

## NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Regular Meeting Board Minutes

Slatington, PA  
June 9, 2003

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2003 in the Slatington Elementary School gymnasium.

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

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

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip C. Bertolino, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Ken Jones, Ms. Laurie Newman, Mr. Nicholas Sander, Ms. Amberly Gable, and Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

**VISITORS** Approximately 7 visitors attended the meeting in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for TheTimes News.

**APPROVE MINUTES** A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on May 5, 2003 and the regular school board meeting held on May 12, 2003, be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Nicholas Sander and Amberly Gable distributed a written report to the board. Nick thanked the board for allowing him to serve as a student representative for the past two years. He stated that it was an honor to serve in that capacity. Amberly also thanked the board for allowing her to serve as a student representative during the past year.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos  
Mrs. Geronikos reported that the legislature is working toward mandating all day kindergarten.

Federal and Other Programs -- Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha  
Mrs. Fedorcha briefly mentioned the district would be utilizing CPE Tracker to track Act 48 credits and that teachers will be trained to use CPE Tracker to register on line.

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

1. Dr. Sham presented Nicholas Sander with a Recognition Award for his 2 years of service as Student Representative to the Board.
2. He thanked everyone who helped with the Running of the Dawgs race.
3. He reminded the board of a special board meeting which will be held on June 16, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
4. Michelle Raber and Leon Rodenbach reported to the board about the progress of the Northern Lehigh Community Center.
5. Dr. Roberts, Mrs. Nicholas, Mr. Iacobelli presented results of a kindergarten screening project they worked on during the 2002-2003 school year.
6. Brian Geiger reported that he would like to relocate the centralized duplicating room into the district warehouse and relocate the Technology Department into the current business office and move the business office into the current central duplicating room. A request was made by the board to bring this project to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for discussion. They also requested to have a diagram prepared showing the specifications of the new room.

7. Mr. Geiger also reported that bids for the middle school home economics and art room area were opened. There were only two firms out of six who picked up bid packages who bid on the project. The bid packages are being reviewed by the solicitor and the architect at the present time.
8. Mr. Geiger informed the board that he has done a preliminary run on the busses for the 2003-2004 school year and there is a chance that the district may have to add one bus to the runs for next school year.

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

An Executive Session was held beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office.

**POLICY**

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following policy items:

Revisions  
To Existing  
after And New  
Policy 1<sup>st</sup>  
Reading

Approve to replace existing school board policy #209 – Health Examinations with new recommended school board policy #209 – Health Examinations/Screenings, as presented first reading.

Approve to adopt new school board policy #142 – Programs – Migrant Students, as presented after first reading.

Revisions  
To Existing  
And New  
Board  
Policy  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading

Approve revisions to school board policy #904 – Public Attendance At School Events, as presented, after second reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #222, 323, 423,523 – Tobacco Use, as presented, after second reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #218.1 – Weapons, as presented, after second reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #216.1 – Supplemental Discipline Records, as presented, after second reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #105.1 – Curriculum Review By Parents and Students, as presented, after second reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #227 – Drugs/Alcohol, as presented, after second reading.

Approve new school board policy #250 – Student Recruitment, as presented, after second reading.

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

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Treasurer's  
Report

Approve the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Cox, as presented, for the month of May 2003.

Reports  
(Info Only)

All board members received copies of the May 2003 Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve Funds.

General  
Fund Bills

Approve payment of General Fund bills for the month of May 2003, as presented.

NL Athletic

Approve the Northern Lehigh Athletic Fund financial report for May 2003, as presented.

Fund Financial  
Report**FINANCIAL**

(Con't.)

NL Sports  
Account  
Financial  
Report

Approve the Northern Lehigh Sports Account financial report for May 2003, as presented.

NLMS Student  
Activity  
Account Fund  
Statement

Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activity Account Fund Statement for the month of May 2003, as presented.

Solicit Bids  
MS Gym Floor

Approve to allow proper officials to solicit bids for the restoration to the middle school gym floor.

Maintenance  
Agreement  
For Sewing  
Machines

Approve a maintenance agreement for the 2003-2004 school year with Allentown Sewing Machine Outlet. The agreement covers sewing machines located in the middle school as follows:

12 machines at \$25.00 per machine plus parts = \$300 plus parts

Budgetary  
Transfers

Approve budgetary transfers as presented.

Insurance  
Broker

Appoint Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton Company (HRH) Palley Simon Associates as the district insurance broker for Property, Casualty, Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance for the 2003-2004 school year.

2003-2004  
Insurance  
Coverages

Award insurance coverage for the 2003-2004 school year to the following companies:

Commercial Package and Automobile (Vehicle Liability, General Liability Property Insurance and Boiler Machinery) – Republic Franklin – UTICA National Insurance Company -- \$43,154. The renewal is with the same company as last year and the premium is an increase of \$6,994 over last year's rate.

Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance – Crum &amp; Forster Insurance Company -- \$13,000. The renewal is with the same company as last year and the premium has decreased by \$2,000.

School Leaders Errors and Omissions Liability -- \$15,151 AIG-National Union. The renewal has decreased by \$1,618.

Worker's Compensation Coverage for the 2003-2004 school year – PSBA Insurance Trust/Old Republic – estimated premium of \$59,763 that is based upon estimated payroll.

Approve the appointment of Statewide Tax Recovery as the delinquent per capita tax collector and delinquent earned income tax collector for the district for the 2003-2004 school year.

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

NAY: None (0)

**INFORM-  
ATION**

Notification has been received from the PA Department of Education of the approval of PLANCON I dated May 12, 2003 for Chang Orders G-11, 12, 13, and 14. Copies of this document and appended materials will be entered into the official minutes of this meeting.

All board members received the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on May 1, 2003.

**RECESS**

President Fedorcha called for a recess at 8:35 p.m. The board reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

**BUDGET  
DISCUSSION**

Dr. Sham informed the board that Mr. Ken Jones and Mrs. Rhonda Frantz prepared a summary sheet of fixed cost changes affecting the 2003-2004 budget and he turned the meeting over to Mr. Jones for discussion of these fixed costs.

Mr. Green made a motion, with a second made by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve to incorporate the changes made to the 2003-2004 budget, as presented.  
(See attached)

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

NAY: None (0)

Before adjourning, Mr. Dorshimer questioned the manner in which the administration was making budgetary transfers, indicating that money may have been placed in the budget that was not needed, resulting in excessive millage increases to taxpayers. Mr. Jones explained to Mr. Dorshimer the reason for budgeting in that manner.

Mr. Fedorcha stated that the board is here for the education of the children and grandchildren who live in the district and we need to remember to put education first. We need to offer a good education to the children in our community in order to attract families to move into the district.

Mr. Dorshimer indicated that he is 100% for every student in the district and feels that every child should have a good education, however, it should be afforded to them at what the taxpayers of our community can afford to give them. He stated that his children received a good education with a lower tax rate when they were students in our district. Mr. Dorshimer indicated that if we want to bring employment and families into our community we need to control our taxes.

Mrs. Giles stated that since Mr. Dorshimer's children were in our district a whole lot has changed in education. She asked why would we want to take something away from the students of our community, i.e., block scheduling that is benefiting them because of tax dollars? She stated that as long as she is a taxpayer in this district she would be a vocal voice for education. She also stated that she is a taxpayer in the district as well and each year it becomes harder and harder to pay them, but the education of her children and the children of our community comes first.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott  
Secretary

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