

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA**  
**December 7, 2009**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 7, 2009 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael W. Michaels, Mr. Justin Molitoris (Student Rep.), Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Paul Rearden, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Taylor Trapp (Student Rep.), Ms. Mary Kay Williamson, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

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

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on November 9, 2009 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Donald H. Dengler reported that the IU currently has received 19 applications for the Executive Directors position and they are reviewing these applications. He further stated that they approved the 2010-2011 CLIU Budget and a 2<sup>nd</sup> reading of a bullying policy has been accepted and approved.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos reported that LCTI will be holding a budget meeting on Tuesday and their Holiday Dinner and Meeting will be held on Wednesday.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams stated PSBA is offering two audio conferences this week to discuss Race to the Top. Mr. Williams informed the board on this federal competitive grant program and the criteria being used to determine which districts will receive this stimulus money.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. shared information on the recent visit of President Obama to the Community College. Mr. Green had the opportunity to meet with President Obama and was part of the welcoming committee.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Committee Meeting Calendar 2010 Mr. Dengler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha to approve the School Board Committee Meeting Calendar for 2010.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Ms. Taylor Trapp and Mr. Justin Molitoris distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp apprised the board on the current litigation ongoing with the Right to Know request for school district retirees addresses being a part of an open record.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas distributed a data review document on the Peters Elementary Head Start Program and verbally reported on the progress of the program. She also reported on the continuing data analysis review ongoing district wide. She asked each building principal to briefly talk about the data analysis they have been doing in their buildings for the past month. Mrs. Aileen Yadush gave a brief presentation on the final report given to the district by the Middle States Validation Team. The Validation Team has found that the school has met the 12 standards for accreditation and will be pleased to recommend to the commission that it grant accreditation for Northern Lehigh High School.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber stated on the agenda for approval this evening are financial reports, bills for payment and per capita exonerations. The Act 1 Tax Resolution is also on the agenda for approval. Northern Lehigh's Tax Index for 2010-2011 is 4% which is roughly 2 ½ mils. Mr. Melber does not see the district coming close to raising taxes 2 ½ mils.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Derr introduced Doug Taylor and Bob Gilly from D'Huy Engineering who gave a PowerPoint presentation on the third phase on their contract. The third phase is the construction phase and a motion is on the agenda to approve hiring D'Huy Engineering for the construction phase of the project.

There was much discussion about the cost of the construction phase of D'Huy's agreement and the possible savings that the district might realize by having D'Huy involved. One of the benefits of hiring D'Huy for the construction phase is that there will be a project manager on site during the entire construction phase and his job will be to oversee the architect firm and the contractors. He would be the districts first line of defense when it comes to issues with the project and helping to keep the cost of the project from being inflated by change orders and unneeded items.

Mr. Michaels stated that at the January meeting Mr. Michaels will be making a recommendation to move forward with our food service director and offer either a 5 year contract or incorporate her position into the Act 93 Agreement. He has received very positive feed back and is very comfortable with the direction the food service department is heading in.

**PERSONNEL**

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

**Rescind  
Appointment**

Rescind the following appointment which was approved at the November 9, 2009 school board meeting:

Sally Kasztejna\*  
Assignment:

High School Cook's Helper, replacing Linda Nails who resigned

Salary:

\$7.50/Per Hour/5 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week  
(2005-2009 NL Educational Support Personnel Association  
Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement – rate could change if  
starting wage is adjusted with new bargaining agreement)

Effective:

November 10, 2009

**\*60 Day probationary period ending on or about January 8, 2010.**

**Resignations**

Accept the resignation of Lisa Martinez from her position as Middle School Detention Monitor,

L. Martinez effective the end of the work day, November 19, 2009.

## PERSONNEL

### (cont.)

- C. Binder Scholastic Scrimmage Accept the resignation of Carleen Binder from her position as Elementary Scholastic Scrimmage Advisor, effective immediately. Competition dates for the scholastic scrimmage have been moved this year and she will not be able to attend the competition dates.
- Middle School Detention Supervisor Approve to appoint Debra Knerr and Dawn Tulio as Administrative Detention Supervisors in the middle school. Mrs. Knerr will cover the Monday detentions from 2:20 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. and Mrs. Tulio will cover the Wednesday detentions from 2:20 pm to 3:20 p.m. They will work throughout the 2009-2010 school year on Mondays and Wednesdays that warrant detention coverage. Salary will be \$20.00 per hour worked.
- Content Area Coordinators Approve seven (7) employees as Content Area Coordinators from September 2009 through November 2009. Stipend for this position is \$180.00 per month for a total stipend of \$540.00 per coordinator paid through Project 720 funds. Payment will be disbursed upon receipt of funding from the state.
- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| James Yadush – Social Studies | Erwin Prutzman – Business/Technology |
| Gregory King – Math           | Sharon Hunsicker – Special Education |
| Renee Evans – English         | Tanya Simms – K-12 Wellness/Fitness  |
| Christine Leslie - Science    |                                      |
- Unpaid 1 Leaves Of Absence G. Kern Approve the request of Gloria Kern, High School Special Education Aide, to take an additional 12 week unpaid leave of absence beginning on December 1, 2009 in accordance with school board policy #539 Uncompensated Leave. Mrs. Kern is requesting this extension of her unpaid leave for medical reasons.
- K. Borger Approve the request of Kristie Borger, Slatington Elementary teacher, to take a twelve week family medical leave beginning on or about March 5, 2010. She plans to return to her current teaching position upon the exhaustion of her 12 week family medical leave.
- Co-Curricular Volunteers 2009-2010
- |                 |                                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Patrice Arnold  | MS/HS Dance Team Advisor         |
| Dianna Hoch     | MS/HS Dance Team Advisor         |
| LeAnn Hoch      | MS/HS Dance Team Advisor         |
| Andrea Nuschke* | Assistant Girls Basketball Coach |
- \*Pending verification of clearances**
- Substitute-Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year at the 2009-2010 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:
- Jo Lynn Gazo – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Earl Kunkel – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Kathryn Bonilla\* - Music  
Wendy Gremling\* - Elementary  
Deborah Magnotta - Elementary  
**\*Pending verification of missing paperwork**
- Non-Instructional Cafeteria Approve the following individuals as substitute cafeteria workers for the 2009-2010 school year at the 2009-2010 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:
- Heather Hughes
- Aides Approve the following individuals as substitute instructional aides for the 2009-2010 school year at the 2009-2010 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Claire Danko

Custodians Approve the following individuals as substitute custodians for the 2009-2010 school year at the 2009-2010 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Jeffrey Mann

**PERSONNEL**  
**(cont.)**

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

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

Gail Lafferty – Title I Improving School Performance Conference – January 31, 2010 – February 3, 2010 – Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA – Lodging: \$406.98, Travel: \$171.00, Meals: \$50.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$962.98 – Funding: Title I Grant

Marilyn Steckel – Title I Improving School Performance Conference – January 31, 2010 – February 3, 2010 – Sheraton Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA – Lodging: \$406.98, Meals: \$50.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$791.98 – Funding: Title I Grant

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

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

Board Policy  
Second  
Reading

Approve changes to school board policy #539 – Classified Employees – Uncompensated Leave, as presented after second reading.

Homebound  
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, Student No. 1015400, for five hours per week, effective November 23, 2009 and continuing until June 1, 2010.

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, Student No. 1003250, for five hours per week, effective December 1, 2009 and continuing until further medical notice.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Hartman congratulated Mr. Joe Tout, Football Coach, and the 2009 football team for a great season.

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial  
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of November  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Acct for the month of November

List of  
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund month of November  
Cafeteria Fund month of November  
Athletic Fund month of November  
Refreshment Stand Fund month of November

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

**FINANCIAL**

**(cont)**

Tax Bill Printing Agreement Washington Township Approve the agreement with Washington Township for the printing of per capita tax bills. Both the school district and township tax will be printed on one bill form. All fees charged for processing and mailing of the bills will be shared equally by the district and township.

Mandate Waiver Slatington Elementary Renovations Approve the submission of the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Mandate Waiver Program Application for the Slatington Elementary School Additions and Renovations Project, as presented.

D’Huy Engineers Construction Phase Approve to continue the agreement with D’Huy Engineers for the construction phase of the Slatington Elementary School Renovation Project. Total cost for the construction phase is not to exceed \$475,000 (estimated on 20 months).

Field Hockey Fencing Project Award the Field Hockey Fencing Project bid to Abel Fence LLC at a cost of \$11,759.00.

Act 1 Tax Levy Resolution

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the “Taxpayer Relief Act” (hereinafter “Act 1”);

**WHEREAS**, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

**WHEREAS**, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Lehigh School District index for the 2010-2011 fiscal year is 4.0%;

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2010-2011 fiscal year by more than its index.

**AND NOW**, on this 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2009, it is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Northern Lehigh School District (hereinafter “District”) Board of Directors (hereinafter “Board”) the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2010-2011 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
  - a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
  - b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
  - c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

### LEGAL

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the following legal item:

Sweet,  
Stevens,  
Williams &  
Katz LLP  
Special  
Counsel

Approve to appoint Sweet, Stevens, Williams & Katz, LLP as special counsel for the 2010-2011 school year. The hourly rate for non-routine matters will be \$185.00 per hour. The rate for routine or general advice will be \$140.00 per hour. These amounts for both routine and non-routine advice equate to a \$10.00 per hour increase over last year's rates.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

### CORR- ESPON- DENCE

Mr. Williams stated that the Board has received official notification that Plan Con A & B have been approved.

Mr. Michaels also stated that the district has received notification that the three grievances/ arbitrations have been rescinded.

**INFOR-**  
**MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on October 8, 2009 was distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 19, 2009 was distributed.

**ADJOURN-**  
**MENT**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Edward E. Hartman