

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
November 15, 2006

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lauren Ganser, at 7:39 p.m. on Wednesday, November 15, 2006 in the JOC boardroom located at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute in Schnecksville, PA.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Peter A. Ruth, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (6)

Members absent: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles (3)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Rachel Parisi, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth and Mrs. Aileen Yadush.

VISITORS Approximately twenty visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News.

Mrs. Ganser stated that they were in executive session prior to the meeting for personnel reasons.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on November 6, 2006 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer stated that the board of director's for CLIU went out for RFP for their auditing firms. The directors interviewed 3 candidates and now it is up to the committee as a whole and the rest of the board to decide whether they will use a new auditing firm or stay with the current auditing firm they are using.

Mentioned that he hopes that the high school guidance department is pushing to send many students to next years Governor's School.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser thanked Lehigh Career and Technical Institute for having us as guests in their facility this evening.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams updated the board on the Act I Tax Study Commission meeting held last week. He advised that on November 29, 2006 they would be holding the Act I Tax Study Commission Public Hearing in the high school auditorium at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dorshimer asked how the information about the meeting was getting out to the public. He was told that it is advertised on the district web page, posters are being created to hang up around town and that there will also be a legal notice put in the newspapers.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. stated that in last week's report he mentioned that there was a deal between Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit and Lehigh Carbon Community College for the purchase of the old Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit building and that was incorrect.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on November 1, 2006 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on November 1, 2006 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Nathan Hunsicker and Ms. Rachael Parisi distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha mentioned that there were local businesses who donated items as incentives to offer to students who take the after-school tutoring program. Those businesses were: WalMart in Whitehall, Pizza Hut in Walnutport, and Suzy's Shady Nook in Washington Township.

She mentioned that there were over 60 parents who attend the fall Title I Parent Meeting held on October 26th. It was very well attended and parents were instructed on the intervention and assessment practice.

Mrs. Fedorcha reported on her meeting held November 8, 2006 with Mr. Bill Elbert, Early Childhood Regional Coordinator, to discuss the early intervention pre-kindergarten program at Peters Elementary.

She introduced Mrs. Karen Nicholas to report on the meeting held on November 10th with Whitehall/Coplay School District. Mrs. Nicholas reported that 7 people from Whitehall/Coplay School District came to Peters Elementary to find out about the Rtl Program and how it works. She stated that they are just beginning and wanted to know how this program is benefiting our students. She said that we are very proud to have been asked to assist them and will continue to do so in the future.

Mr. Williams questioned Mrs. Fedorcha on the criteria for the pre-kindergarten program at Peters Elementary. She stated that we currently serve 20 students (3-4 years old) of which 10 are paid for through the Accountability Block Grant Program and the others are paid for by Community Services for Children Inc. She stated that it is also based on federal income poverty guidelines. Mr. Williams stated that during budget time he would hope to discuss, and would personally like to see, a slight extension of that program.

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

He read a letter received from PSBA concerning the PSBA Code of Conduct for Members of Pennsylvania School Boards. He asked board members to review the rest of the information and if they are interested in proceeding with an evaluation, they should contact him and he will make the arrangements for it to happen.

He reported that yesterday the fact finding meeting was held between the board and association where both sides were given time to present their views to the fact finder. He stated that there is now a period of time that the information is reviewed by the fact finder and after that time, the fact finder will issue a report. He said that he is aware that some parents and community members have been concerned about perhaps safety issues and stuff not being done that in the past were being done in the buildings. He wanted to assure everyone that when it comes to the safety of the students, and we need supervision, we will do whatever it takes to make sure that the students are supervised appropriately.

He reminded everyone that the reorganization meeting of the board of directors will be held on December 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom at Slatington Elementary School. The regular school board meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

He also distributed the individual administrative goals for the 2006-2007 school year for their review.

Mrs. Ganser welcomed our newest administrator, Mrs. Aileen Yadush, high school principal.

Mrs. Fedrocha asked if we were still going to have a policy committee meeting on December 4, 2006 prior to the reorganization meeting starting at 6:15 p.m. Mrs. Ganser said that she felt we did need to have a policy meeting and that it will still be held on Monday December 4th at 6:15 p.m.

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

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|----------------------------|--|
| Administrative
Transfer | Lori Henritz
From: Title I Reading Aide at Slatington Elementary School
To: Temporary District Office/Cafeteria Office Aide
Salary: \$11.13 Per Hour/7Hours Per Day/5Days Per Week
Effective: November 16, 2006
Termination Date: June 30, 2007 |
| Resignation-
A. Unger | Accept the resignation of Amy Unger from her position as Middle School Personal Care Assistant effective October 20, 2006. |
| A. Madochick | Accept the resignation of Andrea Madochick from her position as Food Service Director effective November 9, 2006. |
| Unpaid
Volunteers | Approve the following unpaid volunteer aide in Peters Elementary School for the 2006-2007 school year: Katherine Bardelli |

Mr. Dorshimer asked if we are bringing the Cafeteria Office Aide position down to the district office, how is the work going to get there and if she is just the cafeteria office aide then he would expect her to be in the cafeteria office.

Dr. Sham informed him that we are not bringing someone from up in the cafeteria office down to the district office. We currently have district office staff that is currently serving as the cafeteria aide. The cafeteria aide only worked 4 hours per day. We are asking to continue to employ this person to carry out the responsibility of the cafeteria office and pick up some of the slack that needs to be picked up in the district office.

Mrs. Blank said that this position is the cafeteria aide position with a few hours added to and relocated to the district office. The work is already coming down because there is body upstairs. It is just a matter of bringing bills and deposits down to the district office on a daily basis. The location of this person isn't as important as the fact that there is someone able to get the work done and get it done properly.

Mr. Dorshimer asked if this person is starting tomorrow.

Dr. Sham said that this person is the same person that we asked the board to extend her time for one month to be there in transition while the girl who was returning from maternity would have overlap with this person. That month was up and we are now asking now to extend that time until the end of the year because we now have to fill the position of Director of Food Services and we also need to fill the cafeteria aide position.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that the board made a conscious decision at budget time that we eliminate a position which was a 7 hrs. and 20 minute position and now we are going to bring that position back.

Dr. Sham stated as an aide not a secretary.

Mr. Dorshimer said that the cafeteria aide position was only 4 hours. That means that 3 hours a day has to come out of our budget on a daily basis and our budget was very tight to begin with, yet we seem to find money to do this and the board extended this position of district office personnel back in July, extended it again with a termination of October 31st, so really this person should not have been in the office from October 31st up until tomorrow.

month Mrs. Blank stated that her understanding was that this position was extended for a month from the board meeting in October which would take us to about November 5th or 6th which coincided with the last board meeting.

Mr. Dorshimer said that this person was not in the position since the last board meeting until tomorrow.

Mrs. Ganser asked if that person has stopped working?

Mrs. Blank said no.

the Mr. Dorshimer asked under what authority did they have, after the board terminated that position, to overrule that authority that the board said that position terminated when at last board meeting there was no vote taken to extend it any longer and yet apparently someone took it upon themselves to extend it without board approval.

Mrs. Blank said that she did not bring this as an agenda item to extend this position on the last board agenda, however with the fact that we are losing our food service director and we have lost the food service aide, bills needed to get paid, money needed to get counted and deposits made on a daily basis. Somebody did need to do the work. She said that she believes she has the authority to bring her in on a substitute basis so that the work can continue to flow.

Mr. Dorshimer asked if our food service director has left totally.

Dr. Sham said no that we are holding her for 60 days or until we fill the position.

Mr. Dorshimer said that there then was someone there to count the money, pay bills and made deposits.

Dr. Sham said that the food service person is still there but that this person has their own duties that they need to fulfill. There is still a need for someone to carry out the other duties.

Mrs. Ganser said that, in essence, we are adding 15 extra hours a week to a regular position that someone has vacated in order to help get the work done.

Mrs. Blank said she is asking for that extra 15 hours to continue until the end of the year.

Mr. Ruth said that at budget time we did eliminate that office position.

Mrs. Ganser said that we eliminated the secretarial position not the cafeteria aide position. The cafeteria position is the person who left and we should be replacing that person.

Mr. Ruth asked how many hours a week that cafeteria person worked.

Mrs. Ganser stated that she worked 20 hours per week.

Mrs. Ganser said that Mr. Dorshimer's concern was who authorized this person to work from the last board meeting until today and Lisa stated that she has the authority because bills have to be paid and in the past the board has advised Dr. Sham to administratively take care of all the bills in the financial end of running the school.

Mr. Williams stated that he understands where Mr. Dorshimer is coming from but that there has been some circumstances that have occurred here and we need to cut some slack. He stated that he didn't see the fact that she continued to work since the last board meeting as a big deal.

Roll Call:

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (5)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion Carried.

CONFERENCE

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approves the following conference items:

Maria Pinnata – SAP Training – December 12 - 14, 2006 – Lancaster, PA –
Registration: \$300.00, Travel: \$100.00, – Total Approximate Cost: \$400.00 – Funding:
Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant

Scott Gerould – 85th Annual Pennsylvania State Association for Health, Physical
Education, Recreation, and Dance Convention – December 1 - 3, 2006 – Champion, PA –
Registration: \$110.00, Meals: \$120.00, Lodging: \$70.00, Travel: \$126.00 – Total
Approximate Cost: \$426.00 – Funding: High School Professional Development Budget

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Field Trip -
MS Team

Middle School Team North – Historic Sights of Philadelphia – May 30, 2007 – Funded
thorough fundraising efforts by team students.

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

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

OLD BUSINESS

and

Mr. Dorshimer said that he wanted to make sure that everyone knows that contractual agreements that are made between individuals of the district should be followed to the letter of the contractual agreement. He would hope that administration knows the contracts that we have throughout the district and that they are being carried out to the letter of the contract we do not sway unless we have an opinion from the solicitor that we are allowed to sway any different.

NEW BUSINESS

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

Financial
Rpts

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund months of August – October
2. Athletic Fund months of July – October
3. Cafeteria Fund months of July – September
4. MS Student Activities Account month of October
5. NLHS Student Activities Account month of October
6. NLHS Scholarship Account month of October

Bill Payment Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund month of October and November
2. Athletic Fund month of October

Tax Refunds - Duplicate Payment Authorize a real estate tax refund to the following people who's taxes were paid in duplicate:

Sonya Kremser 609 W Church Street Slatington, PA 18080	\$1,778.49
Sonya Kremser 609 W Church Street Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 215.67
Leonard Policelli 837 Main Street Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 1,731.23
William J Miller 4438 Clover Hollow Road Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 3,991.27
Edward A. Sheridan 8081 Furnace Road Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 1,305.80
Brooke Myster 422 Woodlawn Avenue Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 2,577.48
Markie Trone 1058 Shadow Oaks Lane Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 1,796.70
Manny Moreno 1595 Helfrich Road Kutztown, PA 19530	\$ 2,429.77
Frank Guerke 405 7 th Street Slatington, PA 18080	\$ 2,155.44

Tax Refunds - Assessment Change Authorize a refund of real estate taxes in the amount of \$827.21 to Richard & Barbara Vreeland; property located at 3367 Mountain Road, Slatington. Assessment changed from \$4,166.18 to \$3,322.09 (Taxes paid in discount.)

Bill Payment - Approve Cafeteria Fund Bills for the month of November.
Cafeteria

Bill Payment Approve payment of Capital Projects fund bill.
Capital
Project

Mr. Dorshimer asked about approving of the cafeteria fund bills when in the past it was done as informational only.

Mr. Ruth said that he had a conversation with Mrs. Blank about getting monthly reports and information on the cafeteria fund.

Mr. Dorshimer said that he doesn't have a problem with it but that it is something he hasn't seen before for approval, only as information.

Dr. Sham said that this was discussed at the finance committee meeting and Mrs. Blank was looking at giving the board more extensive information and wanted it to be a public item.

Mr. Dorshimer said he thought this was a good idea.

Mr. Ruth said we will now know monthly how the cafeteria fund is doing and not only at the end of the year during budget time.

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

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

CORR- ESPON- DENCE

INFOR- MATION

RECOG- NITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Tim Park – Slatington said he has been hearing rumors about teachers going on strike and wanted to know if this is going to affect him and his kids.

Dr. Sham explained that we currently are in fact finding which is a point where both sides can not agree on a settlement. Fact finding is a nonbinding process that each group can decide to either accept or not accept the finding. That process is just beginning. The fact finder will issue a report. The two sides will decide on whether they are willing to accept it as it is or reject it. If they reject the fact finding, there is a possibility that there could be a strike but we do not want that to happen. We hope we can resolve the issue and maybe even through the fact finding get a little closer to coming to an agreement. How will it impact your children? If there is a strike, there will be no school. We would continue to try to run the vocational technical program because that is at a different school and we would have to transport those students.

Mr. Park asked why the teachers are going in later. He heard that they are not going in now until the bell rings and would like to know why.

Dr. Sham reported that they have a contractual day. Their choice may be to not go into school until the beginning of their contracted day and it will end at their contractual time.

Mr. Park said that his children are now waiting for them to get their act together to start the school day. He said that school starts at a certain time and that the teachers should be ready to start school when the day is to start.

Dr. Sham said that he believes that school has started on time. Principals agreed that school has started on time.

Mr. Park said that this is what he is hearing. He does not know because he is not in school, but he hears a lot of rumors going around.

Dr. Sham reported that he has not heard that rumor and that this is the first time he is hearing it. He stated that he knows the administrators and if school was not starting on time, it would be an issue. He does not believe that this has happened.

Mr. Park asked if he could be told why the teachers are going to go on strike.

Dr. Sham replied that we currently do not know if that is going to happen. Nothing has been said to him that it was going to happen. He told him there are bargaining issues, personnel issues, and he feels at this point it is not the appropriate time to discuss those issues. He thinks that what will end up happening is, if the two sides can not agree, there will probably be something coming out that will clearly spell out both sides positions to the general public.

At

that time, the public can make their own decision.

Mr. Ruth asked if we could give them a time line on what to expect.

Mrs. Ganser stated that Mr. Ruth is the chief negotiator on the teacher's contract along with Mr. Williams and herself. She asked him to explain the timeline for the fact finding so that there is a better understanding.

Mr. Ruth stated that Dr. Sham reported on the fact finding that happened last evening. All the information was gathered. There now is a specific date, Monday November 27, 2006, that both sides will receive the fact finders report back with her recommendation. There then will be 10 days to examine that document and decide whether to accept or reject it. If either side rejects the recommendation, there then will be 5 more days to reconsider. He said that we will know more on what is going on after November 27th.

Mr. Park asked if we will then be notified on what is going to happen.

Dr. Sham said that if there is to be a strike, there needs to be 48 hours notice and if anything like

that was going to occur we would do everything we could to get out all the information so that the public is not caught off guard.

Ms. Susan Firth – Slatington said her concern is with teachers having discussions with students during class about a strike and that there is valuable teaching time being lost to discuss these issues with the students. She thinks this needs to be addressed with the teaching staff.

Dr. Sham agrees and said that it has been addressed. He also has heard this and discussed it with the association. He told her if this was a recent issue then he suggested that she call the building principal and let them know what has happened and then he will be able to deal with it.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ Vice-President
Gregory S. Williams