

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes
Slatington, PA
January 5, 2004

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2004 in the gymnasium located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Ms. Angelique M. Papay, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynn Fedorcha, Mr. Philip Bertolino, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman (arrived at 8:20 p.m.) Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Amberly Gable, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS In addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for the Times News and Terry Ahner, reporter for the Chronicle, approximately 54 visitors attended the meeting.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer made a request for board members to attend the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit New and Seasoned School Board Member Orientation on January 29, 2004 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the CLIU building in Schnecksville.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.
Mr. Green indicated that LCCC was beginning to work on their 2004-2005 budget. Preliminary numbers look like our costs might increase slightly.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on December 3, 2003 and the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on December 16, 2003.

Student Representatives To The Board Report – Ms. Amberly Gable and Ms. Ashley Kunkle distributed written reports and reported on them for the board.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos reported that we now have a State budget. We are waiting to find out the details. Spoke briefly about a Referendum Law possibly under consideration.

Business Manager, Christine Stafford informed the board that, since the State has approved a budget, she stopped the process of appointing a Bond Counsel to borrow some money for short-term cash flow.

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

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Director of Curriculum & Instruction report to the board and highlighted its contents.

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

President Green read a Resolution recognizing the 2003 Northern Lehigh High School Bulldog Football Team.

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was unanimously seconded by the remainder of the board members, that the Board of Education adopts the resolution honoring the 2003 Northern Lehigh High School Bulldog Football Team. A copy of the resolution will be placed in the district's official minute books.

SPECIAL**BOARD**
REPORTS

(Con't.)

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,
Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (9)

NAY: None (0)

On behalf of the board, Mr. Raymond Follweiler presented a copy of the resolution to his grandson, Kyle Follweiler, who was in attendance at the meeting with Coach Jim Tkach and several other members of the football team.

Dr. Sham presented Pennsylvania School Boards Association certificates to all board members in honor of -- School Board Recognition Month.

Dr. Sham announced that there would be a School Board/Administration Retreat on April 2 and 3, 2004 at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute in Schnecksville.

Dr. Sham acknowledged the fact that two Northern Lehigh High School students, Cassie Cunfer and April Greenawald, won a contest for their artwork which was included in a calendar distributed by Harleysville National Corporation.

Dr. Sham read some correspondence from the Department of Education granting the district an exception to the 180 day attendance requirement for closing school on September 19, 2003 due to Hurricane Isabelle.

Executive
Session

Dr. Sham requested permission to enter into an Executive Session, to discuss a legal issue, at 8:20 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m. An Executive Session was also held, for legal and personnel reasons, at 7:00 p.m.

President Green made a statement regarding things that had been happening with the board in recent weeks. He said that if there has been anyone in the audience or the board that he may have embarrassed as a result of those incidents, he apologized. He indicated he wanted himself and his colleagues on the board to put it behind them and move on and begin thinking about the business of the district, its pupils, its employees, and its taxpayers.

PERSONNELAppointment
Non-
Instructional

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Allison Garbe
Assignment:

One-on-One Special Education Aide
New Position – IDEA Funded
Kindergarten Classes
One Half Day AM – Slatington Elementary
One Half Day PM – Peters Elementary
6 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week

Salary:

\$8.90 Per Hour

Effective Date:

January 6, 2004 (Position will terminate when services for these students are no longer required).

Salary
Adjustment

Approve to acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle her to a salary increase for the second half of the 2003-2004 school year:

Jodi Ritter

From:	Step 4 Bachelors+24	\$37,200
To:	Step 4 Masters	\$38,600

Substitutes
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teacher 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: Martin Klesh – Mentally &/or Physically Handicapped

PERSONNEL

(Con't.)

PSSA Excel English Instructor Approve to employ Brian Pflugstl to teach an after school PSSA Excel English class. He will be compensated two hours for each session taught (one hour for preparation and one hour for teaching) at the rate of \$18.00 per hour. There will be ten sessions scheduled from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

PSSA Excel Mathematics Instructor Approve to employ Dalton Semmel to teach an after school PSSA Excel mathematics class. He will be compensated two hours for each session taught (one hour for preparation and one hour for teaching) at the rate of \$18.00 per hour. There will be ten sessions scheduled from 2:45 to 3:45 p.m.

Unpaid Volunteer Aide Approve the following individual as unpaid volunteer aide in the Peters Elementary School for the 2003-2004 school year: (Pending Verification of Clearances) Christina L. DeSanctis

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion carried.

POLICY

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conferences Approve the request of Earl Snyder to attend a Pennsylvania School Business Officials conference in Valley Forge, PA on January 14, 2004. Expenses for this conference \$175.00 for registration, \$40.00 for travel for a total cost of \$215.00 and was included in the 2003-2004 support services budget.

Approve the request of John Hrizuk to attend the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference in Hershey, PA on February 22, 23 and 24, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$175.00 for registration, \$60.00 for meals, \$238.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$473.00 and was included in the 2003-2004 technology department budget

Approve the request of Jeffrey Bachman to attend the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference in Hershey, PA on February 22, 23 and 24, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$175.00 for registration, \$60.00 for meals, \$65.00 for travel for a total cost of \$300.00 and was included in the 2003-2004 technology department budget.

Approve the request of Brian Geiger to attend the 49th Annual Conference & Exhibits sponsored by Pennsylvania School Business Officials conference in Hershey, PA on March 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$335.00 for registration, \$65.00 for travel, \$612.00 for lodging for a total of \$1012.00 and was included in the 2003-2004 support services budget.

Approve the request of Christine Stafford to attend the 49th Annual Conference & Exhibits sponsored by Pennsylvania School Business Officials conference in Hershey, PA on March 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$335.00 for registration, \$612.00 for lodging for a total of \$947.00 and was included in the 2003-2004 budget.

Approve the request of Lynne Fedorcha to attend the PA Association of Federal Program Coordinators Annual Conference in Seven Springs, PA on April 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$175.00 for registration, \$144.00 for travel, \$30.00 for meals, \$510.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$859.00 and will be paid for through Title I funds.

Approve the request of Dr. Linda Marcincin to attend the PA Association of Federal Program Coordinators Annual Conference in Seven Springs, PA on April 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$175.00 for registration, \$30.00 for meals, \$510.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$715.00 and will be paid for through Title I funds.

POLICY

(Con't.)

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,
Ms Papay, Mr. Beers, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: Mrs. Giles (1)

Motion carried.

OLD**BUSINESS**

Remove
ERIP From
Table

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves to remove from the table an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2003-2004 school year.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,
Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (9)
NAY: None (0)

Adopt ERIP
For 2003-2004
Year

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves to adopt, as presented, an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional School employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2003-2004 school year.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay,
Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox (7)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (2)

Motion carried.

Discussion Of
Reconfiguration
Of Elementary
Schools

A discussion of the reconfiguration of the district's elementary schools for 2004-2005 was conducted by the board members.

Mrs. Geronikos – Asked when did the district learn that they were going to receive the Title I waiver in the past?

Mr. Dorshimer – Indicated that reconfiguration is basically not just about the Title I program at Peters. Reconfiguration has been discussed in the district 12-14 years ago, it has also been a part of the Strategic Plan of the district. He spoke of large class sizes in the elementary schools and the need to make one elementary building for the individual grade levels. We are all one district and that is what the board needs to look at when they look at reconfiguring the elementary schools. The board has to look out for the welfare of the elementary students as well as the taxpayers.

Mrs. Ganser – Pointed out that she, Mr. Beers, and Mr. Follweiler visited both elementary schools and they were impressed with how the schools were being run the way they are.

Ms. Papay – Asked whether there was any discussion in the past about reconfiguring the elementary schools effective with the 2005-2006 school year to allow the parents and community additional time to adjust to this new structure.

Motion To
Not Recon-
figure
Elementary
Schools

Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves to not reconfigure the elementary schools beginning with the 2004-2005 school year and “put it to rest”.

Amend Motion

After some discussion by the board, Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, to amend the previous motion that if the board decides to not reconfigure the elementary schools, they make a commitment to allocate the required amount of money in the 2004-2005 budget to fund a reading program at the Peters Elementary School similar to the one the district currently has.

Public Comment Donna Kulp – Slatington – Has the district looked at an alternative source of revenue (grant) for funding the reading program at Peters? What happened to the \$90,000 that the board set aside in case the district didn't receive a waiver?

Kathryn Pradel – Slatington – She addressed the fact that the amount of disruption and the amount of cost that reconfiguration will incur is “quite a bit” and she felt that the need for reconfiguration hasn't been demonstrated by any figures that have been given nor has it been backed by valid or accurate data.

Denise Plotsko – Washington Township – She is a retired teacher in the district who doesn't understand what the fear is regarding reconfiguration and children coming to the Slatington Elementary School. Some class sizes in the Slatington Elementary School are very large and reconfiguration would help change that. She also indicated that the district has never had an administrator that cares more about the district than Dr. Sham.

Lori Vernon – Washington Township – She worked in the district in many positions and indicated she knows the difference in what children are able to do when they go to seventh grade because of the difference in the way the curriculum is presented between the Peters teachers and the Slatington teachers. She is distraught that this has been on the district's agenda for about 11 years since the first Strategic Plan and it still continues to be a battle.

Janet Peck – Slatington – Asked if the administration consider sending out a survey to see how people in the district feel.

Donna Kulp – Slatington – She stated that she was denied permission to place a sign in the elementary schools to notify parents about a reconfiguration meeting. Dr. Sham responded by stating the reason for that was that the decision to reconfigure had already been made. It was not a meeting to hear parent input, it was a meeting that was held as a steering committee to continue the planning process. The meeting in question was not a town meeting to gather input.

Vote On Amendment
ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox (6)
NAY: Ms. Papay, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (3)
Motion carried.

Vote On Main Motion
ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Beers, Mr. Follweiler (4)
NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Ms. Papay, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (5)
Motion defeated.

Reopen & Re-conduct Reorganization Meeting
Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Papay, that the Board of Education approves to reopen and re-conduct the Reorganization Meeting which was held on December 2, 2003.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay, Mr. Beers, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser (5)
NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (4)
Motion carried.

At this point in the meeting, Mrs. Ganser commented that she would like to just discuss the reorganization. She stated that Mr. Green opened the meeting with an apology, although she felt that it was not sincere and heartfelt, but at this point she agreed with him that the board should move on and just leave things the way they are, indicating that we have better things to do with our time. We have 2300 children that we are concerned with and we have a community of very concerned people. I think we need to put all our issues aside and just continue on in the capacity it has been going in tonight.

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

Attorney Stopp provided guidance to the board and informed them that if this is what the board would like to do, someone on the prevailing side of the previous motion needs to make a motion to reverse the prior motion.

Reverse
Previous
Motion

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education reverse the prior motion and not re-open the December 2, 2003 Reorganization Meeting.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser,
Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green (7)
NAY: Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay (2)

Motion carried.

Resignation
Of Sheryl A.
Giles

Stating that this is neither old nor new business, Mrs. Giles announced that she was resigning from the Northern Lehigh School District School Board, effective immediately, indicating that she does not want to associated with the board any longer. She also stated that she feels that "this is the most corrupt school district she has ever been involved in, read about, and been witness to and she no longer wants to be associated with it".

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education accepts the voluntary resignation of Sheryl A. Giles at the January 5, 2004 school board meeting.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Ms. Papay, Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green (6)
NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos (2)

Motion carried.

NEW
BUSINESS

Board members were recognized with the following Resolution by Dr. Sham under his Superintendent's Report.

School Director Recognition Month – January 2004

WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women who serve on the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors:

Franklin D. Beers
Robert J. Cox
Bryan C. Dorshimer
Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr.
Lauren A. Ganser
Lori H. Geronikos
Sheryl A. Giles
Mathias J. Green, Jr.

Angelique M. Papay
should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Board of the Pennsylvania School

NEW BUSINESS

(Con't.)

Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and the citizens, students, teachers and administrators of the Northern Lehigh School District seek to honor said Directors for their dedication and selfless time commitment to workings of the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be entered into the minutes of this meeting of January 5, 2004.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, 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.
- Extended Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented,
- Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrange Cash Management Portfolio for the month of November 2003.
- NLMS Student Activities Acct. Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activities Account Fund Statement for the month of November 2003.
- Change Order McKelvey Construction Approve the Change Order from McKelvey Construction Company to redo the Slatington Elementary Plaza and associated bench work. This change order is in the amount of \$42,800.00 and is to be funded from the Bond Contingency Fund.
- Change Order Hollenbach Construction Approve the Change Order for the installation of a floor joint control system to be done by Hollenbach Construction, Inc. Change Order G-16 in the amount of \$2,791.00. This request is pending approval of Pennsylvania Department of Education PLANCON I.
- Refund Real Taxa Assessment was reduced from \$64,300 to \$36,600 effective September 1, 2003.
- Approve a refund in the amount of \$50.00 to Bernice and Richard Marlatt for property in Slatington Borough. Assessment was reduced from \$45,350 to \$43,750 effective November 1, 2003.
- Budgetary Transfers Approve budgetary transfers for the 2003-04 fiscal year. (See Attached)
- Contract With PenTele Data T-1 Line Approve entering into a one (1) year contract with PenTeleData for a point-to-point T1 line between Slatington and Peters Elementary Schools. The cost of the line is \$400.00 per month or \$4800.00 per for annum. This line is used to connect our telephone system in Peters with the rest of the campus and allow four (4) digit extension dialing. This is an existing line that is currently covered by e-rate, but rule changes by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Service Corporation have forced us to change from a month-to-month service to a contracted service. The contract would be effective July 1, 2004 to coincide with the start of the e-rate fiscal year.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,
Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: None (0)

INFORM-
ATION

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on November 17, 2003.

ADJOURN-
MENT

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Papay, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,
Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mathias J. Green, Jr.