

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
January 7, 2008

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:38 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2008 in the board room 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, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams. Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, 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), Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mr. Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS

Approximately seven visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Russell – Slatington Borough - asked to address the board on policies.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the minutes of the reorganization school board meeting held on December 3, 2007 and the regular school board meetings held on December 3, 2007 and December 10, 2007 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer reported that CLIU held their reorganization meeting and Christmas festivities in December. He distributed the CLIU Board Briefs and reported that staff members were recognized for outstanding service and the Board approved the 2008-2009 early intervention school calendar.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that the State Board of Education is looking to have a uniformed graduation requirement. They are proposing a series of tests that would be issued to graduating students. If they do not pass the test they do not graduate. They are holding hearings on this issue and in January will be voting on this issue.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on December 12, 2007 were distributed.

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve the school board committee member list for 2008 be approved after suggested changes to page two.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

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.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

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Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp reported that his office has recently forwarded some requested legal opinions to administration.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha distributed her written report verbally reported on the contents. She stated that Peters Elementary recently received a Farms & Healthy School Grant in the amount of \$12,380, new staff members are being Reading Apprenticeship Framework and all Board Members were encouraged to attend Strategic Planning meeting being held on January 23, 2008 in the high school library.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Lisa Blank distributed the 2006-2007 Audit and Management Report for the Single Audit, the 2008-2009 Lehigh Career & Technical Institute General fund and Academic Center Budgets and the 2008-2009 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 General Operating Budget. She asked board members to review these documents. Administration will be asking for approval of these documents at the January 14, 2008 board meeting.

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

Dr. Sham recognized that January is School Board Recognition Month. He distributed certificates and information from the Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Dr. Sham updated the board on the status of the Job Descriptions. He told them they are completed and being reviewed by administration. They will be distributed to all board members at the first board meeting in February.

Jodi Nestor, Representative for Slatington Borough Parks and Recreation Commission has resigned her position. The Board will need to appoint someone to this committee.

Dr. Sham informed the board of the recent bomb threat that was called into the 911 call center against all school buildings causing schools to be closed. Mrs. Blank and he have had numerous discussions on how to handle this day. There are some contractual concerns if the decision would be to make up this school day. He has written a letter to Dr. Zahorchak, Secretary of Education, explaining the situation and asking for this to be considered as an emergency day and forgive the school from having to make up the day.

There was concern from Board members why this day can not be added to the end of the school year calendar to be made up. There was also concern that if we forgive this day students may continue to call in bomb threats because they are not being required to make up the day. The Board asked administration to look into what would be involved in making up the day, financially what would it cost and what is the recommendation of administration.

Dr. Sham stated that he would have to be in contact with labor counsel to review the contracts so when he comes back to the Board with information he can tell them whether there are any costs that would be associated with the option of making up the day.

Executive Session

An executive session was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel and contract issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Non-Instructional Appointment

Vicki Haney* **
Assignment: Licensed Health Room Attendant, replacing Michelle Lobein who resigned
Salary: \$16.50 Per Hour/6½ Hours Per Day/ 5 Days Per Week (2007-2008 Licensed Health Room Attendant Agreement)
Effective: January 8, 2008

***60 day probationary period ending on or about April 10, 2008**

****Pending Verification of Clearances and completion of personnel paperwork**

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Unpaid Leave Extension Approve the request of employee #2840 to take an unpaid leave of absence beginning January 28, 2008. She currently is on a Family Medical Leave and was to return to work on January 28, 2008. She plans to return to her current teaching position on or about February 18, 2008.

Salary Adjustment Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the 2007-2008 school year:

Tracy Hoffman
From: Step 5B
To: Step 5B+24

Co-Curricular Volunteers 2008-2009 School Year	Chad Henritz Alden Farber Amy Zeiser	Assistant Football Coach Assistant Football Coach Assistant Cross Country Coach
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Substitute-Instructional 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:

Matthew Pile* – Elementary
Lisa Colicigno* – Elementary
***Pending completion of personnel paperwork**

Substitute-Non-Instructional Approve the following as a substitute teacher aide and cafeteria worker for the 2007-2008 school year at the approved 2007-2008 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule substitute rates:

Kathleen Troxell

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Co-Curricular Appointments 2008-2009 School Year Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve the following co-curricular appointments for 2008-2009 school year:

Joe Tout	Head Football Coach	\$6,608.64
Steve Hluschak	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,294.97
Mark Lavine	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,294.97
Doug Reynolds	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,294.97
Dan Blazosky	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,294.97
Mark Hoffman	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,294.97
Terry Bowman	Assistant Football Coach-Shared	\$2,147.49
Andrew Lynn	Assistant Football Coach-Shared	\$2,147.49
Jess Schoenberger	Head Field Hockey Coach	\$3,959.40
Kelly Follweiler	Assistant Field Hockey Coach	\$2,573.13
Dave Oertner	Head Cross Country Coach	\$3,959.40
Beth Case	Assistant Cross Country Coach	\$2,573.13
John Sitaras	Head Boys Soccer Coach	\$4,776.84
Hassan Mouahhid	Assistant Boys Soccer Coach	\$2,653.80

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Mr. Follweiler (1)

POLICY

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

Board Policy
Second
Reading

Approve school board policy #246 – Pupils – Student Wellness, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #333 – Administrative Employees – Professional Education, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #906 – Community – Public Complaints/Comments, as presented after second reading.

Board
Governance
Standards/
Code of
Conduct

Approve to reaffirm the school board standards and code of conduct referenced in school board policy #011 - Local Board Procedures – Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

Resolution
LCTI
Diesel
Training
Center

Approve the Resolution of the Joint Board of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute with respect to the construction project titled the Diesel Training Center Project. Maximum construction costs are \$934,462.00 and will come from the existing Capital Reserve Fund, Adult Education Funds and State Legislator Funds. The Project does not increase indebtedness and does not require additional funding from the Participating School Districts.

Homebound
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant extended homebound instruction for a 10th grade student, Student No. 1010000 for five hours per week, effective January 2, 2008 and continuing until approximately January 10, 2008.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

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

Resolution for
School Board
Director
Recognition
Month –
January 2008

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's public school board members, elected by the citizens, have served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in representing the public's interest in public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, local school directors represent their communities' beliefs and values when making decisions about the operation of school districts, giving of their time and talent, without compensation, to provide high-quality educational opportunities that prepare children to live as productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, school board members ensure that standards for achievement are met and serve as advocates for the public education of the students and the enhancement of the community, incorporating the community's view of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level; and

WHEREAS, school directors are accessible to their district residents and accountable for the performance of the district's schools, serving as the community's watchdog and ensuring that tax dollars are spent wisely on education; and

WHEREAS, the "Pride & Promise – Public Schools . . . Achieve" public awareness campaign is working to highlight the success and value of public education, as well as promote the effectiveness and commitment of local school boards to providing all Pennsylvania children with an excellent education; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of the men and women who serve on the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors:

NEW BUSINESS
(cont.)

- Donald H. Dengler
- Bryan C. Dorshimer
- Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr.
- Lauren A. Ganser
- Lori H. Geronikos
- Mathias J. Green, Jr.
- Edward E. Hartman
- Donna M. Kulp
- Gregory S. Williams

should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Director of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Early Retirement Incentive Plan for 2007-2008

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Williams, that the Board of Education approve to adopt an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2007-2008 school year.

YEA: None (0)

NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

Motion was defeated.

FINANCIAL

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

Cash Mngt Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the months of November 2007.

Per Capita Abatement/Exoneration

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

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

CORR-ESPONDENCE

Mr. Dorshimer stated that the Board received a thank you letter from Senator Dent for passing a resolution supporting his No Child Left Behind Improvement Act of 2007.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on October 24, 2007 and the LCTI Director's Report for December 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 6, 2007 was distributed.

Minutes of the Borough of Slatington Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held on December 17, 2007 was distributed.

**INFOR-
MATION
(cont.)**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on November 19, 2007 was distributed.

**RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS**

Scott Russell – Slatington Borough – Does the district have a zero tolerance for violence in school and how do you enforce that. Would the child be suspended and does it matter what grade they are in.

Dr. Sham stated that there is not a zero tolerance for violence but there is for weapons.

Scott Russell – Slatington Borough – how about if a student injures another student?

Dr. Sham stated that there is no zero tolerance policy for one student injuring another student and it is handled on a case by case bases.

Scott Russell – Slatington Borough – stated that his child was injured by another student intentionally stomping on his child’s foot. His child has a lump on the side of the foot and he wants to know what will happened to this student and who will be paying for the medical bills.

Dr. Sham stated that he would not hear tonight what discipline action happened with the student. He stated that this if the first time he had heard about this. He will contact Mrs. Nicholas Peters Elementary Principal tomorrow and look into the situation. He also advised him to set up an appointment to meet with the building principal and find out what happened.

Stephanie Kuhns – Slatington Borough – she has students at the high school and feels that bullying needs to be stopped. Teachers need to stop it before students hurt other students. She has been in contact with high school administration but the bullying is still going on. Feels teachers need to step in and this needs to stop. Asked why the school is not holding assemblies letting students know what will happen to the students legally if they get caught calling in bomb threats. The bomb threats being called in are hurting the education of our students.

service Steve Kuhns – Slatington Borough – He asked if the bomb threat was called in on an in-day, would it have to be made up. He has a problem with paying salary teachers who did not work the entire contracted day. He does not feel that if we make up the day that the district should be responsible to pay the teachers for coming in.

Dr. Sham stated that he is not debating this issue. He agrees but it will be the decision of the Board whether this day is to be made up or not.

Mrs. Fedorcha thanked Terry Ahner, Times News, for publicizing the e-Strategic Planning Meeting and the surveys on-line on the district web page.

**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 9:00 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President

Edward E. Hartman