

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
September 10, 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 8:00 p.m. on Monday, September 10, 2001, in the boardroom 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, Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mr. Nicholas Sander, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS Approximately three visitors attended the meeting in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer highlighted items that were on the CLIU Board Brief that was distributed to all board members.

Committee Reports &/or Meetings A Policy/Education Committee meeting was held prior to the meeting beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Administrative Assistant's Office.

All board members received the minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on August 6, 2001.

All board members received the minutes of the Technology Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on August 1, 2001.

All board members received the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on August 27, 2001.

Solicitor's Report -- Attorney Charles Stopp

Attorney Stopp informed the board of a case where grandparents or other relatives of students in our district sign affidavits that they agreed to allow the child to reside with them and support them "gratis" when the child's parents move from the district. There is a new Commonwealth Court decision on a case where a grandparent signed the normal affidavit intending to support the child gratis – but they didn't support them fully – parents still supplied medical insurance, etc. The recipient school district it was found was not obligated to provide free public education for a child such as that, because "gratis" means that the grandparent or relative agrees to support the child entirely without any contribution from others.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos reported that Mr. Cox would be the voting delegate for the PA School Boards Association Leadership Conference in October 2001. She also reported that she, Mrs. Sechler and Dr. Sham will be speaking in front of a Senate hearing sub committee that was formed through House Resolution 42. (Note: This hearing was cancelled due to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Towers and the Pentagon).

Federal and Other Programs Update – A written report was distributed to all board members. Dr. Sham highlighted several items in Mrs. Fedorcha’s absence.

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

Ceremonial
Oath Of
Office For
Nicholas J.
Sander

Section 321: Oath of Office

Attorney Stopp conducted the Oath of Office for Ceremonial Purposes to Student Representative, Nicholas J. Sander.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the ceremonial duties of my honorary office with fidelity.

Dr. Sham presented an engraved apple candy dish to Mrs. Margaret Conrad, second grade teacher at Peters Elementary School, who retired August 30, 2001 from the district after 22 ½ years of service.

A third day enrollment report was distributed to all board members. A discussion ensued with regard to new housing projects in Washington Township. Mr. Dorshimer gave a report to the board from the information he obtained when he attended a Washington Township Supervisors meeting.

The high school dedication will be held on November 5, 2001.

As a recommendation from the Policy/Education Committee, Dr. Sham informed the board that he will include money in the 2001-2002 district budget to have our Northern Lehigh School District Policy Manual put on line through Pennsylvania School Boards Association.

Dr. Sham informed the board of a bacterial problem with the well water at the Peters Elementary School. A public notice “boil advisory” was given for the Peters Elementary. Bottled water was supplied and the water will be retested before the district will begin using the water again.

Executive Sess. A short executive session will be held following the board meeting for a personnel issue.

PERSONNEL

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

Instructional
Appointments

Lana Schmidt Professional Employee
Assignment: German Teacher in the Senior High School replacing Victoria Burse, who resigned.
Salary: \$38,200 (Appendix A – Step 5 Masters)
Effective Date: Upon release from present contract.

Roxanne Sagala Half-Time Temporary Professional Employee
Assignment: Art Teacher in the Senior High School replacing Sherri Hines, who resigned.
Salary: One-half of \$35,200 or \$17,600 (Appendix A-Step 1 Bachelors)
Effective Date: August 30, 2001

Gail Barilla Temporary Vacancy Replacement
Assignment: Special Education Learning Support Teacher, replacing Barbara Zambo who was replacing Cassandra Frantz who has been granted an unpaid leave of absence.
Salary: \$37,000 (Pro-rated) (Appendix A – Step 1 Masters)
Effective Date: October 9, 2001
Termination Date: On or about March 12, 2002

PERSONNEL
(Con’t.)

Re-establish Effective Date For Lynn Haab Re-establish the effective date of employment for Lynn Haab, Temporary Vacancy Replacement teacher in the middle school, from August 30, 2001 to August 27, 2001.

Non-Instructional Tamra Yesik*
 Assignment: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor
 New Position – Middle School – 9:30 a.m. 1:00 p.m.
 Salary: \$8.64 Per Hour/ 3 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
 Effective Date: August 30, 2001

Jacqueline Lebrun*
 Assignment: One-on-One Special Education Aide
 New Position – Middle School
 Salary: \$8.64 Per Hour/6 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
 Effective Date: August 30, 2001
 *60 Day Probationary Period

Administrative Transfers Lori Paules
 From: Title I Aide Peters Elementary School
 To: Title I Aide Slatington Elementary School replacing Pam Lerch who resigned.
 Effective Date: 2001-2002 School Year

Patrice Mayberry
 From: Instructional Aide-Peters Elementary School
 To: Title I Aide Peters Elementary School replacing Lori Paules
 Effective Date: 2001-2002 School Year

Resignations-Instructional Accept the resignation of Victoria Burse, German teacher in the senior high and middle school, to become effective when a certified replacement has been obtained for her position. Ms. Burse has accepted a teaching position in another school district.

Accept the resignation of Barbara Zambo from her Temporary Vacancy Replacement position as a special education teacher in the senior high school, effective August 17, 2001.

Accept the resignation of Sherri Hines, half-time art teacher in the senior high school, effective August 28, 2001.

Non-Instructional Accept the resignation of Patricia Eby-Manescu from her position of library aide in the middle school, effective August 12, 2001.

Co-Curricular Accept the resignation of Cory Hartsell from his co-curricular position of Assistant Football Coach for the 2001-2002 school.

Middle School Co-Curricular Appointment for 2001-2002

Math Counts Advisor – Hali Kuntz -- \$381.00

Co-Curricular Appointment for 2001-2002

Elementary Chorus – Tracy Kimmel -- \$528.00
 Assistant Football Coach – Chad Henritzy – (Pending verification of clearances) -- \$4006.00
 (Stipend to be shared with Gregory Poremba who was board approved on August 6, 2001).

PERSONNEL
Con't.

- Substitutes Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:
- Joseph P. Verenna, Jr. – Elementary K-6, General Science, Mathematics 7-12,
Social Studies, English 7-12, Industrial Arts/Technology Ed.,
Mentally &/or Physically Handicapped
- Joseph Tout – Social Studies
- Steve Zong – Elementary, Data Processing, Office Technologies
- Patricia L. Passick – Art K-12, General Science, Library Science (K-12),
Mentally &/or Physically Handicapped,
Elementary K-6, Home Economics, Mathematics 7-12,
Social Studies
- Substitute- Approve to employ Jody Remaley, a special education aide in Slatington Elementary School,
Substitute as a substitute for the district's substitute teacher caller from October 1-7, 2001 at a stipend of
Teacher Caller \$200.00.
- Professional According to Article 11-1108, subsection (b) of the School Code: "A temporary professional
Contract- employee, initially employed by a school district on or after June 30, 1996, whose work has
Jason Graver been certified by the district superintendent to the secretary of the school district, during the
last four (4) months of the third year of such service, as being satisfactory, shall thereafter be a
"professional employee" within the meaning of this article." Therefore, it is recommended to
approve "professional employee" status as per the school code for the following teacher, who
has satisfactorily completed three years of service to Northern Lehigh School District:
- Jason Graver
- Substitute Adm. Appoint Roxanne Sagala as the Substitute Administrative Detention Supervisor in the senior
Detention high school. She will work two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00
Supervisor p.m. throughout the 2001-2002 school calendar year that warrants detention coverage. Salary
will be \$15.00 for each day worked.
- Football Game Appoint Allentown Sports Medicine and Human Performance Center to provide a football
Physician game physician for the 2001-2002 school year at the quoted fee of \$70.00 per game.
- Electronic Appoint Jane Kutney as the Electronic Learning Facilitator (ELF) for the Slatington
Learning Elementary School for the 2001-2002 school year and on an as-needed basis during summer
Facilitator- vacation. Compensation for this elementary ELF position is \$2685.00 per school year.
J. Kutney
- Contracted Approve the employment of the following marching band staff for the 2001-2002 school year:
Services For
2001-2002 Scott Wolfinger – Percussion Instructor/Arranger -- \$2000.00
School Year James Corle – Drill Design (Marching) -- \$2000.00
- Leave Approve the request of Andrea Forke, Peters Elementary special education teacher, to take a
Without three-day leave of absence, without pay, on September 26, 27, and 28, 2001. She plans to use
Pay – Andrea her three accumulated personal days in conjunction with the requested three unpaid days. Her
Forke request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received
from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.
- PERSONNEL** YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
(Con't.) Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Motion was made by Mrs. Sechler, seconded by Mrs. Giles that the Board of Education approve

the following personnel items:

Middle School Adm. Detention Supervisor Appoint Frank Dibilio as the Administrative Detention Supervisor in the middle school. He will work two days a week from 2:20 p.m. to 3:20 p.m. throughout the 2001-2002 school calendar year that warrants detention coverage. Salary will be \$12.00 for each day worked.

Senior High Adm. Detention Supervisor Appoint Frank Dibilio as the Administrative Detention Supervisor in the senior high school. He will work two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the 2001-2002 school calendar year that warrants detention coverage. Salary will be \$15.00 for each day worked.

Substitute Secondary Sat. Detention Supervisor Appoint Frank Dibilio as the Substitute Secondary Saturday Detention Supervisor for the middle school and senior high school. He will work as needed; working Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. throughout the 2001-2002 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, Mrs. Sechler (8)

NAY: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Mr. Fedorcha (1) – Conflict of Interest

POLICY

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

Board Policies-
2nd Reading

Approve policy # 707 – Use of School Facilities and Equipment, as revised, after second reading.

1st Reading

Approve policy #222, 323, 423, 523 as presented, after first reading.

Conferences

Approve the request of Ronald Klevenhagen to attend the PA Earned Income Tax Officers, Administrators and Collectors Assoc., annual conference on September 17, 2001 in Gettysburg. Expenses include annual membership fee \$35.00, registration fee \$110.00 for a total cost of \$145.00.

Approve the request of Rhonda Frantz and Nancy Rehrig to attend a Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials conference, entitled “Elements of Budgeting”, on October 23, 2001 in Allentown. Expenses include \$105.00 each for registration, \$8.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$218.00 and has been included in the 2001-2002 budget.

Approve the request of Brian Geiger to attend a Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials conference on October 18 and 19, 2001. Expenses include \$220.00 for registration, \$95.00 for travel, \$188.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$503.00 and has been included in the 2001-2002 budget.

Approve the request of Brian Geiger to attend a Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials conference, entitled “Facilities Management” on September 26 and 27, 2001. Expenses include \$220.00 for registration, \$95.00 for travel, \$94.00 for lodging for a total of \$409.00 and has been included in the 2001-2002 budget.

Approve the request of Nancy Rehrig, Keith Utsch and Bernard Rockovich to attend a Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials conference entitled “Fixed Asset Management: An In-Depth Guide From Start To Finish” on December 6, 2001 in Hershey, PA. Expenses include \$105.00 each for registration, \$48.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$363.00.

POLICY **(Con’t.)**

Approve the request of Robert Cox to attend the Pennsylvania School Boards Association “School Leadership Conference 2001” from October 16-19, 2001. Expenses include \$255.00 for registration, \$43.00 for meals, \$399.00 for lodging for a total of \$697.00.

Field Trip

Slatington Elementary School – Grade 6 Students – Franklin Institute – October 5, 2001.

Cost of this trip will be paid for by PTO.

Attendance of Non-Resident Students Approve to permit a Slatington Elementary and a middle school student, whose parents have executed an agreement to purchase property in the Northern Lehigh School District on or before September 27, 2001, to attend school in accordance with the future resident guidelines of School Board Policy #202.

Approve to permit a middle school student, whose parents have executed an agreement to purchase property in the Northern Lehigh School District on or before October 10, 2001, to attend school in accordance with the future resident guidelines of School Board Policy #202.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

**CURRICU-
LUM AND
INSTRUCT-
ION**

Motion made by Mrs. Giles, with a second by Mr. Green that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Curriculum and Instruction:

Revise Act 48 Plan

Approve revisions to the Northern Lehigh School District Continuing Professional Education Plan (Act 48 of 1999) as presented. This Plan remains in effect from January 1, 2000 to June 30, 2003.

Accept/Approve Goal Areas & Action Plans For 2001-2002

Accept and approve the Northern Lehigh School District Goal Areas and Action Plans for the 2001-2002 school year as presented.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Community Advisory Council For 2001-2002

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second by Mr. Newhard that the Board of Education approve the following individuals as members of the Northern Lehigh Community Advisory Council for the 2001-2002 school year. In accordance with School Board Policy #905, this council is established to review, discuss, and make recommendations relating to the various aspects of educational planning for the district. The purpose of this council shall be to improve and implement an on-going, two-way communication between the community and schools. It is understood that the Community Advisory Council's function is advisory only. Meetings of the Community Advisory Council are set for 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. on November 14, 2001, February 13 and April 17, 2002.

Joseph Bechtel Paul Steckel
Susanne Meixsell Joan Varilek
Carol Miller Linda Deurer

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Green that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

PA Abatements

Approve abatement of per capita taxes for the residents that fall within the guidelines as presented.

Walnutport Tax Rebate For August 2001

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

Pay Construction Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account, as presented.
Account Bills

Pay Construction Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account for Extended Financing, as
Account Bills presented.
For Extended
Funding

Portfolio Sum- Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of July
mary For 2001.
July 2001

(Info Only) Information regarding Settlement of Series AA and AAA 2001 Bonds.

Refund Real Approve a \$2,126.45 refund to First American Real Estate due to duplicate real estate tax
Estate Taxes payments made on a property located at 1116 Main Street, Slatington, PA.

Refund Per Approve a \$9.80 per capita tax refund to Misty Guedes who moved from our district before
Capita Tax the start of the 2001-2002 school year.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

Resolution

Opposing

Cyber Charter

Motion was made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second by Mrs. Geronikos that the Board of Education adopt the following resolution opposing cyber-charter schools:

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District are empowered and directed to establish, equip, furnish, and maintain schools within the district; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are authorized by Act 22 of 1997, to provide pupils and community members the right to establish and maintain schools that operate independently from the existing school district structure; and

WHEREAS, cyber schools, with no physical location, offer the delivery of their entire curriculum via electronic communications, resulting in financial loss to school district, including the Northern Lehigh School District; and

WHEREAS, cyber charter schools tuition may be directly withheld from the District's state subsidies, resulting in decreased funds for operation of the District; and

WHEREAS, it is the Northern Lehigh School District's position that the state legislature did not intend for said schools to be included within Act 22 of 1997.

LEGAL

(Con't.)

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Northern Lehigh School District that the Board of School Directors issue this Resolution in opposition to the inclusion of cyber schools operating within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as charter schools and thereby affecting state subsidies for school districts within the Commonwealth.

RESOLVED this 10th day of September 2001 by the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors, Gary S. Fedorcha, President.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green

Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

Mrs. Geronikos acknowledged the fact that she received a letter from the Northern Lehigh High School faculty and staff members in support of Mr. Papay being appointed permanently as the high school principal.

Mrs. Geronikos also announced that she received verbal notification that the board and administration will be moving forward with regard to Act 93 negotiations.

**INFORM-
ATION**

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on July 16, 2001.

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on August 2, 2001.

The Northern Lehigh School District Athletic Budget Summary for the 2000-2001 school year was distributed to all board members.

The audit report on the Northern Lehigh School District Earned Income Tax Office for fiscal year ended June 20, 2001 was distributed to all board members.

Correspondence was received from PDE granting the district permission to change the school organization and change the Northern Lehigh Junior High School to the Northern Lehigh Middle School.

**RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS**

Janet Kern – Commented on how nice it was to see the number of faculty and parents who attended the senior high open house. She also commented on the fact that middle school administrators were conducting tours of the middle school from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. She felt that this was good public relations.

Mr. Papay publicly thanked Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News, for the article she did on the senior high school open house.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second by Mr. Cox, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha