

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
March 5, 2007

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter A. Ruth, at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2007 in the multi-purpose room of Peters Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (8)

Members absent: Mr. Franklin D. Beers (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Atty. Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

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

Mr. Ruth reported that the board was in executive session prior to the board meeting to discuss personnel issues and immediately following the meeting they will reconvene to discuss more personnel issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT Patricia Nonnemaker – Washington Township stated that she wanted to make a comment and ask questions on ACT 1 Resolution.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 5, 2007 and the regular school board meeting held on February 12, 2007 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer reported on the Holiday Card that was presented to Pete Rile and Judy Podorsky. He also reported that the CLIU Board was presented with a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary findings of the transportation study. He said they are trying to eliminate close to a million dollars in transportation costs. He guarantees they will come up with at least half a million dollar reduction in transportation costs this year. Other than a few minor items brought to the board's attention, the 2005-2006 audit report came back very positive. He also reported that they have adopted some new resolutions and they are in the process of scheduling the CLIU School Boards Conference on March 29, 2007. They are also in the final stages of the sale of the old IU building to the community college. They are also close to settlement on the piece of property on route 100.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that Senator Rhodes has 4 bills that have been approved through the Senate Appropriations Committee. The first three are supported by PSBA and deal with school districts which have failed to meet AYP in different ways. The first is senate bill 154 that would establish a clearing house of continuing professional educational programs for use by school districts, including a separate listing of programs which is designed for school districts which have been identified with warning or corrective action. Senate bill 155 permits each IU throughout the state to establish a core of educational advisors which would assist school districts which have been identified for improvement or corrective action. Senate bill 157 would require that the IU would support and coordinate academic improvement programs for districts that are eligible for academic assistance. Senate bill 158 would require

and
**SPECIAL
 BOARD
 REPORTS**
 (cont.)

each school district to establish a parental involvement program, a parental involvement policy and a parental involvement committee. The goal of the bill is to increase parental involvement in the learning process, especially for those students who have scored below proficiency in the PSSA tests.

fully

PSBA has chosen the four statewide legislative priorities. The first is to reduce or eliminate the financial burden of cyber or charter schools. Second, is to increase state funding dealing specifically with special education and changing the funding formula in terms of how much is actually being spent on special education. Third, is to increase options for districts in terms of construction namely in terms of releasing the prevailing wage act. Fourth and final priority is to support legislation which would require a periodic review of state mandated programs ensuring that those programs continue to be funded fully by state and those that are not being funded by the state, school districts would have the option of withdrawing from them.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. stated that the community college has approved the bond issue for purchase of the Intermediate Unit's old building. Instead of leasing the building and actually buying the building outright with a bond issue, it saves the community college about \$200,000.00. He stated that as they were doing this bond they decided to look at their already existing bonds and see about refinancing them. They have done that and through that process have saved about \$385,000.00 which will filter back and save money for Northern Lehigh. Mr. Green has requested that the Lehigh Carbon Community College budget be approved at the next regular school board meeting in March.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on February 7, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 7, 2007 were distributed.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Charles Stopp received information on Act 179 of 2006 which seeks to provide greater protection for children from abuse. He passed this information on to Dr. Sham for him to distribute to the appropriate personnel.

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha reported that the After the Bell Tutoring Program will be completed this week. The tutors will be looking at the data to determine the overall increase in lexile levels and performance on the 4Sight Benchmark Assessment. When the data has been completed, a report will be made available for the board. She stated that on March 13, 2007, Jane Ervin, the CEO for Community Services for Children, Inc., and Paula Margraf, CSC, Inc. Executive Vice President will be visiting the Head Start classroom at Peters Elementary and Board members are invited to attend. She briefly explained the retroactive approval of conference attendance procedures and informed the board that this does not happen frequently but at times there are reasons why this does happen.

Business Manger's Report – Mrs. Lisa Blank reported that she had a meeting with the tax collectors to discuss the tax balancing method change for this year. She also reported that she will be attending a Chamber of Commerce meeting to also give a presentation on the tax balancing method change for this year. She reported that there was an article in the newspaper this week asking for a reassessment of Northampton County. She also reported that they conducted open enrollment last week for medical insurance because of the settlement of the teacher's contract. She also distributed a memo discussing Act 1 requirements for installment payment of real estate taxes for this year.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Ganser asked to separate the personnel items A, C and H2 and vote on them separately.

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

Substitutes -
 Non-

Approve the following individual as a substitute custodian for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Instructional

Richard Nichol

PERSONNEL Approve the following individuals as substitute secretaries/aides for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.
(cont.)

Jessica Matyascik

2007-2008	Ryan VanNorman	Assistant Football Coach
Co-Curricular	Terry Bowman	Assistant Football Coach
Volunteers	Amy Zeiser	Assistant Cross Country Coach

Advertise 3 Hr. Aide Approve to advertise for a half-time (3 hrs. per day) Aide for a student with special needs at Peters Elementary School.

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 second half of the 2006-2007 school year:

Kristin Skinker
 From: Step 4B + 24
 To: Step 4M

Unpaid Leave of Absence Kathleen Heiser Approve the request of employee #3880, a High School Aide, to take a six week unpaid leave of absence beginning on March 5, 2007. She is planning to return to work upon release from her doctor on or about April 13, 2007.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
 NAY: None (0)

Item A Salary Increase Greg Derr Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education approve the following personnel item:

Upon satisfactorily completing the 6 month probationary period and upon recommendation of the Superintendent, approve a salary increase of \$3,000.00 for Greg Derr, Director of Buildings and Grounds, effective February 22, 2007.

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (7)
 NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

Motion carried.

Item C Co-Curricular 2006-2007 Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles that the Board of Education approve the following personnel item:

Mark Hoffman	Middle School Spring Intramural – Weightlifting	\$758.83
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YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
 NAY: None (0)

Item H2 Unpaid Leave Absence Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles that the Board of Education approve the following personnel item:

Tina Chalk an Approve the request of employee #2755, a Slatington Elementary School Cook, to take unpaid leave of absence beginning on January 3, 2007. She is planning to return to work upon release from her doctor on or about February 28, 2007.

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

YEA: None (0)
NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education approve conference items A-D:

Aileen Yadush – PASA Women’s Caucus Conference – May 2-4, 2007 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$350.00, Lodging: \$189.00, Total Approximate Cost: \$539.00 – Funding: C & I Budget

– Kristie Borger – Increasing Your Effectiveness as a Reading Specialist or Literacy Coach – March 21, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$185.00 - Funding: C & I Budget

Gail Lafferty - Increasing Your Effectiveness as a Reading Specialist or Literacy Coach – March 21, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$185.00 - Funding: C & I Budget

Diane Ruff – Wellness and Academic Success: From Policy to Action Conference – April 30, - May 1, 2007 – State College, PA – Registration: \$35.00, Travel: \$81.60, Lodging: \$146.76 - Total Approximate Cost: \$263.36 – Funding: Cafeteria Budget

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
NAY: None (0)

Item E
Conference
Addendum

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve the following conference item:

Janet Bashore – Practice Discipline Strategies for the Difficult Child – Sponsored by Bureau of Education & Research – February 28, 2007 – Bethlehem, PA – Registration: \$165.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$165.00 - Funding: IDEA

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (4)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Dengler (4)

Motion defeated.

be Mrs. Ganser asked that since this motion was defeated and Mrs. Bashore has already attended the conference, what happens now. Attorney Stopp said that the policy needs to be reviewed and if the policy states that the approval process was not done correctly than it would be the responsibility of the person who signed the contract to pay for the conference. The policy will be reviewed by the solicitor and brought back to the board at a later school board meeting.

POLICY

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

Act 1
Tax
Resolution
increase

Resolution Authorizing the May 15, 2007 Primary Ballot Question

Background: **Act 1 mandates a referendum on whether the school district shall or impose an income tax for the purpose of generating revenues to be used to fund homestead/farmstead property tax exclusions for qualified homestead/farmstead property. The purpose of this resolution is to approve the referendum question and related steps.**

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Northern Lehigh School District, as follows:

POLICY
(cont.)

1. The school district shall place a referendum question on the May 15, 2007 primary election ballot. The referendum question shall be in substantially the following form, with additions or changes (other than the tax rate) as determined by the school board President and election officials prior to the election:

revenue to reduce \$342.00	The current earned income tax rate is 1%. Do you favor imposing an additional 1% earned income tax? The generated from the increased tax rate will be used taxes on qualified residential properties (homestead/farmstead) by an estimated amount of
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2. The school district administration, in consultation with the school board, shall prepare and present to election officials a non-legal interpretative statement that shall accompany the referendum question in accordance with the Pennsylvania Election Code.

3. School district officials shall take any and all action necessary or appropriate to carry out the intent of this resolution.

4. Should a majority of electors voting on the May 15, 2007 referendum question vote in the affirmative, the school district shall take action to assess and levy the tax beginning on July 1, 2007. This tax shall be self-executing and shall continue in force on a fiscal year basis without annual reenactment except in a year in which the rate of the tax is changed or the tax is repealed.

Resolution High School Science Lab	Approve the agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation, Inc., for the building of the Herman P. Snyder Science Lab.
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Homebound Instruction	It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 9 th Grade Student, Student No.1009350, for five hours per week, effective February 28, 2007 and continuing until March 14, 2007.
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**PUBLIC
COMMENT**
primary

Patricia Nonnemaker – Washington Township asked questions concerning the Act I Tax commission and the referendum question that was to appear on the May 15, 2007 ballot. She asked questions concerning the tax base and the money that would be saved on property taxes if the referendum question would pass but stated the taxes that she would have to pay on earned income tax would be greater than the amount of money would be saving on the property tax relief. There was much discussion between her board members Mr. Green and Mr. Williams. She was confused between Act I and and was explained the difference by board members. She also asked questions concerning the budget exception process and Mr. Ruth stated why that was applied for and that it does not have to be used but is there if we need to use it. She stated that she was not in favor of this shift in taxes and urged the public to vote against this ballot question in the May primaries.

she
and
Act 72

be of	Mr. Dorshimer referenced the contract between the Northern Lehigh Board of Education and the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation, Inc. for the construction of the Herman P. Snyder Science Lab and no where in the contract does it state what will happen if the foundation does not received enough donations to complete the project. Will the board responsible to go to the tax payer and ask them to donate or even raise property taxes to complete the project? There was discussion between board members and members the Education Foundation concerning this issue and what would happen.
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Motion Tabling Science Lab Agreement Mr. Dengler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler that the Board of Education approve to table the agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation, Inc. for the building of the Herman P. Snyder Science Lab.

POLICY
(cont.)

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Dengler (2)
NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Ruth (6)

Motion defeated.

Vote On Original Motion

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Dorshimer thanked Julie Harhart for having PennDot remove the snow from the bridge between Walnutport and Slatington.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dorshimer stated that with all the publicity of what is going on in other districts in dealing with time management he wanted to bring up the need for monitoring, or a way of knowing, that our employees are here at work when they are to be here. He stated that currently we are using an honor system and hourly people are completing time sheets and turning them in for payroll. He said that we have a system here that you can card in and card out and that all it takes is a policy that would record time. He personally believes that all hourly employees should be punching a clock and that way we would know when they were here and not here. We currently have no way of knowing except on the honor system. He is not saying that anyone in the district is dishonest, but with all the newspaper publicity that is going on from time to time he does not want Northern Lehigh to get a black eye and the only way for that not to happen is to be proactive. He says this also happens with salaried employees. From time to time through rumor mills he hears that this employee is not here and it's also on the honor system. He believes that there is a state mandate that even salaried employees are due overtime. Secretaries and other people that are here after hours are overtime if we can not prove by timesheets when a person is here or not here. He will be bringing this up again at the finance committee and buildings and grounds committee meeting so they can look at using our card id system as a punch clock system when the card is swiped.

due

FINANCIAL

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

Bill Payment Construction Account

Approve payment of bills from the construction fund account, as presented.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
NAY: None (0)

CORR-ESPONDENCE

Mr. Ruth informed the board that at their seats they will find the Bulldog Times, Lehigh Valley Ag Summit II and CLIU information.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Borough of Slatington Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held on February 19, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on January 15, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on February 1, 2007 were distributed.

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

INFOR-
MATION
(cont.)

Mr. Ruth stated the Board of Education would be signing the teacher's contract this evening.

Mrs. Ganser wanted to congratulate the boy's basketball team and the wrestlers who have made it to the state finals.

ADJOURN-
MENT

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Peter A. Ruth