

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
November 12, 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 7:32 p.m. on Monday, November 12, 2007 in the boardroom located in the 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., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Rachel Parisi (Student Rep.) Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS

Approximately twenty visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News and Channel 13 News.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Klocek – Washington Township asked to address the board under New Business, modular units.

Sandi Young – Washington Township asked to address the board under New Business, modular units.

Harold Greene – Walnutport Borough asked to address the board under New Business, modular units.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported on the PSBA Legislative meeting. There is still resistance to implementing a state-wide graduation requirement and Karen Beyer's cyber-charter school bill is completely stuck in committee. He briefly discussed PSBA's pension study report and made it available to the board for review. He also stated that the costing out study was going to be release shortly and that he will be reporting back to the board at next month's meeting.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology Building and Grounds Meeting held on November 7, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on November 7, 2007 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Lisa A. Blank reported on CLIU #21 Special Education costs for the past three years as requested by Mr. Dorshimer at a prior board meeting. Mrs. Blank further talked about Policy #707 – Use of Facilities and fees charged to organization using our facilities. She is recommending that the current bills that are outstanding be put on hold until revisions/clarifications to the current policy are made. She is further recommending that the Buildings and Grounds Committee review this policy and forward a new revised policy to the policy committee with further recommendation to the Board of Education for approval.

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

Dr. Sham reminded the board that the Reorganization Meeting will be held on December 3, 2007 starting at 7:00 PM and the Regular School Board Meeting will follow at 7:30 PM.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

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Dr. Sham introduced Mrs. Yadush who discussed the addition of the Young Republicans Club at the High School. When originally brought to the Board for approval in early Spring there was question on whether or not it would open up a forum where we would have to provide something for other individuals as well. It is her understanding that we do not but we must always offer the opportunity for other organizations to apply to be a club. She stated that this would be a non-paid position for the advisor for now. She said that this club is for students to meet together to have discussions that are political in nature. Mr. Dorshimer asked if this is only for political purposes why wouldn't it be the High School Young Political Club and not be associated with any political party out there. Mrs. Yadush stated that this was the idea of the students that approached her but she does not have an objection to it being a Young Political Club. Mr. Dorshimer stated that when you tag it Republican or Democratic, you are opening up a box that other students will be saying we want a club also. Mrs. Yadush said that she feels as a Republican Club she would have more control over discussions, whereas if it is a Political Club she could have students saying these are my political beliefs and she would have a more difficult time saying that these students don't belong in this club and they speak their mind. Dr. Sham stated that this should go back to the solicitor. His reasoning is because if it is a club that means it is open and anybody can come there and express their opinion. In regards to free speech, he would have a difficult time saying to someone who is of democratic persuasion that they would not be allowed to express their opinions there. Mrs. Yadush stated that she would be willing to talk to other school districts who already have a club of this nature and gather more information from them. Mr. Ruth asked if there could be a mission statement and that way the Board can get a handle on exactly what their intentions are. Mr. Williams asked for a list of all clubs currently in existence so the Board can see if this is a type of club that the school may already have in existence. Mr. Green said that this is nothing new and that he feels with a solicitor's opinion we can finalize this.

Secretary of Education Dr. Zahorchak met with all Superintendent's within CLIU #21 and at that meeting he personally distributed the awards for schools that have made Adequate Yearly Progress for two consecutive years. Slatington Elementary, Northern Lehigh Middle School and Northern Lehigh High School all received awards and since we have made Adequate Yearly Progress district wide, we also received an Adequate Yearly Progress District Wide award.

Dr. Sham handed out appreciation awards to Mr. Peter Ruth and Mrs. Sheryl Giles who will be completing their term in office as school board members.

Mr. Ruth stated that there was an executive session held prior to tonight's meeting in the superintendent's office to discuss personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Administrative Transfer	<p>Kathleen Reese</p> <p>From: Office Aide Peters Elementary School</p> <p>To: Temporary High School Guidance Clerical Position</p> <p>Salary: \$13.00 Per Hour/7 Hours Per Day/ 5 Days Per Week</p> <p>Effective: November 13, 2007</p> <p>Termination Date: On or about June 30, 2008 or upon return of employee</p> <p>*60 day probationary period ending on or about February 25, 2008</p>
Substitute Instructional	<p>Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year at the 2007-2008 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:</p> <p>Joan DeSousa – Elementary</p> <p>Eveline Roberts – CLIU Guest Teacher</p> <p>Robert Kutney – Elementary</p>
Substitute Non-Instructional	<p>Approve the following substitute teacher aides for the 2007-2008 school year at the 2007-2008 substitute teacher aide rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:</p> <p>Tara Danner</p>

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Appointments Paul Eible* **
 Non-Assignment: Personal Care Assistant for student #1990026 and student
 Instructional #1990016 at Peters Elementary School – New Position
 Salary: \$9.88 per hour/6 ½ hrs. per day/5 days per week
 (2007-2008 ESSA Agreement)
 Effective: November 14, 2007
 Termination Date: When student no longer needs services
 *60-Day Probationary Period on or about February 25, 2008
 ** Pending Verification of Clearances

Karen DeSantis* **
 Assignment: Personal Care Assistant for student #2090138
 at Peters Elementary School – New Position
 Salary: \$9.88 per hour/5 ½ hrs. per day/5 days per week
 (2005-2009 ESPA Agreement)
 Effective: November 13, 2007
 Termination Date: When student no longer needs services
 *60-Day Probationary Period on or about February 24, 2008
 ** Pending Verification of Clearances

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
 Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
 NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Disposal Of Authorize administration to publish in the Messenger the availability of obsolete basketball
 Basketball related clothing items to the public in accordance with school board policy #706.1, keeping shirt
 Related from each year for posterity.
 Clothing
 Items

Field Trip Biology II and Anatomy Classes – High School – Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA –
 December 17, 2007 – Funded by students

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
 Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
 NAY: None (0)

**OLD
 BUSINESS**

Mr. Dengler asked about the doors that have been malfunctioning and not locking. He wanted to know where we stand and how many need to be fixed yet.

Mr. Derr stated that currently we have two that need work. They latch and lock but they could be better.

**NEW
 BUSINESS**

Mr. Dorshimer informed the Board on the history of the modular units. He stated that in the past by issue of a permit they were used as classrooms and once they were not used as classrooms they would be removed. The question is are we going to follow that or what are we going to do. The modular units have been used lately as storage area for the field hockey team, district stuff and NLYAA. Buildings and Grounds mailed letters in October letting everyone know that these units must be vacated by the end of October and we would make preparation to eliminate these units because they are not in good shape and need repair. At the October Buildings and Grounds meeting, NLYAA came to the meeting and said that this would give them a hardship and at that time the committee decided to hold off and we will get back with what the district is going to do. At the November Buildings and Grounds meeting this was brought up again. Mr. Derr found out that if we wanted to move it or destroy it we would need a permit from Slatington Borough to do that. The discussion among the committee was what are we going to do. Since the committee could not come up with a decision, Mr. Dorshimer suggested that we bring it to

NEW BUSINESS
(cont.)

the board as a body of the whole to decide where we are going with these units. Mr. Dorshimer asked that questions be asked of the district insurance carrier about liability. The field hockey team has removed their items and has found someplace else within the district to store their equipment. Mr. Derr contacted the code officers from Slatington Borough and since the structure is not connected to anything but is a standalone storage unit, there are no borough codes that govern this structure. Mrs. Blank stated that she contacted the school insurance carrier and if the units are vandalized as they stand now, our policy is responsible. If items are stolen from within the units, our policy would cover that. If someone is injured whether around or in the property, it is our liability. If there is negligence there would be a payout. If we would sell the unit to NLYAA they would then have to insure the structure. They would insure the structure for contents inside and be liable for anything that happens in it. We would be liable if anything happened around it outside of the unit. She feels that if we sell it we would need a contract that would clearly spell out insurance must be kept on the unit and the building must be kept up to our standards and if we would need the property, they would have to move the structure. Once they own it, it becomes their piece of property. We are only liable for ground that it sits on and around it.

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There was discussion among Board members and administration concerning the issue of the school district continuing to own and hold the liability insurance on the buildings and allowing outside organizations to use these units for storage if they agreed to maintain these units. this be allowed without any problems on the school district side. There was a question concerning PDE's codes for storage unit's not just borough codes. There was an issue about creating a new board policy as guidelines for outside organizations that use our facilities for storage and the maintenance of those buildings. There was concern about other outside organizations requesting the use of the other units for storage, meeting rooms, etc. There was further discussion about liability insurance and whether we could create an agreement that groups who are storing their equipment must hold liability insurance on the items that are being stored thus taking the school district liability insurance out of the picture. From discussion with the school district insurance carrier, the liability would fall on the people who owned the unit, the school district. There was a concern that if we sold the unit for \$1.00 to an outside organization, would we have to offer it to everyone and the highest bidder would be able to purchase the unit.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Edward Ziegler – Slatington Borough asked why we do not have a solicitor here at this evening's meeting.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that our board solicitor only comes to the first meeting of the month. There again was discussion about creating a policy that would govern the use of these units by outside organizations. A questions was raised that if we sold the unit to an organization for \$1.00 what legal recourse would we have years from now if a group decided to no longer maintain the building they purchased but is located on our property?

Motion To Create Policy- Use of District Facilities For Storage

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education agrees to proceed to develop a policy for outside organizations to utilize our facilities for storage space.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that if the board decides to move forward with the creation of this policy, the school board is not doing what was recommended by the insurance company. The insurance company has suggested that the school district sell the units to organizations so that the district and tax payers of the district are not responsible for the liability insurance on the property being stored in these units.

There was concern from some as to why we would want to continue to own these units. Others felt that if we sell the unit and something happens, Northern Lehigh will somehow still be held responsible if something happened and if the district retains ownership, they have more control over what happens with that unit in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Klocek – Washington Township feels that the organization that is currently utilizing the facility is a fine organization and they have the financial backing and support to take care of things if the school district asks them to do so but his concern is equality. Do we want to

dispose of them or not? Why were they brought in in the first place? They were purchased for

**NEW
BUSINESS**
to (cont.)
or sell

educational purposes of which they are no longer being used for that. If we want to keep them then we need to ask about equality. Some organizations would be inconvenienced with having store their equipment elsewhere but that is not equality in whether we give them the unit them the unit. What we do for one, we certainly have to do for others, especially those in house. Secondly, he believes there are legal issues. He does not know all the ins and outs of policies but he believes because of public property, you have to give everyone a chance to do the same thing. He feels that originally they were probably in a bind for storage and were allowed to store their equipment here but that it probably was not suppose to be a long term commitment. He asks if the organization has gone out to solicit other places that they can use. As a parent of a child who is a member of the field hockey team but also comes to Northern Lehigh for an education, do you really think we would be having this long of a conversation if anyone other than an athletic organization was using these facilities?

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putting Sandra Young – Washington Township stated that her understanding is that there was board approval for the organization to use these facilities. Three years ago they approached the previous buildings and grounds person and told him that they had a portable trailer that they use at construction sites donated to them to use for storage. She contacted Mr. Geiger about that trailer somewhere on school district property. He checked into it and got back to her later stating that the Board did not like the idea of bringing the trailer onto school district property because of liability issues. He said that the Board further suggested that they use one of these buildings for storage. They have been trying to find other facilities to store their equipment but to no avail. Years ago this organization was in debt. Currently they are no long in debt but they also are not rolling in it, therefore they do not have the money to out and rent a facility. Prior to using the building here for storage their equipment was stored at Walnutport Playground along with all equipment from every sport within NLYAA. There was not enough room. Things were getting ruined. They appreciate what the school district has done form them in the last few years and hope they will continue to allow them to use the building. She cautioned the board to remember that this is a feeder program that builds the future athletic programs of our high school which brings in revenue for our district. They are willing to work with the school district, not against them.

years

high school
not

the Harold Greene – Walnutport Borough stated that he has been involved with NLYAA for five to years. They originally played on the regular field but within the last few years have been mostly playing on the practice field. He raised over \$5,000.00 to purchase a portable score board and PA system that they use on the practice field at their games. They have parents that rope off the field so parents can not come on the field. They have coaches that come to every home game line the field, gather equipment, etc. All they ask for from the district is to have a person put out the garbage cans and pads on the goal post. In the 80's the high school basketball team went to championships every single year and that was because of the outstanding feeder program that NLYAA had. In the last few years the numbers of kids being involved in the NLYAA program has been growing and that is because the young children see what the high school students have been accomplishing and they want to be able to do that also. He stated that he is also a member of Walnutport Borough Council and that the playground building is eventually going to be taken down and a new building will be put up for the playground association and the playground equipment for the Borough of Walnutport. Money is tight. By the time we pay for officials and the helmets to be certified every year, there is no money left at the end of the year.

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for officials and

none Mr. Dorshimer stated that nobody is questioning NLYAA and they all realize their value but the Board's charge is to have policy in place to govern the use of this property, of which there is at this time. He also stated that we are also charged with keeping the district financially sound and that is where the insurance carrier is saying to keep it right, do this.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Harold Greene – Walnutport Borough understand that this was approved by the Board.

Mr. Dorshimer asked administration to show him the minutes of where approval for NLYAA to use these facilities for storage was brought to the Board. He has been on the Board for many years and does not remember this.

PUBLIC

Sandra Young – Washington Township asked if it would help if they signed a waiver.

COMMENT**NEW
BUSINESS
(cont.)**

Mr. Ruth said that he understands their concerns but that first there needs to be a policy created to govern the use of the facility for storage which is the motion they currently are discussing. He stated that the Board is not at the point of asking or needing a waiver yet.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Sandra Young – Washington Township said that they would be willing to do whatever to get this resolved. They wish to work with the Board.

Vote On
Motion

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Rescind
Vacate
Letter

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that we rescind the letter to vacate the facility until a policy is developed for the use of our storage space.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL
Education**

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

Financial
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:
General Fund month of October
Athletic Fund month of October
Capital Reserve month of October
Cafeteria Fund month of October
NLMS Student Activities Account month of September
NLHS Student Activities Account month of September & October

Payment
Of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:
General Fund months of October
Capital Project Fund for month of October
Cafeteria Fund month of October
Athletic Fund month of October

Section 356
Agreement
PA Dept
Of Revenue

Authorize the board secretary to sign Section 356 Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and Pennsylvania Department of Revenue. This agreement constitutes a request for confidential tax payer information for use in enforcing the local tax on earned income.

PDE-3074
Auto Accident
Slatington
Elementary
Building

Authorize the board secretary to sign and forward to the Pennsylvania Department of Education form PDE-3074. Slatington Elementary School sustained damages from an automobile accident and this form must be completed prior to repairing the building. Cost to repair the damages will be paid for by the insurance company.

Contract
Blue Knight

Approve the contract with Blue Knight Protective Services, Inc. as security provider for school district events. **(Attachment #4)**

Portnoff
estate Delinq Real
Estate Taxes

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves Portnoff Law Associates as delinquent real tax collectors for the Northern Lehigh School District for tax year 2007. **(Attachment #5)**

Solicit Bids-
Building Fire
and Security-
Annex & Mnt

Authorize proper officials to solicit bids for fire and security protection at the Annex, Maintenance Shed and Maintenance Garage facilities.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

Act 1 Tax
Levy
Resolution

Resolution of the Board of School Directors
OF THE NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Electing to Not Increase its Tax Rate Above the Index

Whereas, Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 requires school districts to adopt a preliminary budget proposal no later than 90 days prior to the date of which the election immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the preliminary budget will take effect.

And Whereas, Act 1 of Special Session of 2006 further provides that a board of school directors may elect to adopt a resolution no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of its public schools for the following fiscal year by more than the index.

And Whereas, the Board of School Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District desires to keep all proposed tax increases for the 2008-2009 school year within its index to provide the necessary revenue to meet the proposed expenditures for the 2008-2009 school year;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that pursuant to Act 1 of Special Session 2006, the Northern Lehigh School District hereby certifies that it shall not increase any tax used for the support of the school district by a rate greater than the index of six percent (6%).

And Be It Further Resolved, that the board of school directors, hereby certifies that it: Shall not increase any tax at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education;

Shall comply with the budgeting procedures set forth in 24 P.S. § 6-687 for the adoption of its proposed and final budgets; and

Shall by limiting its tax rate to no greater than the index have sufficient funds to balance its final budget. **(Attachment)**

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CORR-
ESPON-
DENCE**

Board members received the Slatington News and information on the Keystone Achievement Awards.

**RECOG-
NITION
OF
GUESTS**

Sandra Young – Washington Township stated that she was sorry for taking up so much of the Boards time but thank you for listening to them.

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Edward Ziegler – Slatington Borough stated that when the modular units were put there they were put there for educational purposes. Since they are not needed anymore, they should be out for bid so anyone could purchase them. He stated that since they are not being used as classrooms anymore they probably need to go through a zoning change and be classified as storage. He said there are numerous lights out on Bulldog Lane. He suggested that the parcel of land across the street from the middle school be sold and subdivided into building lots. He said that the flashing light on top of the school buses should only be used when there are students on the bus. He is also suggesting that the bus number be painted on the top of the buses so if a bus becomes missing it can be spotted from above. He reference the early dismissal day at Slatington Elementary School and asked why the students were not taken over to the stadium until the end of the day.

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Darion McGowan – Slatington Borough, high school student addressed the board with the mission of the Young Republicans Club. He said that their mission is to promote healthy and civilized intelligent discussion on current event and issues as well as discussion on republican candidates for political office. He said that we should have rules such as not allowing radical

will

RECOG-
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OF
GUESTS
(cont.)

speech but basically the three rules they came up with were every well informed opinion is equally important and shall not be demeaned in any way, radical/hate speech is offensive and not be tolerated and people with views from the opposite end of the political spectrum are welcomed to express their opinions however, as this is a Young Republicans Club they should be prepared to defend their position with intelligent criticism. On the use of facilities from anyone can come in and use our facilities whether it is a Young Republicans Club or not. We have as students to organize. Every high school in the Lehigh Valley has a club like this.

Susan Firth – Slatington Borough stated that the Keystone Achievement Awards that were handed out was wonderful to see as a parent and that the students need to be commended for their efforts also.

ADJOURN-
MENT

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Peter A. Ruth