

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
April 14, 2008

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:31 p.m. on Monday, April 14, 2008 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (7:34), Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (7)

Members absent: Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mr. Gregory S. Williams (2)

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, Ms. Rachel Parisi (Student Rep), Ms. Heather Rehrig, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS

Approximately eight visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News and Sarah Fulton for The Morning Call.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos reported that she attended the meeting that was held to recognize students who were award recipients at LCTI.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology/Building and Grounds Committee Meeting held on April 9, 2008 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on April 9, 2008 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

report Ms. Rachael Parisi and Mr. Michael Showak distributed their written student representative and verbally reported on its contents.

Federal and Other Programs – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha introduced Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Director of Special Education, who informed the Board that this week the district will be going through Special Education Compliance Monitoring. She will inform the Board at a later date with the outcome of the special education audit.

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

Dr. Sham reminded the Board that the May 5, 2008 board meeting will be held in the high school auditorium.

Dr. Sham stated that the Special Board Meetings scheduled for April 28th and 30th have been advertised.

Dr. Sham read a letter acknowledging Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Peters Elementary Principal, has completed the Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership Initiative Support Program. He encouraged other administrators within the district to take advantage of this program in the future.

for Dr. Sham introduced Mrs. Wanda Owens who spoke to the Board about reinstating funding the Slatington Public Library into the school district budget.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Dr. Sham informed all board members that business manager interviews will be taking place on April 23rd and 24th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the district office board room. He invited all board members to be apart of the interview committee.

**Executive
Session**

Mr. Hartman stated that the Board was in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves the following conference item:

Dawn Wadsworth – 1st Annual Summer Rtl Institute – July 17 & 18, 2008 – Indiana, PA –
Registration: \$225.00, Lodging: \$120.00, Travel: \$251.49, Meals: \$60.00 – Total
Approximate Cost: \$656.49 – Funding: Psychologist Budget

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Corrective and Action Plan 2005 & 2006
Approve the Corrective Action Plan Response to the Fiscal Year End State Audit for 2005 & 2006.

Summer Band Camp
Approve a tuition fee of \$25.00 per student for a six-week elementary summer band program and also approve a stipend for summer band program director, Camille Vernarr, of \$1,000.00.
There is no increase to this stipend over last year. The summer band program will run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from July 1, 2008 to August 7, 2008.

Special Education Agreement Palmerton School District
Approve to authorize proper officials to enter into an agreement for one Palmerton Area School District special education student to attend the Northern Lehigh School District in accordance with the promises and covenants contained in the agreement. This agreement is effective April 7, 2008 through June 30, 2008.

Non-Resident Students
Approve the request of parents of a third grade student at Slatington Elementary School, who are moving out of the district, to allow their student to continue in Northern Lehigh School District until the end of the 2007-2008 school year in accordance with school board policy #202.

Field Trip
Gifted Support Students – Slatington Elementary School – PA Renaissance Faire, Manheim, PA – May 2, 2008 – Funded by CLIU #21 Special Education Department

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Kulp asked for an update on the emergency call out system.
Mr. Hrizuk stated that administrative training was scheduled for April 18th.

FINANCIAL

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

**Financial
Reports**

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund month of March
2. NLMS Student Activities Account month of March
3. NLHS Student Activities Account months of February and March.

FIANACIAL**(cont.)**

Payment of Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of March
2. Cafeteria Fund month of March
3. Athletic Fund month of March
4. Refreshment Stand Fund month of March
5. Capital Projects Fund month of March

Bid HS Gymnasium Painting Authorize administration to advertise for bids for painting of the high school gymnasium walls and/or roof.

Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule Approve the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule for the 2008-2009 school year as presented.

Purchase Point of Sale Software Cafeteria Approve the purchase for Point of Sale Software, Meals Plus, for the food service department at a cost of \$16,070 which includes Software Licenses, Internet Connection, Biometric Readers and Training. Annual support costs after the first year is \$1,695 per year. Funding provided by Food Service Department funds.

Bid Sale of School District Surplus Equipment Authorize administration to dispose of district asset items per school board policy #706.1 – Disposal of Surplus Property, Obsolete Equipment and Real Estate by advertising for sealed bids for the following items:

White Van
Gravelly Three Wheeled Tractor
One Modular Trailer
Two Lots of Plywood (Bleacher Decking)
Three Lots of Yellow Pine (Bleacher Seating)

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**CORR-
ESPON-
DENCE**

Mr. Dorshimer read a letter from PSERS stating they will be conducting an election this fall for a school board member to serve a three-year term on the Public School Employee's Retirement Board. Any school board member that might be interested in serving should request a nomination packet from PSERS.

keep Charlie Dent sent a letter to update the Board on the work being done across the nation on the National Writing Project (NWP), a professional development writing program for teachers. It has been recommended that funding for this program be eliminated for the 2009 fiscal year. They are asking for support by sending a letter to your congressman to this program in the budget.

**INFOR-
MATION**

Dr. Marcincin talked about a recent assembly held at Slatington Elementary where students raised \$275.00 for the Slatington Public Library.

BUDGET

outlined **DISCUSSION** Dr. Sham stated there was a recent Finance Committee meeting held and Mrs. Blank where the district was with the budget. There are no new initiatives in the budget and to maintain what we currently are offering in our schools it would be an increase of 3.05 mils. Administration is looking for direction from the Board regarding budget.

capital There was discussion between board members about the money being transferred into reserve in the budget and whether this is something that should be done.

BUDGET
DISCUSSION
(cont.)

Mrs. Blank stated that we currently have a healthy fund balance but that we do not want to go back to a negative fund balance like we had in 1996-1997.

Mr. Green stated that he is in favor of transferring the money into capital reserve as long as the board is not irresponsible in its spending. There are projects that are in the works for maintenance plans for the district and he feels these projects would be using the money responsibly. He also feels that we need to put money back in the budget for the Slatington Library.

and
few

Mr. Dorshimer stated that if he had to decide between curriculum books for our students or money to the Slatington Library, he would opt for the books for our students. He stated that he is here to educate the kids. He feels that the Library has avenues and they can go out and raise their own funds. He suggested that although it is great that the Library does not charge the community to use the computers, if they did charge a small amount, they could raise a few dollars for the Library. He is behind the Library but he cannot give money to them and take from the students at Northern Lehigh.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Wanda Owens – Slatington Borough stated Northampton is actually going to referendum and asking the tax payers for money for the Library. She stated that saying the Board is here for the kids makes her very angry. She stated that the same kids that are coming to this school are the same kids that come into the Library.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

John Kisthardt – Slatington Borough stated that years ago the Slatington Library was incorporated before the Lehigh County Court and they were asked who the main supports for the Library were. Listed in the court documents are the three municipalities and the School Board. At one time the School Board was an equal partner in this.

that

Mr. Dorshimer stated that a few years ago administration was directed to give the Board a cut list. Among many other items on that list was a \$2,500 donation to the Library. The decision was to cut that instead of books and items for the students of Northern Lehigh. He stated he is not against the Library but he has a hard time swallowing the fact that he is cutting books for students since his job as a board member is to make sure the students in the school have the resources they need for education. If the Library needs to come up with money then they need to come up with a way to generate money for themselves.

Mrs. Kulp asked with a 3.05 mil increase what is the actual percentage increase.

Mrs. Blank stated that it is a 5.06 percentage increase.

Mrs. Kulp stated that her property taxes would then go up 5%. She further asked if we went for a 1.5 mil increase her property tax increase would go to a 3% increase.

Mrs. Blank stated that tomorrow the gaming money allocations should be posted.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that he thinks the Board needs to see a list with cuts down to a 1.5 mil increase. The cuts need to be realistic cuts.

Dr. Sham stated that administration will give a list and the Board can do with that list as they see fit.

Mr. Green stated a few weeks ago there was discussion about putting a business office position back in the budget. He does not believe at this point that position is in the budget. If this is something the Board wants to consider they need to realize that currently this item is not in the budget and will be an increase to the current 3.05 mil increase.

motion

Mr. Green stated that he also does not want to let the Library issue go. He will make a later to vote whether or not to give a donation to the Slatington Library.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman