

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Board Minutes
Slatington, PA
December 6, 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, December 6, 2004 in the boardroom of 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. Susan H. Fullas, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. William H. Hazzard, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip Bertolino, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Robert Kern, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Ma. Ashley Kunkle, Ms. Jessica Fidler And Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS

Approximately seven visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News, Stacey Duck, reporter for The Morning Call, and Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT
ON AGENDA
ITEM**

Mrs. Donna Kulp, Washington Township, reserved the right to comment on any agenda item.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer reported on the contents of the CLIU Board Brief which was distributed to all board members.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos reported on LCTI's reorganization meeting. She also informed the board that she would be a DECA Judge representing Northern Lehigh School District and LCTI in March. She also reported that construction at the technical institute is on target.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.
Mr. Green distributed the LCCC President's Desk newsletter to all board members. He also reported that funding at the college continues to be a problem.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

All board members received copies of the minutes of the Policy/Education/Staffing Committee meeting held on November 15, 2004, minutes of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting held on November 3, 2004, and minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on November 22, 2004.

Mr. Hazzard, Chairman of the Community Relations Committee, invited the public to help create the agendas for the Community Relations Committee meetings. The next meeting will be December 15 at 6:30 in the boardroom. He announced that this idea is an attempt to bridge the communications gap between the community and the school district. To submit an agenda item interested people should go to the district's web site where there is a tab for the Community Relations Committee to submit an email. Mr. Hazzard will respond to these emails.

Mr. Geiger requested to move the January 5, 2005 Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting back one week to January 12, 2005 because of the winter recess. Mr. Green stated that he saw no problem with doing that. The committee list and meeting dates will be approved at the January 3, 2005 board meeting.

Student Representatives To The Board Report – Ms. Ashley Kunkle and Ms. Jessica Fidler distributed a written report and reported on its contents to the board.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Solicitor’s Report – Attorney Charles Stopp

Attorney Stopp reported on something that has been languishing for some time. Earlier in the year his office had received communication with respect to the superintendent’s review and a (Con’t.) question of a breach of confidentiality issue. His office, as solicitor, was directed by the board to make some inquiries and that occurred by way of engaging the services of a former FBI agent to make some investigations. The investigation has been completed. There were several other items that the investigator reported he would liked to have performed but was not able to, but other than that, his investigation has been completed. Attorney Stopp had the only report with him and he informed the board that he could report that the function that he had was to make sure that there was nothing on the record, either expressly or impliedly, which would have resulted in some board culpability as a corporate body. Based on the information the investigator has supplied to him, he concluded that there is no evidence of any board culpability. He passed on his final report letter and the various attachments and the report of the investigator to the Board Secretary. He stated that if the board wishes they could take action approving the report and concluding the investigation.

Mr. Cox made a motion to accept the report of the investigator. Mr. Beers seconded his motion.

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

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Green announced that this report is now a public document. Should the board decide to take any action at any future meetings they would have the right to do so.

Public Comment

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Asked what the cost was to have the investigation conducted.

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

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a Director of Curriculum and Instruction report and verbally reported on its contents to the board.

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

Dr. Sham shared requested substitute teacher data information with the board showing the number of teachers absent where substitutes were not available to substitute for them.

Dr. Sham announced there is a need for an Executive Session for approximately five minutes to discuss a legal issue after the meeting.

He announced that the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for December 21, 2004 will be cancelled. He also announced that the first meeting to discuss Act 72 would be held on December 22, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit. The next Act 72 meeting will be held on January 11, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hazzard, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Personnel:

Appointment Non-Instructional

Tara Scott-Hengst*
Assignment: Personal Care Assistant
New Position, Primary Life Skills Support Classroom at Slatington Elementary School
Salary: \$9.17 Per Hour/6 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
Effective Date: December 7, 2004
Position will terminate when services for this student is no longer required.

PERSONNEL

(Con't.)

Jennifer Wentz*

Assignment:

Custodian – Fulltime Position

Middle School – Replacing Darryl Keiser who was administratively transferred to a maintenance position.

PM Shift – 2:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Salary:

\$8.25 Per Hour/8 Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week

Effective Date:

December 7, 2004

*60-Day Probationary Period

Leave of
Absence

Approve the request of Suzanne Mengel, Slatington Elementary Guidance Counselor, to take a leave of absence using her sick days beginning on or about February 9, 2005.

FMLA/Unpaid
Child Rearing
Leave

Upon exhaustion of her sick days, Suzanne Mengel has submitted a request to take a 12-week Family Medical Leave of absence with an unpaid child rearing leave. She plans to return to work on May 23, 2005.

Resignation
Instruct-
ional

Accept the resignation of Dawn Krupa from her position of study hall monitor in the senior high Non-school, effective the end of the day on December 3, 2004.

Unpaid
Volunteer

Approve the following individual as an unpaid volunteer aide in the Peters Elementary School for the 2004-2005 school year: *Indicates New Volunteer Pending Verification of Clearances

Shelly Pender*

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Green (7)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler (2)

Motion carried.

POLICY

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

Board PolicyRevisions To
NewPolicy – 2nd

Reading

Approve to adopt new school board policy #250 – Pupils – Student Recruitment, as amended after second reading.

Approve to adopt new school board policy #144 – Programs – Standards for Victims of Violent Crimes, as presented after second reading.

Approve to adopt new school board policy #702.1 – Property – Memorials, as presented after second reading.

Revisions To
Existing
Policy

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #224 – Pupils – Care of School Property, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #216.1 – Pupils – Supplemental Discipline Records, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #218.1 – Pupils – Weapons, as presented after second reading.

Revisions To
Existing Policy
1st Reading

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #429 – Professional Employees – Substitute/Temporary Vacancy Replacement Compensation, as presented after first reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #705 – Property – Safety, as presented after first reading.

POLICY

(Con't.)

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #807 – Operations – Opening Exercises/Flag Displays, as presented after first reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #907 – Community – School Visitors, as presented after first reading.

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

NAY: None (0)

**CURRICU-
LUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approves to accept the recommendation of the administration to approve the course proposal between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Lehigh Carbon Community College for three (3) dual enrollment classes to be added to the high school program of studies effective for the 2005-2006 school year.

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Geronikos wanted to bring to the attention of the board that Northern Lehigh School District is the only school in the CLIU that is not a member of the Lehigh Valley Business & Education Partnership. She would like to have this situation discussed during budget deliberations.

Mr. Cox wanted to go on record to inform everyone that he is still a resident of the district. There have been rumors circulating that he had moved from the district. He stated that he has no plans to move.

Mrs. Ganser commented about the video “Supersize Me” the movie sponsored by MESH that is scheduled to be shown at our middle school because the rating of the movie is PG13. She was concerned whether parents should be notified.

Mr. Follweiler wanted to know if there was any information about the teachers contract since new people have been assigned to do negotiations.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items:

PC Abatement
And Exonerat-
ions

Approve abatement and exonerations of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

Construction
Account 2004
AAA Bills

Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account 2004 AAA Financing, for the month of November 2004, as presented.

Portfolio
Summary

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of October 2004.

NLHS Student
Activity Acct.
Statement

Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Account fund statement for the month of October 2004.

NLMS Student Activity Acct. Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activities Account fund statement for the month of October 2004.

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

Real Estate Tax Approve a real estate interim tax refund in the amount of \$35.81 to Anthony C & Carol Fischl, Refund 6013 Wendel Court, Slatington. The refund is due to wrong amounts originally billed on item #40710 by county.

Community Revitalization Program Authorize district officials to execute a contract with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for grant through the Community Revitalization Grant Program in the amount of \$10,000. This grant Program was initiated by Jim Tkach and provides updated equipment for the weight room.

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

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

Solicitor Retainer Fee For 2005

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves to appoint the law firm of Steckel & Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh School District for 2005 at a retainer fee of \$1750.00.

INFORMATION

All board members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on October 18, 2004, minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on October 12, 2004, minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute JOC meeting held on October 27, 2004, LCTI Director's Report for December 2004, and the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on November 4, 2004.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – She had a question about the Power School program and the inaccuracies of the middle school attendance.

Mrs. Kulp also wanted to know if Dr. Sham had any information to share as a result of the national conference he was approved to go to. Dr. Sham informed Mrs. Kulp that he did not attend this conference yet but he would be willing to share his report once he has attended the conference.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hazzard, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mathias J. Green, Jr.