

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
February 5, 2007

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter A. Ruth, at 7:37 p.m. on Monday, February 5, 2007 in the gymnasium of Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (8)

Members absent: Mr. Franklin D. Beers (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker (Student Rep.), Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Ms. Rachel Parisi (Student Rep.), Ms. Maria Pinnata, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Atty. Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

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

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on January 2, 2007 and the regular school board meeting held on January 8, 2007 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer reported that there has been a sales agreement between the community college and CLIU #21 for the sale of the old Intermediate Unit building. Mr. Dorshimer also talked about the webinar that he recently attended. He also gave information on the special education student counts for the intermediate unit. He passed this information to Laurie Newman-Mankos for her review.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported on the Pennsylvania Tax Payers' Property & Rent Rebate Program. This program applies to senior citizens age 65 or older with an income under \$35,000.00. Mrs. Blank has copies of the form at the district office for those people who would like to apply for the rebate program.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. distributed a copy of the community college budget that has already been approved by the Board of Trustees. He did say that the community college is willing to come to a future board meeting to do a budget presentation at the request of the board.

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.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Charles Stopp asked that the chairperson for the Act I hearing, which will be held on Monday, meet with him after tonight's board meeting to discuss procedures that need to be followed at the meeting.

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha reported that Dr. Deanna Quay, high school Chemistry Teacher, wrote and received a grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the purchase of _____. She is also writing another grant for an interactive plasma screen.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Sham stated that tomorrow morning the school will be having a two hour late start.

Dr. Sham reported that Lehigh Carbon Community College is offering to come to a future school board meeting to make a presentation on the Budget. He asked that if they wish for that to happen they should contact his office and the arrangements will be made.

He reported that the week of February 5 – 9, 2007 is National School Counseling Week.

He asked the board if they wanted to have budget discussion at the end of the regular board meeting or at the end of the Superintendent's report. The board decided to have budget discussion at the end of the regular school board meeting.

Dr. Sham read the letter from the Department of Agriculture concerning the single audit report. The report indicated that the single audit report for programs funded by this office was approved and in compliance.

There is a need to meet with the negotiating team after tonight's board meeting to review all the language in the tentative teacher's contract. Mr. Ruth did say that any board member is welcome to attend that meeting.

Executive Session was held in the Superintendent's Office on January 24, 2007 beginning at 6:30 p.m. to discuss negotiations.

PERSONNEL

Mr. Ruth informed the board that the following personnel item was to be pulled from the agenda:

Co-Curricular Position 2006-2007	Middle School Spring Intramural – Weightlifting	Mark Hoffman	\$751.32*
	<i>*Last year's salary will apply until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.</i>		

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

Substitutes - Instructional	Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute teacher rates of \$80.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$105.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:
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Matthew Kitz
Cynthia Fritzingler *
**Pending verification of teaching certificate and transcripts.*

Non- Instructional	Approve the following individuals as substitute custodians for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.
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Scott Reitz
Rodney Hausman*
**Pending verification of health physical.*

Approve the following individuals as substitute secretaries/aides for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Elizabeth Trantham

Family
Medical
Leave

Approve the request of employee #240, a Slatington Elementary School Teacher, to take a family medical leave. Beginning on or about March 2, 2007 she will use her remaining sick days, and upon exhaustion of all sick days, is requesting a 12 week family medical leave which will cover her for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year. She is planning to

return to her teaching position with the first teacher in-service day of the 2007-2008 school year.

PERSONNEL

(cont.)

Resignation Accept the resignation of Stephen Hluschak from the co-curricular position of Middle School Spring Intramural Weightlifting.
Co-Curricular S. Hluschak

Volunteer Approve the following unpaid volunteer aides in Slatington and Peters Elementary Schools
Aides for the 2006-2007 school year:

Alicia Quigley

Billie Jo Witczak*

**Pending verification of clearances.*

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

CONFER- ENCES

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

Donald Allen – Defuse & Manage Difficult Students and Parents – February 28, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$185.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$185.00 – Funding: High School Budget

Linda Thompson – Pennsylvania School Counselors Association 51st Annual Conference – April 19 - 21, 2007 – Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$275.00, Travel: \$40.00, Lodging: \$99.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$414.00 – Funding: Peters Elementary Guidance Budget

Andrea Thomson – Instructional Design and Delivery in Reading and Math – February 5, 2007 – Registration: \$100.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$100.00 – Funding: IDEA

Susanne Hegedus – Practical Discipline Strategies For the Difficult Young Child – February 28, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$165.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$165.00 – Funding: IDEA

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

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

Mary Smith – Pennsylvania School Counselors Association 51st Annual Conference – April 19 - 21, 2007 – Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$275.00, Lodging: \$99.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$385.00 – Funding: High School Guidance Budget

Sheila Lanshe – Pennsylvania School Counselors Association 51st Annual Conference – April 19 - 21, 2007 – Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$275.00, Travel: \$48.00, Lodging: \$110.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$433.00 – Funding: High School Guidance Budget

ROLL CALL:

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

NAY: Mr. Ruth (1)

Motion carried.

POLICY

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approve the following policy items:

Board
Policy -
Second
Reading

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #233 – Pupils: Suspension and Expulsion, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #235 – Pupils: Student Rights/Responsibilities/Surveys, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy – Wrestling Weight Certification, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy– Pupils: Student Restraint, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #250 – Pupils: Student Recruitment, as presented after second reading.

Homebound
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for an 8th Grade Student, Student No.1101700, for five hours per week, effective January 23, 2007 and continuing until February 6, 2007.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

Remove
Policy Item

Mr. Dorshimer requested to remove the following policy item from the agenda and refer back to the policy committee for them to review the dates associated with the military part of the policy. All board members were in agreement.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #217 – Pupils: Graduation Policies – Requirements, as presented after second reading.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Ruth informed the board that the following New Business item was being pulled from the agenda for clarification purposes:

NLEA
Bargaining
Agreement

Approve to ratify a four-year Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Northern Lehigh Education Association, effective September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2010.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Abatement/
Exoneration -
Per Capita

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

Arthurs
Lestrange
Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrange Cash Management Portfolio for the month of December 2006.

Real Estate
Tax Refunds

Authorize a refund of interim real estate taxes in the amount of \$341.02 to Redline Family Trust ET AL; parcel # J2SW1C1481033 located at 215 Walnut Street, Walnutport. This parcel was deleted and combined with another parcel.

Interim Tax
Refund

Authorize a refund of interim real estate taxes in the amount of \$341.02 to Redline Family Trust ET AL; parcel # J2SW1C1491033 located at 215 Walnut Street, Walnutport. This parcel was deleted and combined with another parcel.

Section 356 Agreement
FINANCIAL
 (cont.)

Authorized the board secretary to sign Section 356 Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. This agreement

EIT Tax constitutes a request for confidential tax payer information for use in enforcing the local tax on earned income.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
 Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Ruth stated that he received a correspondence from someone but with no signature he would not comment on the contents of the letter.

Mr. Dorshimer passed a correspondence that he received from WNEP concerning elevated radon levels at Riverview High School to Greg Derr for his review.

Mr. Ruth received an invitation from Education Policy and Leadership Center to attend a Pennsylvania Education Policy forum on Friday February 9th in King of Prussia. Discussion will be about Governor Rendell's education issue budget proposal for 2007-2008.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Borough of Slatington Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held on December 18, 2006 and January 15, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on December 18, 2006 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on January 4, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on December 13, 2006 and the LCTI Director's Report for January 2007 were distributed.

Mr. Follweiler reported on fellow board member Mr. Beers and his current condition. He stated that he is currently residing at Mahoning Valley Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for approximately 6 weeks.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sandy Young – Washington Township, has indicated that she is having a problem with the cafeteria department. She went into detail about her child and the issues she is having with weight gain, which she attributes to the fact that students are allowed to purchase as many extras as they want on the new point of sale system. She was directed by the prior

food service director to allow her child's account to go negative and therefore the cafeteria staff would not allow the child to purchase extra items. She said that she has been doing this but now her child comes home and says that the cafeteria staff is harassing them. She would like to know how to handle this problem she is having.

Mrs. Diane Ruff stated that she is new to the district and that she will look into this problem when she gets to work tomorrow.

Mr. Ruth called for a brief 5 minute recess at 8:37 p.m. prior to budget discussion.

Mr. Ruth reconvened the meeting at 8:51 p.m. for budget discussion.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Lisa Blank distributed a copy of the advertised preliminary budget to all board members and presented a power point presentation on Tax Balancing.

are Mrs. Blank stated that our school district is located between two counties. Because of this, we required to equalize mills between these two counties.

BUDGET
DISCUSSION
(cont.)

Method 1 is the method historically used by Northern Lehigh. This method results in different millage rates for each county. This method distributes the burden between counties based on STEB Market Value. This method can result in tax restrictions greater than imposed by Act 1.

Method 2 would result in the same millage rate in both counties. This method would eliminate tax restrictions greater than imposed by Act 1. There are also 4 sub-methods under method 2 that can affect the assessed value for school tax purposes. Mrs. Blank stated the difference between these sub-methods. Sub-method (i), (ii), and (iii) – recalculates the assessed value for school tax purposes. Sub-method (iv) uses county provided assessed values for school tax purposes. She stated that although sub-method (iii) recalculates the assessed value, the result is the same as sub-method (iv). Sub-method (iii) and (iv) would result in the same millage for both Lehigh and Northampton Counties. Method 2 sub-method (i) treats each municipality individually and would further complicate balancing issue. She would not recommend using this method. Method 2 sub-method (ii) treats each county separately and takes into consideration the assessed to market value ratio in each county. She feels that Method 2 sub-method (ii) would be the fairest equalization of mills between the two counties. Method 2 sub-method (ii) realigns the assessed value in Northampton County with Lehigh County which will give them a lower assessed value then the millage rate between both counties would be the same. The only draw back that she see in using this method would be that the residents of Northampton County (Walnutport) would have a different assessed value on their school real estate tax bill then what is listed on their county real estate tax bill.

ADJOURN-
MENT

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

- YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
- NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Peter A. Ruth