

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
February 12, 2001

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2001 in the board room located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (8)

Members absent: Mr. Jason M. Newhard (1)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Dr. Brian Gessner, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Atty. Neil Ettinger (Solicitor), Ms. Pamela Grammes, Ms. Lisa Vaughan, Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 4 visitors attended the meeting.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Lehigh Career and Technical Institute -- Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler
Mrs. Sechler deferred her report. Dr. Clyde Hornberger, Director of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute attended the meeting to conduct a presentation with regard to the proposed building expansion program at the Institute.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer reported about a "historic first" at the January meeting of the CLIU. Board members held their first ever remote location conference call for a board meeting. Several board members were unable to personally attend the meeting but participated on conference calls from various locations throughout the area and interacted with CLIU board members in their meeting room throughout the entire meeting. He also highlighted several items that were included in the CLIU Board Briefs which were distributed to all board members.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings All Board Members received copies of the following:
1. Minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on January 8, 2001.
2. Minutes of the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee meeting held on January 17, 2001.
3. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on January 22, 2001.
4. Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on January 29, 2001.

Mr. Green asked if members of the Support Service negotiation team could meet briefly after the meeting.

Mrs. Geronikos asked if members of the Act 93 negotiation team could meet briefly after the meeting.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos has been appointed Asst. Regional Director of Region 8 and informed the board that her expenses related to any of her duties in that role will be paid for by PSBA. She discussed some of the highlights of the legislative meeting. Mrs. Geronikos also reported on Gov. Ridge's proposed 2001-02 budget.

Acting Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
1. Dr. Sham introduced Dr. Clyde Hornberger who presented a summary report on the expansion project proposed for the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Motion made by Mr. Green, with a second by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education authorize the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors to approve a Resolution of the Joint Operating Board of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute authorizing them to enter

(Con't.) into a building, construction, and alterations project in an amount not to exceed \$54,950,863 and to execute and carry out contracts with respect to the project, and to incur bonded indebtedness for the purposes of funding the project as outlined in the resolution agreement.

LCTI

Resolution -

Expansion

ProgramROLL CALL: YEA:

Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

NOTE: For the record, each board member also had to cast a paper vote for this resolution . Mr. Newhard, who was absent from the meeting, also voted in the affirmative at a later date.

KOEZ

Discussion

Dr. Sham introduced Mr. Victor Rodite, of the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, who presented the board with information with respect to making the Keystone Opportunity Expansion Zone program more accessible to our district by combining it with the LURTA program. It was suggested that members from the Slatinton Borough Council and the Washington Township Supervisors be contacted to attend our next meeting which will be held on February 19, 2001. Mr. Rodite will prepare information for official action at the February 19 school board meeting.

RECESS

President Fedorcha called for a brief recess at 9:15 p.m. The Board reconvened at 9:20 p.m.

Superintendent

Report

Dr. Sham acknowledged Mr. Robert Mack, junior high school principal, who received the Golden Apple Award as the "Principal of the Year" from the Learning for Life staff. Learning for Life is a career awareness program conducted in the junior high school.

He announced that National School Counselors' Week was held during the week of February 5-9, 2001.

Dr. Sham announced that the School Board/Administrative Retreat would be held on March 23 & 24 at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

He recognized Rody Shaffer, an LCTI welding student and a Northern Lehigh High School student, who participated in a job shadowing experience through LCTI.

Dr. Sham read a thank you note that was sent to Home Depot for their donation of a Shop Vac to the middle school industrial arts department.

He announced that there will be a School Board meeting on Monday, February 19 at 8:00 P.M. There will also be a Policy/Education Committee meeting preceding the meeting beginning at 6:30 P.M.

Dr. Sham alerted the board of a possible 2001-2002 budget dilemma. Edunet vs. CLIU scheduling could be a major funding item that the board should be aware of as the district prepares to adopt a budget for 2001-2002.

Mr. Geiger, Director of Buildings and Grounds, informed the board that the district has taken some proactive action with regard to the safety of our cafeteria tables. An investigation and inspection of our cafeteria tables was conducted as a result of a kindergarten student in the Philadelphia School District being fatally injured when a folded cafeteria table fell on him.

An Executive Work Session was held at 6:30 p.m. in the superintendent's office for legal and personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

Appoint Dr.

Nicholas P.

Sham, Sr. As

Superintendent

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education appoint Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr. as Superintendent of the Northern Lehigh School District, for a term of three and one half (3 ½) years, commencing on February 12, 2001 and ending on June 30, 2004. Dr. Sham's salary shall be established at \$88,270.00 for the remainder of the 2000-2001 fiscal year. Other compensation to be determined by a contract agreement with Dr. Sham and the Board of School Directors.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Appointments-
Instructional

Steven R. Zong Temporary Vacancy Replacement Teacher
Assignment: Technology Education Teacher
Junior High School -- Replacing Robert Hicks who has been granted a
Compensated Professional Leave of Absence for the second semester of
the 2000-2001 school year.
Salary: \$35,200.00 (prorated) (Appendix A – Step 1 Bachelors on the 2000-2001 CBA
Salary Schedule)
Effective Date: January 25, 2001
Termination Date: On or about June 13, 2001

Substitutes -
Instructional

Employ the following substitute teacher for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute teacher rates
of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$90.00 for 21+
non-consecutive days:

Steven R. Zong – Effective January 24, 2001 – Emergency Certificate – Industrial Arts/Tech Ed K-12
Brooke Kling – Elementary/Special Education/Visually Impaired
Cory Hartsell – Social Studies
Trisha Perry – Elementary K-6
Lisa Hohenshilt – Social Studies

Non-
Instructional

Employ the following substitute aide for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute rate of \$6.25 per
hour: Robyn Pristash – Instructional Aide

Employ the following substitute cafeteria worker for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute rate of
\$6.25 per hour: Robyn Pristash

Contract
For Services
With
Rhonda Frantz

Effective January 22, 2001, and continuing until a business manager has been hired for the district,
approve to contract with Rhonda Frantz, Bookkeeper I in the business office at a rate of \$22.00 per
hour, on an as need basis, for additional services rendered over and above her normal business day.

Contract For
Services With
Dr. Kenneth
Koberlein

Approve to contract with Dr. Kenneth Koberlein for consultative services, effective February 6,
2001, at a fee of \$50.00 per hour, not to exceed 30 hours.

PERSONNEL
(Con't.)

Salary Adjustment - Englert 2001 school year: Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective
Bargaining Agreement that would entitle her to a salary increase for the second half of the 2000-Jane

Jane Englert
From: 4B \$35,800.00

To: 4B+24 \$37,000.00

Leave Without Pay – Larry Parry Larry Parry requests permission to take a two-day leave of absence, without pay, during the week of October 29, 2001. He plans to use his three accumulated personal days in conjunction with the requested two unpaid days and needs to make a commitment to use these unpaid days by March 1, 2001. His request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Susan Mendes Susan Mendes requests permission to take a one-day leave of absence, without pay, on February 16, 2001. She plans on using her two personal days in conjunction with this request. Her request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Resignation - Pamela Peters Accept the resignation of Pamela Peters, Special Education Aide at Peters Elementary School, effective the end of the day on February 2, 2001.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conferences Approve the request of Marge Hennet to attend a J & K Seminar entitled “Identifying, Assessing, and Treating Adolescent Depression on April 2 and 3, 2001 in Lancaster, PA. Expenses include \$190.00 for registration, \$175.96 for lodging, \$40.00 for meals, for an approximate total cost of \$405.96 and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of the administration that a team of four people attend the “High Schools That Work” conference in Atlanta, GA from July 10-13, 2001 at an approximate cost of \$700.00 per person. Travel and lodging arrangements will be made by the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

Approve the request of Catherine Farole and Beth Case to attend a Bureau of Education and Research conference, entitled Successful Co-Teaching Strategies, in Philadelphia on March 7, 2001. Expenses include \$169.00 each for registration, \$41.80 for travel for a total cost of \$379.80 plus the cost of two substitute teachers for one day and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Jean Madea to attend an Applebaum Training Institute conference entitled “How To Handle The Hard To Handle Student” in Allentown on April 17, 2001. Expenses include \$139.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and has been approved by the Continuing Professional Education Committee.

Homebound Instruction Grant homebound instruction to the a ninth grade student, Student No. 04-00260, for five hours a week, effective February 20, 2001 and ending on or about April 1, 2001.

POLICY (Con’t.)

Extend Homebound Instruction Homebound instruction was granted for Student No. 12-37000 on December 11, 2000 for five hours per week beginning December 5, 2001 and ending on or about February 5, 2001. It is further recommended that homebound instruction, for five hours per week, be extended for this student until March 30, 2001.

Field Trip Approve the request of Sandra Michalik to take a group of seven students to Harrisburg on April 2 and 3, 2001 to attend the Pennsylvania Tobacco Prevention Network’s Statewide Tobacco-Free Youth

Conference sponsored by the Coalition for a Smoke-Free Valley. The Coalition for a Smoke-Free Valley will cover all costs associated with this trip.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

PC Abatements Consider abatement of per capita taxes for the resident(s) that fall within the guidelines.

Walnutport Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a refund for overpayment of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes for the property owners as listed for the month of January 2001.

Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of December 2000.

Distribution Of CLIU Budget (Info Only) The Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2001-2002 Operational and Program Services Budget was distributed.

Reopen LCTI Budget Approve to adopt the following Resolution to reopen the 2000-2001 General Fund Operating Budget of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

RESOLVED: That the Board of Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District hereby approve the reopening of the 2000-2001 General Fund Budget of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute in accordance with Section 609 of the School Code concerning the receipt of additional State Funds in the amount of \$268,714.00.

Refund Real Estate Taxes Approve the refund of the following real estate taxes as presented.

USDA Rural Housing Service
CFC \$990.53
P.O. Box 66805
St. Louis, MO 63166
For
Parcel #23-B06NE2-007-005
8142 PA Route 873
Slatington, PA 18080
Taxes were paid by the owner and the mortgage company.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL (Con't.) Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education consider the request of the Northern Lehigh School District tax collectors to approve a new tax collector compensation proposal to increase their fees beginning with the 2002-2003 school year as follows:

| Current Rates | New Rates |
|--|--|
| Base Rate = \$400 | Base Rate = \$400 |
| \$1.30 for first 2000 bills collected | \$1.50 for first 2000 bills collected |
| \$1.00 for next 2000 bills collected | \$1.25 for next 2000 bills collected |
| \$.70 for anything above 4000 bills collected | \$1.00 for anything above 4000 bills collected |

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

Mrs. Geronikos read a thank you letter from District Magistrate Edward Hartman thanking the district for allowing high school students to paint a mural on the wall in the foyer of his magisterial court office.

Mrs. Geronikos read a letter from the Lehigh Area School District, addressed to the Lehigh Carbon Community College, officially informing them that the Lehigh Area School District authorized their administration to file a letter of intent to withdraw sponsorship to LCCC as of July 1, 2002.

**INFORM-
ATION**

All Board Members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on December 18, 2000.

All Board Members received copies of minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on January 4, 2001.

Notification has been received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education of their approval of PlanCon Part A, Project Justification, and PlanCon Part B, Schematic Design, for the Northern Lehigh Middle School. Copies of these documents and appended materials will be entered into the official minutes of this meeting.

PPL has been added to the list of providers of professional development and educational opportunities as a part of the district's Act 48 Continuing Professional Education Plan.

Before adjourning, Mr. Dorshimer invited all board members to attend the next Finance Committee meeting which will be held on February 26, 2001 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Motion made Mr. Dorshimer, seconded by Mr. Cox that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President)
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha