

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Special School Board Meeting  
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA  
November 12, 2018**

**PURPOSE**

The special school board meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:03 p.m. on Monday, November 12, 2018 in the Administration Office Board Room.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr. , Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Kristie D. Wilk, and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (7)

Members absent: Mrs. Gale N. Husack (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Ms. Madison Hoffman (Jr. Rep), Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Preston Kemery (Sr. Rep), Mr. Paul Leonzi, Mr. Matthew Link, Mr. Gene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Tanya Simms, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office) and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

Mr. Fedorcha explained that the purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates to fill the board member seat of David Roberts, who resigned last month. Mr. Fedorcha will ask the questions. Upon completion of the interviews, an executive session will be called. The person chosen tonight will be seated at the December meeting and will serve until December, 2019. To continue past that time, they will have to be on the ballot in November and fill the remaining two years of that seat.

**VISITORS**

Approximately three visitors attended the meeting.

**VACANT  
BOARD  
MEMBER  
INTERVIEW  
DEBRA  
BOWER**

Mr. Fedorcha asked the candidate to introduce herself and give a brief personal history. Mrs. Bower stated that she previously held a seat on the board. She has lived in the district her whole life, and has two sons that graduated from Northern Lehigh. She had to resign from the board because of an infection in her mouth.

Mr. Fedorcha asked four questions to the candidate: 1) Why are you interested in being on the board? Mrs. Bower answered that she has a passion for the community and the students. She wants them to be well rounded students, both physically and mentally. Mrs. Bower stated that she agrees, that at times, their mental health is even more important than their grades. She explained that her sons did very well in the district and they were 14 ½ years apart. That proved to her that this district does a great job at educating and now she would like to give back to the district. The reason she left the board was because of health reasons and she had an ill mother that needed caring, but she is now able to give her time to the district.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) What do you feel you can offer our school board? Mrs. Bower explained that she spent twenty eight years putting her children on the school bus and she never felt that she should join the board during those years because she did not want to give the impression she had an agenda for her children. Now, she would like to make sure the students can become the best they can be and afford them every opportunity possible.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 3) What do you think is the biggest challenge to public education now? Mrs. Bower replied that finances and taxes are a concern. Some residents of Walnutport asked if she would get back on the board so Walnutport would have a voice. The most important issue is educating the students so they are well rounded. The hardest part is finances and making it work for the students to give them the best. She also added that some people think students have to go to college. We need the trade schools back to fill the positions of plumbers, electricians, and welders

Mr. Fedorcha asked 4) A member of the community comes to you with a conflict, how do you handle that? Mrs. Bower stated that being on the board for two years, she has had this situation with football. She stated that she listened to the person, and directed them to bring up the situation with Mr. Geist. She said if they did not get anywhere with him, they should go to the superintendent. Also, if there was more than one person with the concern, they should go as a group. Most important is that they go to the right person with their concern.

**VACANT**  
**BOARD**  
**MEMBER**  
**INTERVIEW**  
**MICHELE**  
**MARTINEAU**

Mr. Fedorcha asked the board members to introduce themselves. Mr. Fedorcha asked the candidate to introduce herself and give a brief personal history. Mrs. Martineau stated that she is the mother of two children in the district, an eighth grader Griffin, and a senior, Michael. As far as the board position, her children are older and she is familiar with the operations and would like to lend a hand. She has a master's degree in education and a lot of experience in public relations. She explained that she is not working full-time right now and has the time to devote to the board seat.

Mr. Fedorcha asked four questions to the candidate: 1) Why are you interested in being on the board? Mrs. Martineau answered primarily because her oldest son has suggested that she should run and this time she agreed because she really wanted to do it. She explained that she enjoys the community and is involved in all of the activities. She feels that she will be able to see things through the parent side as well as the administrative side.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) What do you feel you can offer our school board? Mrs. Martineau replied that she is passionate about education and she has watched the school district change over the years and she likes the direction it is going. She added that she would like to support the board in continuing along the path and make any necessary changes to bring Northern Lehigh into a successful space in the community with the changing needs of our students in college and the workforce.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 3) What do you think is the biggest challenge to public education now? Mrs. Martineau said besides money, public education is under fire in the media and has a wavering reputation. She would like to work in the community to let them know that we have their best interest at heart and the students, which is the reason we are here. Another challenge is the changing landscape of the job market and making our students as cutting edge as possible so they can compete with colleges and in the job force.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 4) A member of the community comes to you with a conflict, how do you handle that? Mrs. Martineau stated that she would hear them out and then ask them to come to a board meeting to discuss it with the whole board and she would discuss it privately with the board president before the meeting.

**VACANT**  
**BOARD**  
**MEMBER**  
**INTERVIEW**  
**CHRISTOPHER**  
**ADAMS**

Mr. Fedorcha asked the board members to introduce themselves. Mr. Fedorcha asked the candidate to introduce himself and give a brief personal history. Mr. Adams stated that he has been a teacher in the Salisbury school district for 22 years. Before getting into education, he was a partner in a business. He has spent time coaching his two sons in youth sports, volunteering at the church and, volunteering with boy scouts. When he saw there was an opportunity on the board, he wanted to continue to help students.

Mr. Fedorcha asked four questions to the candidate: 1) Why are you interested in being on the board? Mr. Adams stated that he wanted to help the district. He sees a lot of positive things happening; e.g.: the 1:1 initiative with technology. He teaches in a district that has it and he can see the benefits and some of the things that need to be considered while you are integrating the program.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) What do you feel you can offer our school board? Mr. Adams replied that he believes he can bring a common sense approach to problems, which he understands both as an educator who has worked on curriculum, and as a taxpayer in the district and can work on solutions to any problems.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 3) What do you think is the biggest challenge to public education now? Mr. Adams answered that coming up with creative solutions to get the most from the money based on funding. Also, what we need to do and how we can get the resources to keep our kids engaged and make them successful in our classrooms.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 4) A member of the community comes to you with a conflict, how do you handle that? Mr. Adams answered that he would listen to them, and ask them who they have already approached and ask them to come and bring their concern to the board.

Mr. Fedorcha explained that this meeting will adjourn and the board will, at its regular meeting, ask for a nomination for the open board seat.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Wilk that the Special meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha  
(7)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie D. Wilk  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Gary S. Fedorcha