, 4-5-6 elementary structure.

Executive
Work
Sessions

An executive session for personnel reasons was held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Peters Elementary School faculty room.

Vice-President Sechler called for an Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. The Board reconvened at 10:40 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Giles that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Resignation

Accept the resignation of Lori Vernon, Special Education Aide in the Slatington Elementary School, effective March 30, 2001.

Compensated
Professional
Leave - Lora
Krum

Approve the request of Lora Krum, elementary music teacher, to take a Compensated Professional Leave of Absence for both semesters of the 2001-2002 school year. A detailed plan describing the professional development activities she plans to pursue is attached.

Substitutes
Instructional

Employ the following substitute teacher 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:

Cynthia Schleicher Smith – Elementary

Non-
Instructional

Approve the following substitute custodian at the 2000-2001 substitute rate of \$6.25 per hour:

Franklin C. Zamadics

Unpaid
Volunteer
Coaches

Approve the appointment of the following individuals as volunteer coaches for the 2001-2002 boys' basketball season:

1. Peter V. Reese – Pending Verification of Clearances
2. Robert Hughes – Clearances Already On File

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)

NAY: None (0)

Appoint Lynne
Fedorcha As
Administrative
Assistant

Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that effective April 3, 2001, the Board of Education appoint Lynne Fedorcha to the position of Administrative Assistant for the Northern Lehigh School District at a salary of \$75,000. She will be a member of the Act 93 Administrative Group. It is further recommended that, upon completion of her K-12 Curriculum Supervisory Certification, Mrs. Fedorcha will become the Director of Curriculum with a salary adjustment to be determined by the Board of Education.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (5)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion carried. For the record, Mr. Dorshimer voted in the negative because of the position, not the individual recommended for the position.

POLICY
Conferences

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

Approve the request of Jane Englert to attend the Pennsylvania School Librarian Association conference in Hershey, PA from April 26-29, 2001. Expenses include \$140.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$49.80 for travel, \$122.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$321.80 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days. This request was included in the 2000-2001 senior high school budget.

Approve the request of Catherine Farole and Beth Case to attend a Bureau of Education and Research conference in Allentown on April 24, 2001. Expenses include \$169.00 each for registration, \$7.50 for travel for a total cost of \$345.50 plus the cost of two substitute teachers for the day and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Laurie Newman to attend an "Education Law" conference at Lehigh University on May 11, 2001. Expenses include \$110.00 for registration and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Laurie Newman to attend a "Special Education Law" seminar at Lehigh University from June 24-29, 2001. Expenses include \$790.00 for registration and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Stephen Drake to attend a CompuMaster conference entitled "Web Site Development and Design" on May 16, 2001 in Allentown. Expenses include \$199.00 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 Karen Nicholas to attend a conference entitled "Special Education Law: Exploring the Legal Boundaries" at Lehigh University on May 11, 2001. Expenses include \$110.00 for registration and were included in the 2000-2001 Peters Elementary budget.

Extend Homebound Instruction Homebound instruction was granted for Student No. 04-00260 on February 12, 2001 for five hours per week, effective February 20, 2001 and ending on or about April 1, 2001. It is further recommended that homebound instruction, for five hours per week, be extended for this student until April 13, 2001.

Field Trips Approved Senior High School – Biology I Students and Teachers – Philadelphia Zoo – April 26, 2001 to complete project studying vertebrates in the animal kingdom. Expenses for transportation for this trip have been included in the 2000-2001 senior high school budget. Additional expenses will be paid for by the students.

The Class of 2001 requests permission to go on a class trip to Great Adventure on June 1, 2001. Expenses, including park tickets and transportation, will be derived from participating students.

New Board Policy – 1st Reading Approve new school board policy #706.1 Disposal of Surplus Property, Obsolete Equipment, and Real Estate, as presented after first reading.

NLHS Student Activities Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Fund Statement for the month of February 2001.

POLICY **(Con't.)**

Attendance Of Non-Resident Student In accordance with School Board Policy #202, approve the request of a 12th grade student attending Northern Lehigh High School, whose parents have moved from the district, to remain in attendance for the remainder of the 2000-2001 school year.

Homebound Instruction Grant homebound instruction to an eleventh grade student, Student No. 02-95500, for five hours per week, effective April 3, 2001 and continuing until June 30, 2001.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION Mr. Allan Boyer addressed the Board with his concerns that the Title I Program will not be offered at the Peters Elementary School next year. He also offered to be a part of the Grade Configuration Task Force.

NEW BUSINESS Motion made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve David Papay as the Northern Lehigh School District representative to the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute to serve as a Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Authority member.

D. Papay-LCTI Authority

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

PC Abatements Approve abatement of per capita taxes for the resident(s) that fall within the guidelines as presented.

Walnutport Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a refund for overpayment of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes for the property owners as listed for the month of March 2001.

Portfolio Summary Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of February 2001.

Solicit Bids For Supplies Approve to authorize proper officials to solicit bids for the following supplies for the 2001-2002 school year:

General Supplies	Art Supplies
Physical Education Supplies	Lumber Supplies
Industrial Arts Supplies	

Solicit Bids For Refuse Removal Approve to authorize proper officials to solicit bids for refuse removal.

Solicit Bids For Re-Piping HVAC A Peters Elementary Approve to authorize proper officials to solicit bids for the re-piping of the HVAC System at Peters Elementary School.

Elementary

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL (Con't.)

Lehigh Carbon Community College 2001-2002 Budget Motion made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve a Resolution regarding the 2001-2002 Lehigh Carbon Community College Capital and Operating Budget. Total expenditures amount to \$20,065,511 – an increase of \$66,291 – or 0.33% over the 2000-2001 budget. Northern Lehigh's share is estimated to be \$173,855 – an increase of \$10,742 – or 6.59%.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
 NAY: None (0)

Mechanical System Balancing At Senior High
 Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve to contract with Tri-State Balancing Company to do the Mechanical System Balancing of the new and existing HVAC systems of the senior high school at a cost of \$30,800.00.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
 NAY: None (0)

Develop Proposal For Renovations To Athletic Stadium Complex
 Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to secure The Architectural Studio to develop a proposal for renovations to the athletic stadium complex.

Public Comment – Art George – Wanted to know what items were included in the proposed renovations to the athletic stadium – specifically were there any plans for a soccer field.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
 NAY: None (0)

Solicit Bids To Resurface Track At Bulldog Stadium
 Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve to authorize proper officials to solicit bids to resurface the track in Bulldog Stadium.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
 NAY: None (0)

LEGAL
 Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following legal items:

Memo Of Understanding
 Approve the Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding regarding removal of an eighth grade student from the attendance rolls and all school-related activities for the remainder of the 2000-2001 school year in accordance with School Board Policy 233: Pupils: Suspension and Expulsion.

Memo Of Understanding
 Approve the Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding regarding removal of a ninth grade student from the attendance rolls and all school-related activities for the remainder of the 2000-2001 school year in accordance with School Board Policy 233: Pupils: Suspension and Expulsion.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
 NAY: None (0)

INFORMATION
 All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on February 15, 2001.

PlanCon D Approval Received
 Notification has been received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education of their approval of PlanCon Part D, Project Accounting Based on Estimates for the Northern Lehigh Middle School. Copies of these documents and appended materials will be entered into the official minutes of this meeting.

A high school/middle school renovations project expenditure update report was distributed to all board members.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS
 Art George – NLYAA Soccer Program – What is the long range plan and the timeline for a soccer program? They have been offered some offsite areas to practice. Time is a factor in the decision making. They are willing to raise some funds to offset the costs.

Tim Nikischer – Asked the board to consider all the options available with regard to the soccer field.

Vicki Rigby – Her son has been playing soccer for five years and he wants to have the opportunity to play Northern Lehigh High School Soccer.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of Education be adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler (6)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ Vice President
Lynn C. Sechler