

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA

February 2, 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 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2004 in the boardroom 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, Mr. William H. Hazzard, Ms. Angelique M. Papay, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynn 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. Amberly Gable, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS

Approximately 10 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News, and Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle newspapers.

PUBLIC

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – She would like to have the right to comment on all items she has a question on. Mr. Green took her request under advisement and asked the solicitor to research this request.

COMMENT

ON AGENDA

ITEM

SPECIAL

BOARD

REPORTS

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lauren Ganser

Mrs. Ganser informed the board that she was unable to attend the LCTI JOC meeting due to the fact that she is taking a college course on Wednesday evenings. She was appointed, as the alternate representative, to this position due to the resignation of Mrs. Giles. Mrs. Geronikos volunteered to serve as the representative and attend the meetings for Mrs. Ganser.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer

Mr. Dorshimer reported on the information contained in the CLIU Board Brief which was distributed at the meeting to all board members.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.

Mr. Green indicated that he would have some LCCC budget feedback after his meeting on Thursday. He informed the board to be prepared for an increase because our enrollment at LCCC is going up.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on January 7, 2004.

Mr. Green announced that in the very near future school board committee meeting minutes will be put on the district's web site.

Student Representatives To The Board Report -- Ms. Amberly Gable and Ms. Ashley Kunkle distributed a written report and highlighted its contents for the board.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp

Attorney Stopp responded to the question regarding public comment during the meeting. The Sunshine Act was amended several years ago to allow for public comment before official action is taken on any item. The Act states it "shall provide a reasonable opportunity for each taxpayer or resident to offer comment". He indicated that this can be done either before the agenda item, or the board, if it chooses, could ask for all public comment to occur before actually moving into the agenda.

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

He could see nothing in the Act that prohibits any resident or taxpayer from asking to comment on all items. It is appropriate and seems to be in accordance with the Act. It would be up to the Chair to determine if the opportunity is a reasonable opportunity or not. If one speaker should monopolize the time so that it is not fair for others to comment, or interrupt the board from being able to conduct its business, the Chair would have the authority to rule that comment is no longer reasonable.

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

Mrs. Fedorcha reminded the board that the Title I Summer Remediation Program is underway and will be supported with Title I funds.

She reminded the board that the district uses Title IIA funds to help the staff become “Highly Qualified”.

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

Dr. Sham announced that the week of February 2-6, 2004 is National School Counseling Week.

Dr. Sham informed the board that the district would be applying for an Act 80 Day for February 27, 2004 (1/2 day for elementary only) for curriculum and planning.

Dr. Sham called on Laurie Newman, Director of Special Education, to present some information with regard to conducting our own life skills program in the district. She indicated that there would be a cost savings to the district if we would hire a special education teacher and instructional assistant for this class.

Dr. Sham announced a fund raising event being conducted by the district’s Educational Foundation.

He announced that he attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Stephen Geiger who’s Eagle Project was to redo the district’s Nature Trail.

An Executive Session was held at 6:00 p.m. in the boardroom for personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Unpaid Leave -
Hamm

Approve the request of Jayne Hamm, Head Cook at the Slatington Elementary School, to take an Jayne unpaid leave of absence from her cafeteria duties. The requested leave is effective January 5, 2004 and continues until she is released by her physician or until the six month maximum leave time is reached. This request is made in accordance with Article X – Section 1 of the Northern Lehigh Educational Support Personnel Association Collective Bargaining Agreement.

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:

Lacey Hutson – Elementary

Zimfira Dorward – All Subject Areas (CLIU Guest Teacher Program)

Volunteer
Coach

Approve to appoint Tim Churetta as an unpaid volunteer baseball coach for the 2004 baseball season.

Child Rearing
Leave – Janet
Bashore

Approve the request of Janet Bashore to take a child rearing leave of absence from her 4th grade teaching position at Peters Elementary School. Mrs. Bashore is requesting permission to begin using her 35.5 unused sick days on or about noon on March 22, 2004. Upon exhaustion of her sick days, on or about May 12, 2004, she is requesting a Family Medical Leave of Absence.

PERSONNEL**(Con't.)**

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of Janet Bashore to take a 12-week Family Medical Leave of Absence. Upon exhaustion of her 35.5 unused sick days, beginning on or about noon on May 12, 2004, she requests permission to take a Family Medical Leave of Absence. Her leave will end on or about August 4, 2004. She plans to return to her teaching position at the start of the 2004-2005 school year. She will be responsible for contributing a monthly co-payment for dependent medical benefits during her FMLA Leave.

Co-Curricular Positions for Spring 2003-2004

Head Girls Soccer Coach – Timothy Nickischer --- \$4545.00

Assistant Girls Soccer Coach – Crystal Kistler* and Jamie Machik* \$ 2525.00 (Will Share Stipend)

(*Pending Verification of Clearances)

Resignation Anthony Komunale Accept the resignation of Anthony Komunale, Temporary Vacancy Replacement teacher in the high school, who was hired to replace Nevin Ranck for the second semester of the 2003-2004 school year. Mr. Komunale has accepted a full time teaching position in another district.

Administrative Transfer Dave Humenik Approve to administratively transfer high school mathematics teacher, Mr. David Humenik, to teach Mr. Ranck's Introduction To Software classes for the second semester. Mr. Humenik is certified to teach these classes.

Appointment Instructional	Dylan Sapir Assignment:	Temporary Vacancy Replacement Teacher Mathematics in the senior high school, replacing David Humenik who was administratively transferred to teach Introduction To Software Classes for Nevin Ranck, who has been granted a sabbatical leave for the second semester of the 2003-2004 school year.
	Salary:	\$35,800 (pro-rated) Appendix A Step 1 Bachelors on the Collective Bargaining Agreement Salary Schedule.
	Effective Date:	On or about February 3, 2004
	Termination Date:	On or about June 16, 2004

Public Comment Jane Kropf – Slatington – Questioned whether Mr. Nickischer was not going to be coaching the boys' soccer team?

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Conferences Approve the request of Sandra Michalik to attend a Student Assistance Program Training conference in Bethlehem, PA sponsored by Project Care from February 10-13, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for 4 days and will be funded through Title IV funds.

Approve the request of Michael Anderson to attend a Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Renewal Program conference sponsored by the International Association of Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Certified Instructors. Expenses for this conference, which will be held in Philadelphia on May 4, 5 & 6, 2004, include \$130.00 for meals, \$203.00 for lodging for an approximate total cost of \$333.00 and will be funded through Safe & Drug Free Schools funds.

Approve the request of Dawn Wadsworth to attend the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania Spring Conference in Harrisburg from March 10-12, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$225.00 for registration, \$58.00 for travel, \$90.00 for meals, \$171.00 for lodging for an approximate total cost of \$544.00 and was included in the 2003-2004 psychology department budget.

POLICY**(Con't.)**

Approve the request of Laurie Mott to attend a Bureau of Education and Research conference in Allentown on February 24, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$159.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and will be funded through Title I funds.

Attendance Of Non-Resident Student Approve the request of a 12th grade high school student, whose parents are residing in another district while their home is being repaired due to a fire, to remain in attendance for the duration of this school year in accordance with School Board Policy #202.

Public Comment Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Questioned the use of Title I funds for one of the conferences on the agenda.

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

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, 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 Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented.

Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the month of December 2003.

Extend Contract For OC-3 Line Approve the extension of the district's current contract, for a point-to point OC-3 line between Slatington Elementary School and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21, with PenTeleData Limited Partnership I of Palmerton, PA until June 30, 2005. Currently we are in the final year of a five (5) year contract with PenTeleData Limited Partnership I, to provide a point-to-point OC-3 band with connection between Slatington Elementary School and Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 in Schnecksville. The current contract expires in February of 2005. This extension will make the contract expiration date coincide with the end of the e-rate funding year.

Public Comment Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Asked for an explanation of what an OC-3 line is.

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

NAY: None (0)

Per Capita Tax Refund Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve a refund in the amount of \$9.80 to Sarah Ganser for 2003-04 per capita taxes. This refund is within the guidelines for abatement eligibility contained within NLSB board policy #606.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos,
Mr. Hazzard, Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (8)

NAY: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Ganser (1)

INFORMATION

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on December 15, 2003.

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute JOC meeting held on December 3, 2003.

Notification has been received from the PA Department of Education of their approval of PlanCon Part I: Interim Reporting for Change Order G-16 for additions and alterations of the middle school.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Jane Kropf – Slatington – 1) Asked about the availability of the audit. 2) Asked if it was true that the cheerleaders can no longer cheer at away games.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Follweiler, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mathias J. Green, Jr.