

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
April 10, 2012

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:34 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2012, in the Administration Office Board Room.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mr. Mathias J. Green, Mrs. Natalie J. Green, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, and Mr. Edward E. Hartman (7)

Members absent: Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (2)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mr. Anthony Connell (Student Rep.), Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. Scot Engler, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Ms. Heather Heiney (Student Rep.), Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. Paul Rearden, Jr., Attorney Charles Stopp (District Solicitor), Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office) and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

VISITORS Approximately ten visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News and a reporter for The Morning Call.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on March 12, 2012 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS
Mager

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha noted that the winners of the Skills USA and DECA competition were honored at the last LCTI meeting. First place winners were: Alyssa Lancsak – Cake Decorating; Yajaira Alvarez – Cosmetology; Jonathan – Motorcycle Technology; Austin Berger – Power Equipment Technology. Second place winners were: Alexandra Abruzzi – Chapter Banner Contest and Alexander Sheridan – Automotive Service Specialty. Third place in the Chapter Banner Contest went to Kenneth Thornton, Jr. Fourth place winners were: Ashley Olewine and Kelsey Rockel for Buying and Merchandising Team Decision Making. Mr. Fedorcha reported that a new supervisor was hired. Mr. Fedorcha stated that he did vote No on this position because just as we do here, as people leave, consideration must be given as to whether or not the position needs to be filled. Lastly, Mr. Randy Hensinger, Business Manager, will be retiring in June. The 2012-2013 calendar was also distributed at the meeting.

by Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that House Bill 823, which was just passed the whole senate, requires all municipalities to notify superintendents of any ongoing or approved residential development in their area. The Senate Appropriations Committee approved Bill 1296 regarding superintendent's contracts. It mandates performance evaluations and newly hired superintendents cannot have a contract longer than three years. Lastly, the State Revenue Department for March collected 4.1 billion in general funds which was 2.4% higher than anticipated; however, they are still 1.9% under anticipated revenue for the year.

due Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green reported that the budget has passed to the number of districts that have voted and approved it. Mr. Green also reported that LCCC has just signed a partnership with Bloomsburg University allowing students to attain bachelor's degree requirements at LCCC for the new Bachelor of Applied Science in Technical Leadership degree. Mr. Green also reported that LCCC and LCTI are close to a partnership to create a Technical Institute. Lastly, please complete the LCCC Trustee-at-Large ballot and return it to Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Education/Policy committee meeting held on April 2, 2012 were distributed.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Ms. Heather Heiney and Mr. Anthony Connell distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents. Mr. Green addressed the student representatives with regards to the article in the newspaper about the student from the Allentown School District that was hushed. Mr. Green stated that he hoped our students felt free to speak their mind good or bad. Mr. Connell noted that the representatives write their own report and it is reviewed, but never censored. Mr. Michaels added that he would be very upset if he ever learned that our students were hushed and he, Mrs. Nicholas and Mr. Engler meet with various student groups, without Mr. Vlasaty and Mr. Pyne present, to hear their concerns. Mr. Hartman concluded by stating the first amendment right applies to everybody.

Federal Programs - Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas reported that the annual pre-school director's meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. at Peters Elementary. This years' topic will be Behavior Management in the Classroom Setting which is being presented by Mr. Scot Engler and Mr. Eugene Marks.

Business Manager's Report

project for EIT
Mrs. Frantz
Berkheimer Tax

Mrs. Frantz referred to two articles that were in the local papers recently. One article called Cash-strapped schools ignoring free money just waiting for them, named Northern Lehigh School district as one that was owed money. Mrs. Frantz reported that she checked the website and our district does not have any unclaimed monies. The other article states that Hanover Township and Bethlehem Township have filed a lawsuit against the city of Allentown and the arena money. At this time, we do not know how this will affect the portion owed to us. Lastly, reported that under Financial, item D, is the resolutions and agreement appointing Administration as the commissioned Local Service Tax collector.

increase in the
agenda.

Mrs. Molitoris announced that under Financial, item C, is the resolution offering installment payments to local businesses. Also, under New Business is a memorandum of understanding to the Act 93 contract which is a change in language recommended by the state auditors. Lastly, on the agenda for approval tonight is the proposed final 2012-2013 budget with a 0 mill amount of \$28,106,782.00. The final approval for the budget will be on the June, 2012

Mr. Green questioned whether you really get a refund of EIT tax if you paid more than 1% as stated on the tax return form because if you work in the city of Allentown, they collect more than 1%. Mrs. Frantz explained that effective January 1, 2012, you are considered a non-resident and they will withhold at the higher rate, but only give the township in which you reside, the amount established by the township, in this case 1%.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michaels introduced Mrs. Renee Evans, High School Student Council advisor. She introduced the officers for student council and they gave a brief overview of events they held and that are planned for the rest of the school year.

Mr. Michaels reported that even though the proposed final budget is on the agenda tonight for approval, we are still in the process of fine tuning it. Mr. Michaels thanked the board, administration, and teachers for working collaboratively to come up with a fair budget that meets the needs of the students.

Mr. Michaels announced graduation is set for Friday, June 1, 2012.

Mr. Michaels recognized the High School and Middle School Student Assistant Program teachers and administrators and thanked them for doing an outstanding job.

Board member Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser arrived at 7:59 p.m.

Mr. Hartman reported that an executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

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

Rescind Appointment Rescind the following appointment which was approved at the March 12, 2012 school board meeting:

John Rice*
 Assignment: Second Shift Custodian/Maintenance Position
 Salary: \$9.00/Hour – 2:30 PM – 11:00 PM – 5 Days/Week
 Effective March 13, 2012
 *Pending Verification of Missing Documents

Resignation S. Steier Accept the resignation of Sheila Steier from her position as Part Time Cook's Helper effective March 23, 2012.

Unpaid Leave Of Absence Approve the request of employee #3715 to take an Unpaid Leave of Absence beginning May 1, 2012 and continue until the end of the 2011-2012 school year. She plans to return to her current position at the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year.

Family Medical Leave position Approve the request of employee #1620 to take a Family Medical Leave beginning on March 7, 2012. The employee will be using nine accumulated sick days in conjunction with the Family Medical Leave. Employee plans to return to their current teaching position upon release from their attending physician.

Game Worker 2011-2012 Approve the following person as a Game Worker for the 2011-2012 school year. Game Workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges, scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2011-2012 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule.

Gina Rotondo

Substitute Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

JoLeigh Sponsler* Music & Special Education
 *Pending Verification of Missing Documents

Substitute Non-Instructional Approve the following individual as a substitute aide for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule: Jamie Kuhns

Approve the following individual as a substitute custodian for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule: Robert Wetzel*

*Pending Verification of Missing Documents

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve the following curriculum and instruction item:

Pediatric Therapeutic Services Agreement Authorize administration to enter into an agreement with Pediatric Therapeutic Services to provide contracted speech therapists on an as needed basis at a cost of \$67.00 per hour for the 2012-2013 school year.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green,

Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
 NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approve the following new business items:

Memorandum Of Understanding Act 93 Approve the Memorandum of Understanding to the Act 93 contract as recommended by the state auditors.

Act 80 Day Allow administration to apply for an Act 80 day on January 20, 2012 for professional development for the 12th grade educational staff members.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
 NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL
Education**

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

Financial Reports Approve the Following Financial Reports:
 General Fund month of February & March

List of Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:
 General Fund months of March & April
 Cafeteria Fund month of March
 Capital Construction month of April
 Capital Projects month of March

Resolution Installment Option For All Taxpayers Approve the resolution providing an option for installment payments of real estate taxes for all taxpayers pursuant to the Taxpayer Relief Act, 53 P.S. § 6926.1502.

Berkheimer LST Tax Collector RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the attached resolutions and agreement appointing Berkheimer Tax Administration as the commissioned Local Services Tax collector effective January 1, 2012.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
 NAY: None (0)

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on February 22, 2012 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on February 20, 2012 were distributed.

**ADOPTION
OF
PROPOSED
FINAL
BUDGET
FOR
2012-2013**

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the proposed final budget and legal notices as presented:

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopts the proposed general fund final budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2012-2013 school year in the amount of \$28,106,782.00.

The preliminary budget is adopted with a 0 mill increase for Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

Legal Notice Authorize the Secretary to publish a Legal Advertisement notifying every resident or inhabitant within the territorial limits of the school district of Northern Lehigh attaining

eighteen (18) years of age, and every resident or inhabitant in said school district to notify the proper Per Capita Tax Enumerator within twelve (12) months of his or her

becoming a

**ADOPTION
OF
PROPOSED
BUDGET
FOR
2012-2013
(cont.)**

resident or inhabitant, in accordance with the School Laws of Pennsylvania, Section 680, as amended June 16, 1972, Act 138. The assessors to contact are as follows:

BOROUGH OF WALNUTPORT

Annette Lacko – Borough Secretary
Walnutport Borough Building
417 Lincoln Ave. Walnutport, PA 18088
610-767-1322

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Joann Ahner – Township Secretary
Washington Township Municipal Building
PO Box 27, Slatedale, PA 18079
610-767-8108

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

Joan Cheesbrough – Assistant Secretary
125 South Walnut Street
Slatington, PA 18080
610-767-2131

Mr. Williams stated that while we have been able to have a 0 mill increase for two years in a row, if the state budget continues in the current direction, this may not be the case for the future and we need to prepare for that now.

Mr. Green echoed Mr. Williams and stated that we are not getting the same amount of funding from the state as previous years and it is falling back on the local people and that is not fair. Mr. Green thanked the administration for doing a great job on the budget.

Mr. Hartman added that it is a shame that our state government would rather support a for-profit school system rather than the public school system.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mrs. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman