

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
BOARD MINUTES  
Informal Meeting And  
Regular School Board Meeting**

**Slatington, PA  
March 12, 2001**

**INFORMAL  
MEETING**

An informal meeting, outlining the construction/renovations to the Northern Lehigh Middle School, was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 6:46 p.m., on Monday, March 12, 2001, in the gymnasium of the Slatington Elementary School prior to the regularly scheduled school board meeting. The purpose of the informal meeting was to have school district personnel, the architect, and the financial advisor present a proposal for the renovations to the Northern Lehigh Middle School. The following board members were in attendance for this informal meeting: 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., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha. Absent from the meeting was board member Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler. Also attending were Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Dr. Brian Gessner, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mrs. Doneta Merkle, Mr. Les Bear, Financial Advisor and Mr. Barry Brobst, Architect. Sharon Minnich from The Times News and Elizabeth Bartolai from The Morning Call represented the media.

**RECESS**

President Fedorcha called for a short recess at 7:27 p.m. The board reconvened at 7:37 p.m. to proceed with their regularly scheduled school board meeting.

**PURPOSE**

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:37 p.m., on Monday, March 12, 2001, in the gymnasium of 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., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler (1)

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

**VISITORS**

Approximately four visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich from The Times News, Elizabeth Bartolai from The Morning Call, Les Bear from Arthurs Lestrangle & Company, and Barry Brobst from The Architectural Studio.

**APPROVE  
MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 12, 2001 and the regular school board meeting held on February 19, 2001 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None: (0)

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS**

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer

Mr. Dorshimer reminded all board members of the CLIU School Board Member conference scheduled for April 4, 2001 at the Days Inn in Allentown. He urged all to attend.

CLIU Board  
Representative-

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer as the district's representative on the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit

B. Dorshimer Board of Directors effective July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2004.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(Con't.)**

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

Committee  
Reports And/  
Or Meetings

All board members received copies of minutes for the following committee meetings:  
1. Technology/Buildings and Grounds committee meeting held on March 7, 2001.  
2. Finance Committee meeting held on February 26, 2001.  
3. Policy/Education Committee meeting held on February 19, 2001.

Appoint  
Committee  
Members

Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, to appoint the following individuals to serve as members of school board committees as indicated:  
1. Tina Nakata – Community Representative -- Policy/Education Committee  
2. Chad Christman – Student Representative – Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee

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

Student Rep.  
Report

Ms. Lisa Vaughan and Ms. Pamela Grammes gave their student representative report to the board for the month of March 2001.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos brought the board up to date with regard to the Chapter 14 regulations.

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

Dr. Sham's report included the following:

1. He introduced Mr. Les Bear, Arthurs Lestrangle & Company, Inc., who presented a financial analysis along with some financial alternatives to the board.
2. Dr. George White addressed the middle school concept for the board.
3. He announced the names of students from our district who won awards in the Skills USA-VICA District 11 Champions.
4. He announced the change of location of the April 2 board meeting. The meeting will be held in the Peters Elementary School instead of the junior high school.
5. He announced the CLIU 2001 School Board Conference will be held at the Days Inn in Allentown on April 4, 2001.

Proceed With  
General  
Obligation  
Bonds

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos that the Board of Education authorize the finance team to prepare necessary documentation to issue \$10,800,000 of General Obligation debt, Series of 2001 to finance various capital projects and to issue approximately \$2,040,000 of General Obligation debt, Series of 2001 to refund the General Obligation debt, Series of 1995.

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

Executive  
Session

An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for personnel reasons.

**PERSONNEL** Motion made by Mrs. Giles, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

- Change Of Assignment Nancy Wagner\*  
 From: Substitute Aide/Secretary  
 To: Special Education Aide  
 Peters Elementary School – Replacing Pamela Peters who resigned.  
 Salary: \$8.38 Per Hour/6 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week  
 Effective Date: March 13, 2001  
 \*60-Day Probationary Period
- 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:  
 Monica Yastrzab-Kempf – School Nurse
- Non-Instructional Employ the following substitute aide for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute rate of \$6.25 per hour:  
 Andrea Thomson – Instructional Aide
- Resignation - Kimberly Andrews Accept the resignation of Kimberly Andrews, Special Education Aide at the senior high school, effective March 2, 2001.
- Dr. Sham - Compensation Agreement Approve the Compensation Agreement between the Board of School Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District and Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Superintendent, as amended, for a term of 3 ½ years, commencing on February 12, 2001 and ending on June 30, 2004.
- Family Medical Leave - Judy Approve the request of Judy Costa, Peters Elementary special education teacher, to take a Family Medical Leave of Absence for the period of January 17, 2001 through April 10, Costa 2001. Family Medical Leave requires the district to provide medical benefits during the 12 weeks of approved leave. She will be responsible for contributing \$25.00 per month as co-payment for dependent medical benefits during her FMLA leave.
- Child Rearing Leave Approve the request of Tammy Frstick, special education teacher in the junior high school, to take a Child Rearing Leave of Absence. Beginning on or about April 29, 2001 she plans to use her accumulated sick days to cover her absence for the remainder of the 2000-2001 school year. Commencing on the first day of the 2001-2002 school year she is requesting a Family Medical Leave, which includes district-paid medical coverage for 12 weeks, after which she is requesting to be placed on an unpaid child rearing leave of absence for the remainder of the 2001-2002 school year. She will be responsible for contributing \$13.00 per month as co-payment for dependent medical benefits during her FMLA leave. At the present time she plans to return to teaching for the 2002-2003 school year.

Co-Curricular Appointments For 2001-2002

Head Football Coach – James Tkach -- \$6164.00  
 Assistant Football Coach – Samuel Bonner -- \$4006.00  
 Assistant Football Coach – Steve Hluschak -- \$4006.00  
 Assistant Football Coach – Dennis Rose -- \$4006.00  
 Assistant Football Coach – Glenn Serfass -- \$4006.00  
 Assistant Football Coach – Joseph Tout -- \$4006.00  
 Head Cross Country Coach – David Oertner -- \$3693.00  
 Assistant Cross Country Coach – Beth Case -- \$2400.00

**PERSONNEL**  
**(Con't.)**

Head Field Hockey Coach – Mary Redline -- \$3693.00  
 Assistant Field Hockey Coach – Jessica Schoenberger -- \$2400.00  
 Majorette/Band Front Director – Lauren Zielinski -- \$1853.00  
 Sr. High Fall Intramural – Renee Evans – Tennis -- \$722.00  
 Sr. High Fall Intramural – Robert Kern – Weightlifting/Indoor Floor Tennis -- \$722.00  
 Sr. High Fall Intramural – David Redline – Basketball -- \$722.00  
 Sr. Class Play – Nicholas Simons -- \$1315.00

Business Manager - Bernard G. Rockovich  
 Approve to appoint Bernard G. Rockovich to the position of Business Manager for the Northern Lehigh School District and enter into a five year contract agreement at a salary of \$72,500. Effective date to be determined upon release from present contract.

Saturday Detention Supervisor - Shared Position  
 Approve to appoint Patricia Eby-Manescu to share the responsibilities of Secondary Saturday Detention Supervisor for the junior/senior high school. Effective March 10, 2001, she will share the responsibilities with the current detention monitor by working alternate Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. throughout the remainder of the 2000-2001 school calendar year at a salary of \$50.00 for each Saturday worked.

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

NAY: None: (0)

**POLICY**

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

## Conferences

Approve the request of Linda Thompson to attend the PA School Counselors' Association Annual Conference in Lancaster on April 26 and 27, 2001. Expenses include \$190.00 for registration, \$40.00 for meals, \$48.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$278.00.

Approve the request of Brian Geiger to attend a PASBO Construction/Renovations Project Workshop at Seven Springs Mountain Resort on March 20, 2001. Expenses include \$109.00 for registration, \$210.00 for travel for a total cost of \$319.00.

Approve the request of Christopher Iacobelli to attend a Lorman Education Services conference in Wilkes-Barre on May 9, 2001. Expenses include \$199.00, \$10.00 for meals, \$25.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$234.00.

Approve the request of Sandra Vajda to attend a Bureau of Education & Research conference in Allentown on April 20, 2001. Expenses include \$139.00 for registration, plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and has been approved by the district Continuing Professional Education Committee.

Approve the request of Sheila Lanshe to attend the PA School Counselors Association Annual Conference in Lancaster on April 26 and 27, 2001. Expenses include \$190.00 for registration, \$40.00 for meals, \$48.00 for travel, \$105.00 for lodging for an approximate total of \$394.55 and will be paid for through Drug Free Schools Funds.

Approve the request of Lynne Fedorcha to attend a conference sponsored by The Learning Edge in King of Prussia on March 28, 2001. Expenses include \$149.00 for registration, \$39.00 for travel, \$2.80 miscellaneous expenses for a total of \$190.80 and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Carol Dorward to attend a Teacher Created Materials conference on March 27, 2001 in Allentown, PA. Expenses include \$149.00 for registration, \$6.00 for meals, \$6.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$161.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and has been approved by the district's Continuing Professional Education Committee

**POLICY****(Con't.)**

Board Policy Policy #104- 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Approve new board policy #104 – Nondiscrimination In Employment/Contract Practices, as presented after first reading.
Policy #103- 1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Approve revisions to existing board policy #103 – Nondiscrimination In School and Classroom Practices, as presented after first reading.
Homebound Instruction	Grant homebound instruction for a 12 <sup>th</sup> grade student, Student No. 01-74570 for five hours per week, effective March 14, 2001 and continuing for approximately six weeks.
NLJHS Student Act. Fund Statement	Approve the Northern Lehigh Junior High School Student Activities Fund Statement for the month of February 2001.  YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (8) NAY: None: (0)

**CURRICU-  
LUM AND  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2001-2002 Facilities Plan Committee	Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Newhard that the Board of Education approve the following Resolution to adopt the 2001-2002 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Facilities Plan Committee report which was unanimously adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on February 13, 2001.  <b>RESOLVED:</b> It is recommended that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors approve the 2001-2002 Facilities Plan Committee Report as unanimously adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on February 13, 2001. In addition, the Board affirms its commitment of the original construct of the Facilities planning, approved November 1, 1989, which consists of a series of prioritized inquiries to be considered in determining the future location of the CLIU and school district special education classes.
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**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that a copy of this Resolution be entered into the minutes of this meeting of March 12, 2001.

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

**FINANCIAL**

	Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:
Treasurer's Report	Approve the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Cox, for the month of February 2001.
Reports (Info Only)	All board members received the February 2001 Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve funds.
Pay General Fund Bills	Approve payment of the General Fund bills for the month of February 2001, as presented.
Pay Technology Account Bills	Approve payment of the Technology Account bills, as presented.
Pay Construction Account Bills	Approve payment of Construction Account bills, as presented.

**FINANCIAL**      Approve the refund of the following real estate taxes as presented.  
**(Con't.)**

Refund of Real      Paul W. and Gail A. Horner                      \$626.71  
Estate Taxes      General Delivery  
                         PO Box 104, Slatedale, PA 18079

For

**Parcel #18-01-B06SE2C-008-005**

211 First Street, Slatington, PA 180808

The assessed value was decreased due to fire damage.

Paul W. and Gail A. Horner                      \$1068.72

General Delivery

PO Box 104, Slatedale, PA 18079

For

**Parcel #18-01-B06SE2C-008-004**

213-215 First Street, Slatington, PA 180808

The assessed value was decreased due to fire damage.

Refund of                      Approve a refund for overpayment of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes for the property owners as  
Overpayment                      listed for the month of February 2001.  
Of Walnutport  
Real Estate  
Taxes For  
February 2001

Cash Mgmt.                      Approve the Arthurs Lestrangle Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of  
Portfolio For                      January 2001.  
January 2001

Solicit Bids For                      Approve to authorize proper officials to solicit bids for removal of asbestos containing  
Asbestos                              materials from the junior high school.  
Removal

Budgetary                      Approve budgetary transfers to cover purchases for the 2000-2001 school year as presented.  
Transfers

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

NAY:    None: (0)

**INFORM-**                      All board members received copies of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College  
**ATION**                              Board of Trustees meeting held on February 1, 2001.

**RECOG-**                      Art George – Youth Soccer Program – Brought the district up to date on a few items related to the  
**NITION**                              youth soccer program. He also asked if the athletic presentation being offered at  
**OF GUESTS**                      the board/administrative retreat could also be presented at a public meeting.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

NAY: None: (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos  
Secretary

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