

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
January 3, 2006

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, at 7:37 p.m. on Monday, January 3, 2006 in the boardroom of the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (left at 7:43 p.m.), Mr. Peter A. Ruth, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (7)

Members absent: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr.

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip Bertolino, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. John Fidelibus, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Atty. Keith Strohl (Solicitors Office), Ms. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Andrea Madochick, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris

VISITORS

Approximately two visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Joel Kern, reporter for The Times News

PUBLIC COMMENT

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Requested permission to comment on any agenda item.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Legislative Report - Mr. Williams reported on the House Bill that was passed enforcing the issue that school bus drivers could not be on cell phones. He also addressed House Bill 1618, which was approved by the education committee, that deals with students with disabilities being allowed to be a part of the regular graduation ceremonies although they would not be receiving their diploma at that time. He also talked about possible changes with bid adjustments and raising the level needed to go for bid.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings – Mr. Green made a motion that was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer to approve to appoint Julie Fehnel, Slatington Elementary fourth grade teacher, to the Community Relations Committee for 2006.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (7)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Dorshimer announced that the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 4, 2006 was being canceled. The Finance Committee meeting which would have been held after the Technology/Building and Grounds Committee meeting, will start at 6:30 p.m. on January 4.

Student Representatives Report – Mr. Nathan Hunsicker distributed a written report and reviewed it with the board.

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

Dr. Sham stated that January is PSBA School Board Recognition Month. He read from a PSBA document that outlined school boards, school board members, and issues, such as adequate school funding, as the most important education concern facing public schools in Pennsylvania. He presented every board member with a certificate, calendar, and a School Board Code of Ethics card.

Dr. Sham also mentioned about the annual retreat. He asked the board to give him input on topics they may want to discuss and days they would like to hold the retreat (i.e. Friday and Saturday or only Saturday).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 7:10 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel. The board reconvened into Executive Session after the regular school board meeting to discuss negotiations.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

- Resignation Accept the resignation of Nancy Wagner from her position of Title I Aide in the Peters Elementary School, effective on or about January 20, 2006.
- Unpaid Volunteers Approve the following unpaid volunteer aides in the Peters Elementary School for the 2005-2006 school year: Christine Lutz and Vicky Papay
- Rescind Appointment Approve to rescind the appointment of Michele Tadman as a volunteer aide in the Slatington Elementary School. There are no clearances on file for her.
- Family Medical Leave- T. Trimble Approve the request of Thomas Trimble, district maintenance employee, to take a 12-week Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective January 8, 2006 and continuing for approximately eight weeks.
- YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (6)
NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

- Board Policy First Reading Approve to revise school board policy #335 – Administrative Employees – Family and Medical Leaves, as presented after first reading.
- Approve to revise school board policy #535 – Classified Employees – Family and Medical Leaves, as presented after first reading.
- Conferences Sheila Lanshe – PA School Counselors Association Annual Conference – March 2-4, 2006 – Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$265.00, Travel – \$48.00, Lodging: \$49.40 – Total Approximate Cost: \$363.00 – Funding – Senior High Budget
- Mary Smith – PA School Counselors Association Annual Conference – March 2-4, 2006 – Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$265.00, Lodging: \$49.40 – Total Approximate Cost: \$314.40 – Funding – Senior High Budget
- Brian Geiger – 51st Annual Conference & Exhibit – Sponsored by PA Association of School Business Officials – March 7-10, 2006 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$360.00, Meals: \$260.00, Travel: \$80.00, Lodging: \$400.00. Total Approximate Cost: \$1104.00 – Funding – Support Services Budget
- Lynne Fedorcha – Reading Apprenticeship Winter Conference – March 2-5, 2006 – Rockville, MD – Travel: \$150.00, Meals: \$72.00, Lodging: \$328.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$550.00 – Funding – Title IIA
- Extension - Homebound Instruction Approve to extend homebound instruction for Student # 745000, for five hours per week, effective December 22, 2005 through March 22, 2006. This student was previously granted homebound instruction on October 10, 2005.
- Public Comment Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Asked how many nights lodging was Mr. Geiger asking for in his conference and if information he gains from the conference which deals with transportation questions for solicitors would be shared with Atty. Stopp.

POLICY
(Con't.)

Public
Comment

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Stated that in the past when Dr. Sham attended his conferences he reported and shared information and she would like to know if other administrators are also required to share and report on information that they gain at conferences.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (6)
NAY: None (0)

NEW
BUSINESS

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under New Business:

Resolution -
Recognition
of School
Directors
January 2006

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 education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this non-paid, 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
- Donald H. Dengler
- Bryan C. Dorshimer
- Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr.
- Lauren A. Ganser
- Sheryl A. Giles
- Mathias J. Green, Jr.
- Peter A. Ruth
- Gregory S. Williams

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 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 the workings of the district,

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this Commonwealth and be entered into the minutes of this meeting of January 3, 2006.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (6)
NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Financial:

**PC Abate-
ments**

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

**Cash Manage-
ment Portfolio**

Approve the Arthurs Lestrangle Cash Management Portfolio for the month of November 2005.

**Real Estate
Tax Refund**

Approve a real estate tax refund in the amount of \$5.57 to Patrick T. Gogle 4554 Best Station Rd, Slatington, PA 18080. The refund is due to a duplicate payment of real estate taxes for property located at S LR39054 W of T738 in Washington Twsp for the 2005-2006 school tax year.

Approve a real estate tax refund in the amount of \$7,506.15 to Randy & Patricia Rahn 2146 Skyline Dr, Slatington, PA 18080. The refund is due to a duplicate payment of real estate taxes for property located at 2146 Skyline Dr in Washington Twsp for the 2005-2006 school tax year.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (6)

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

Mr. Dorshimer asked the solicitors opinion about a grievance that is coming to the board, that his wife has a relationship with, and if there is something that precludes him from being on that hearing.

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

Northern Lehigh School District Middle Level Management Team would like to invite all board members to an informal social on Thursday, January 26 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the high school library for food and refreshments.

The Northern Lehigh Connections Group is having a Meet Your Community Leaders social at the Slatington Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 is sponsoring a New & Seasoned School Board Member Orientation on Tuesday, January 31st. Registration starts at 6:00 p.m. Programs begin at 6:30 p.m.

January 18th is the second School Board meeting for the month of January. It was unintentionally omitted from the original calendars distributed.

**INFORM-
ATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on November 21, 2005.

Minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on November 9, 2005.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on October 26, 2005 and the LCTI Director's Report for December 2005.

Minutes of the Borough of Slatington Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on August 15, October 17, and November 21, 2005.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the regular meeting of Northern Lehigh School District Board of Education is adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (6)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President)
Lauren A. Ganser