

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA

March 8, 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 7:45 p.m. on Monday, March 8, 2004 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, 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. (8)

Members absent: Mr. Robert J. Cox (1) (Mr. Cox participated in meeting via telephone conference from approximately 7:50 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.).

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynn B. Fedorcha, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Ms. Laurie Newman, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 6 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News and Terry Ahner, reporter for the Chronicle newspapers.

Mr. Green apologized for opening the meeting late and explained that it was due to the fact that the board was in an Executive Session prior to the meeting for legal and personnel issues.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 2, 2004 and the regular school board meeting held on February 9, 2004 be approved and ordered filed.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Ms. Papay, Mr. Beers, Mr. Green (7)
NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

Motion carried.

Mr. Green questioned whether there was an irregularity in the minutes that Mrs. Ganser was opposed to. Mrs. Ganser responded by indicating that she just wanted to wait until she heard the tapes from the second meeting.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education nominates Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer to serve as a representative of the Northern Lehigh School District on the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for a term of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007. Mr. Dorshimer is the current representative and his term will expire on June 30, 2004.

Nominate CLIU Representative

Close Nominations Directors. Mr. Follweiler made a motion to close nominations for a representative from Northern Lehigh School District to serve on the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

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

Mr. Bryan C. Elected As CLIU Representative Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer was unanimously elected as the Northern Lehigh School District representative to the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit for a term of July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2007.

Field House Discussion

At this point of the evening, Mr. Cox joined the meeting, via telephone conference, to be Project included in the initial discussion of The Architectural Studio's presentation. Mr. Green turned the meeting over to Dr. Sham who began a discussion of the field house project. He began by informing the board of new information the district received as a result of opening the bids for the stadium field house project indicating that the cost had exceeded the \$1.5 million designated for the project. Brian Geiger, Director of Support Services, reviewed the bids that were received for the project indicating that the lowest bids received totaled \$2,033,250.00, leaving the district with a deficit for the project. Should the board decide to proceed with the project, Dr. Sham asked Business Manager, Chris Stafford to address the options the district would have. She indicated that there is a shortfall for the project of approximately \$675,000. She discussed the financial implications associated with refinancing, indicating the board could consider permanent or interim financing in the amount of \$1 million. By financing \$1 million, the district could include other projects that have a life span of at least 10 years, or the board could decide to turn the unused money back into repayment of the debt. The district could also take interim financing this year TRAN (Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note) which would cost the district approximately \$3000.00, borrowing the money on July 1, 2004 and have until the end of the next fiscal year to pay it back or convert to permanent financing by June 30, 2005. The district could also opt to do permanent financing immediately at a cost of \$30,000 to \$50,000. There was some discussion with regard to using money from the district's fund balance and capital reserve accounts. Mr. Barry Brobst of The Architectural Studio informed the board that several things contributed to the cost of the project increasing. He stated that the district did increase the size of the building from the original estimate, air conditioning was added, some site work was deferred from the high school project to this project, and the increased cost of structural steel all contributed to the increase. He also indicated that probably another cost estimate should have been done when it was determined what was going to happen.

Accept Low Bids And Award Contracts For Field House Project

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approves to accept the low bids and alternates as presented and award the contracts for the Northern Lehigh Field House Additions and Renovation Project as follows:

General Construction to Edward A. Reider, Inc. of Wyomissing, PA with a base bid of \$998,000.00, alternate G-1 at \$10,300.00, alternate G-2 at \$2,750.00, and alternate G-3 at (\$13,000.00) totaling \$998,050.00;

Electrical Construction to J.B. Electric Corp. of Minersville, PA with a base bid of \$213,200.00;

Plumbing Construction to JBM Plumbing of Nazareth, PA with a base bid of \$277,000.00;

HVAC Construction to JBM Plumbing of Nazareth, PA with a base bid of \$532,000.00 and alternate H-1 at \$13,000.00 totaling \$545,000.00; giving a total for this project of \$2,033,250.00 and to have proper officials submit form PDE-3074 Self Certification Application For Non-Reimbursable Construction Project with the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

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

NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

Motion carried.

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves to enter into one-year interim financing for \$1 million, effective July 1, 2004.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Ms. Papay, Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Green (7)

NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Dorshimer (2)

Motion carried.

Internal Audit
Investigation
Of Board
Actions

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves to hire an investigator to conduct an internal audit into board actions with a ceiling cost of \$2,000.

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

NAY: None (0)

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Cox excused himself from the meeting.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos discussed two resolutions, one dealing with Referendum and the other dealing with No Child Left Behind. She asked that the board agrees to submit these Resolutions to legislators and asked that they sign them once they are acted upon later on the agenda.

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

Dr. Sham reminded board members that the April 5 board meeting would be held in the Middle School Auditorium.

Dr. Sham urged board members to attend the 2004 CLIU School Board Conference that will be held on March 31, 2004 and he also reminded administrators and board members of the Board/Administration Retreat scheduled for April 2 & 3, 2004 at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

He announced that Mr. Cox was honored with a 2003 School Board Inservice Education Award. Dr. Sham will award the certificate to Mr. Cox at a future meeting.

He announced that Mrs. Lori Geronikos has been appointed to serve as Assistant Regional Director for the IU 21 area of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Regional Cabinet through December 31, 2005.

He informed the board that the administration is going to meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 9 and 10 with the Peters Elementary teachers and the Slatington Elementary teachers, respectively, to do a question and answer period regarding reconfiguration. He also informed them that there would be a parent question and answer session at 7:00 p.m. in the building cafeterias on April 6 for Peters Elementary parents and on April 22 for Slatington Elementary parents.

Dr. Sham introduced Linda Faust who introduced members of the Future Focus steering committee and members of the Second Harvest Food Bank. He indicated that he recently met with them to look at nutrition throughout the district/community with regard to obesity and our children. In an effort to get a handle they would like to conduct a study.

They are interested in expanding the elementary breakfast program offered in our district into the middle school. They would like to do a survey, collect the data, and look at the actual nutrition level the district is offering in the schools and simply make a report from this survey. Once this is done, the board would need to consider what alternatives they would have.

Dr. Sham indicated that in order to begin a breakfast program in the middle school there would have to be a recommendation from the administration. He indicated that it would have to be

included as part of the budget process for the 2004-2005 school year. He suggested that the recommendation to fund the program should come from the Finance Committee.

Mr. Green expressed some concern with regard to the questions on the survey that were distributed to the board. To make certain that the district is not violating anyone's rights when asking the questions in the survey, he suggested that the Policy Committee should look at the survey first. It was also recommended that the Policy Committee determine how the survey will be administered. Mrs. Faust indicated that there are no questions on the survey that deal with the breakfast program. Mr. Green suggested that breakfast program questions be incorporated into the survey.

An Executive Session, for legal and personnel issues, was held at 6:30 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office.

PERSONNEL

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

Unpaid Volunteer Approve to appoint Jo Leigh Sponsler as an unpaid volunteer aide in Mrs. Vasquez's Life Skills Class for the 2003-2004 school year. (Pending Verification of Clearances)

Appointment Instructional	Amanda Jea Beer Assignment:	Temporary Vacancy Replacement Teacher Peters Elementary – Grade 4 Teacher, replacing Janet Bashore who was granted a child rearing leave of absence.
	Salary:	\$35,800 (Pro-rated) Step 1 Bachelors on the 2003-2004 CBA Salary Schedule
	Effective Date:	March 22, 2004
	Termination Date:	On or about June 15, 2004

Non- Instructional	Cheryl Mill* Assignment:	Library Aide – Slatington Elementary replacing Rosemarie Wertman, who resigned.
	Salary:	\$8.90 Per Hour/6.5 Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
	Effective Date:	March 9, 2004
	*60 Day Probationary Period	

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, with a second made by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Policy:

Close Account Approve the request of the senior high school to close the Ski Club account in accordance with the Student Activity Fund Policy. There has been no activity in this club since the winter of the 1996-1997 school year. They would like to transfer this money to the Student Council Account so that it would help the entire student body.

Board Policy Second Reading Approve new board policy #826: Operations – HIPPA Compliance, as presented, after second reading:
Approve new board policy #135: Programs – Parental Permission For Research Involving Students, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing board policy #005: Local Board Procedures – Organization, as presented after second reading.

Field Trip Request Approve the request of the senior members of the High School National Honor Society to take a 2 day trip to New York City. They will depart at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday April 8th (snow

make-up day) and return late afternoon/evening on April 9th (school closed). This trip will entail no cost to the district and will be supervised by 3 to 4 adult chaperones.

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

NAY: None (0)

NEW
BUSINESS

Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approves the following Resolutions:

Referendum
Resolution

WHEREAS, No Child Left Behind (NCLB), the omnibus federal education legislation of 2002, sets laudable standards and direction for achievement for all students.

WHEREAS, elements of the legislation nonetheless are inherently flawed and set requirements which are impossible to fulfill.

WHEREAS, the federal government fails to provide the resources necessary to meet the achievement standards set forth in the legislation.

WHEREAS, the Reading School District has filed legal action in opposition to the full implementation of the legislation.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District adopts this resolution in support of the legal action taken in this matter by Reading School District.

THIS RESOLUTION is entered into this 8th day of March, 2004 by the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors.

No Child
Left Behind
Resolution

WHEREAS, representative governance has been the foundational principle of government in Pennsylvania and across the nation for 225 years,

WHEREAS, Boards of School Directors, locally elected, are constituted by the citizens to weigh and make informed decisions for the betterment of the education of children,

WHEREAS, of all the forms of school governance, local Boards of School Directors, freely elected, are best positioned to determine the appropriate direction for education in this Commonwealth,

WHEREAS, an expanding number of unfunded federal and state mandates make good decision making increasingly more challenging,

WHEREAS, local Boards of School Directors have over the years demonstrated admirable foresight, restraint, and fortitude in the face of conflicting claims and special interests,

WHEREAS, all other forms of governance in education fall shallow and fail in durability in comparison to the presently existing structure,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors stands

adamantly opposed to any form of referendum or similar delimitation on the capacity of the Board to act in the best, continuing interest of the students and the general citizenry.

THIS RESOLUTION is entered into this 8th day of March, 2004 by the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (4)

NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Ms. Papay, Mr. Beers, Mr. Follweiler (4)

Motion defeated.

FINANCIAL Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves the items listed under Financial:

Treasurer's Report	Approve the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Cox, as presented for the month of February 2004.
Reports (Info Only)	All board members received the January & February 2004 Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General and Capital Reserve Funds.
General Fund Bills	Approve payment of General Fund bills for the month of February and March 2004, as presented.
NL Refreshment Stand/ Sports Account Report	Approve the Northern Lehigh Refreshment Stand Account / Northern Lehigh Sports Account Report for the month of February 2004, as presented.
NL Athletic Fund Report	Approve the Northern Lehigh Athletic Fund Report for the month of February 2004.
NLHS Student Activities Account Statement	Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Fund statement for the month of February 2004.
Salary Listing 2003-2004	State audit requirements indicate a copy of the annual salary listing for all employees must be read into the official minute book. Approve the listing for the 2003-04 fiscal year. (See Attached)
Solicit Bids For Art And General Supplies	Authorize district officials to solicit bids for general and art supplies for the 2004-05 school year if adequate materials cannot be obtained through the U.S. Communities program.
Lehigh Carbon Community Budget For 2004-2005	Approve a resolution regarding the 2004-05 Lehigh Carbon Community College budget. Total expenditures equal \$3,985,011, an increase of \$355,080, (9.8%) over the 2003-04 College budget. Northern Lehigh's enrollment is 176.8 FTE, an increase of 71.96%. Northern Lehigh's share of the total budget is \$154,019, an increase of \$27,834 or 22.06%.
Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Budget 2004-2005	Approve a resolution regarding the 2004-05 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Operational and Program Services budget. Total expenditures equal \$1,715,341, an increase of \$73,360, (4.5%) over the 2003-04 budget. Northern Lehigh's share remains at \$18,665, the same as For the 2003-04 budget.

Altronics Security Systems Agreement Approve renewal of a service agreement with Altronics Security Systems for monitoring the burglar alarm system and recorded openings/closings for the 5 locations in the amount of \$2,229.25. This reflects a decrease of \$43.63 over last year's fee.

Ehrlich Pest Control Agreement Approve renewal of a service agreement with Ehrlich Pest Control for pest control service at all 4 buildings in the amount of \$3012.00. This reflects a \$0.00 increase over last year's fee.

SimplexGrinnell Service Agreement Approve renewal of a service agreement with SimplexGrinnell for monitoring of fire alarm systems at all 4 buildings in the amount of \$1,499.68. This reflects an increase of \$45.32 over last year's fee.

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

Progressive Telecom Service Agreement Approve renewal of a service agreement with Progressive Telecom for four (4) pagers. Annual service fee is \$75.00 per unit or a total cost of \$300.00. This reflects a \$0.00 increase over last year's fee.

J. Miller & Sons Contract Approve the contract with J. Miller and Sons, Inc. for environmental consulting (AHERA, Right-to-Know, MSDS, and IAQ Testing) to include all buildings in the amount of \$6,725.00. This reflects a \$0.00 increase over last year's fee.

NLMS Student Activity Fund Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activity Fund Report for the month of February 2004.

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

NAY: None (0)

INFORMATION

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on February 5, 2004.

Before adjourning, Mrs. Geronikos wanted to have direction from the board as Legislative Chairperson who made a recommendation for a referendum earlier on the agenda. She wanted to know if she should continue with her efforts to lobby on behalf of the board against referendum. She also asked if the board wanted her to get more information with regard to the pros of referendum.

Ms. Papay addressed the issue indicating that she was basically looking for the other point of view with regard to referendum. All the information she had was from PSBA. She was just interested in learning about the other side.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mathias J. Green, Jr.