

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular School Board Meeting Minutes

Slatington, PA
October 6, 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 7:30 p.m. on Monday, October 6, 2003 in the upstairs conference center of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute in Schnecksville, PA.

ROLL CALL

Members present: 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 (7)

Members absent: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (2)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip C. Bertolino, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Amberly Gabel, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, and Doneta Merkle

VISITORS

In addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for the Times News, Terry Ahner, reporter for the Chronicle, and Elizabeth Bartolai, reporter for The Morning Call, approximately 10 visitors attended the meeting.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Jason M. Newhard
Mr. Newhard briefly reviewed the bid tabulation summary for LCTI renovations and additions.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
A copy of the CLIU Board Briefs was distributed to all board members. Mr. Dorshimer also informed the board that the CLIU will be leasing their current building to Lehigh Carbon Community College and the CLIU will be building a new campus on Route 100. The move should take place sometime in the beginning of 2005.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the following committee meetings were distributed:

1. Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on September 3, 2003.
2. Minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on September 15, 2003.
3. Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on September 22, 2003.
4. Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on October 1, 2003.

Student Representatives To The Board Report -- Ms. Amberly Gable and Ms. Ashley Kunkle distributed a written student representative report and verbally reported its contents.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos reported that the State does not have a budget and may not have one before November.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Director Curriculum and Instruction Report and highlighted its contents.

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

Dr. Sham introduced Dr. Maura Roberts who did a PowerPoint presentation on Data Driven Decision Making which is one of the district goals for the 2003-2004 school year.

Brian Geiger gave a report on the progress of the sound system at Bulldog Stadium.

Dr. Sham reported that he is currently meeting with district administrators regarding the 2003-2004 individual goals. When those meetings are completed he will give the documents for all board members to review.

He also announced that he collected the supporting data from all district administrators for board members to review as evidence that they completed their 2002-2003 goals. This material was used to base his decision for merit increases. It will be in the superintendent's office for two weeks for inspection.

He apologized for the incorrect date printed in the Chronicle newspaper. It was erroneously reported that reconfiguration would be discussed for approval at the October 14, 2003 meeting instead of the October 6 meeting.

A diagram of the acknowledgement wall that the Educational Foundation wants to place in the high school along with sample plaques were available for display at the meeting.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Resignation
Non-
Instructional

Accept the resignation of Vicky Papay from her position as Title I Aide in the Slatington Elementary School, effective September 26, 2003.

Accept the resignation of Shirley Beil from her position as lunchroom aide in the senior high school, effective September 25, 2003.

Administrative
Transfer

Jessica Jones*

From: One-on-One Special Education Aide in the middle school.

To: Special Education Learning Support Aide in the middle school, replacing Patricia Rabenold, who resigned.

Salary: \$8.90

Effective Date: October 1, 2003

*60-Day Probationary Period

Appointment

Patricia Ingles*

Assignment: One-on-One Special Education Aide in the middle school, replacing Jessica Jones who was administratively transferred to another special education aide position.

Salary: \$9.17** Per Hour – 6 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week

Effective Date: October 1, 2003

*60-Day Probationary Period

** Step placement reflects credit for completion of more than 51% of school year prior to her furlough in the 2002-2003 school year.

Dorothea Curran*

Assignment: Cafeteria General Service/Cook Helper
Slatington Elementary School, replacing Susan Bilheimer, who resigned.

Salary: \$7.50 Per Hour – 5 ½ Hours Per Day – 5 Days Per Week

Effective Date: October 7, 2003

*60-Day Probationary Period

Salary
Adjustment

Acknowledge the following teachers who have completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the 2003-2004 school year:

Anthony Jordan

From: 2B \$35,900

To: 2B+24 \$36,400

Janet Bashore

From: 5B+24 \$37,700

To: 5M \$39,100

Kristie Croll

From: 4B+24 \$37,200

To: 4M \$38,600

PERSONNEL (Con't.)

Substitutes
Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2003-2004 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:

Trevor Gilotti – Elementary K-6

Diane Stettler – Elementary

Co-Curricular Appointments for 2003-2004

Academic Challenge Eight – Kristin Helfrich -- \$397.84

Senior High Newspaper Advisor – Henry Distler -- \$1655.62

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

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:

Conferences

Approve the request of Ron Sadler, Mark Mielnik, Jr., and Patricia Jones to attend a First Aid/CPR Instructor Certification conference sponsored by the American Red Cross on October 6, 13, 20, 27 and November 3, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$160.00 each for registration for a total cost of \$480.00 and will be funded through Safe & Drug Free Schools money.

Approve the request of Dawn Wadsworth to attend a Network of Victim Assistance for Advanced NOVA Training in Greensburg, PA from December 1-3, 2003. Expenses for this conference total \$150.00 and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Phil Bertolino to attend a CareerTrack: Authorized Provider by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training conference on November 7, 2003. Expenses for this conference total \$149.00.

Approve the request of Stephen Drake to attend the 2003 Technology Education Association of Pennsylvania annual conference on November 6 and 7, 2003. Expenses for this conference total \$206.35 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and was approved by the district's Continuing Professional Education Committee.

Approve the request of Tammy Brown, Rose Lee Goldberg, Debra Sanek, and Denise Papay to attend the annual Keystone State Reading Association conference from October 26 – 29, 2003. Expenses for this conference total \$582.00 each for a total \$2328.00 and will be paid through Title I funds.

Approve the request of Laurie Newman to attend a CLIU sponsored conference entitled "Eastern PA Special Education Administrator's Conference" on October 23 and 24, 2003. Expenses for this conference total \$190.60 and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Tara Balliet and Marlene Simock to attend a Bureau of Education and Research Conference entitled on October 27, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$169.00 each for registration; approximately \$15.00 for travel plus the cost of two substitute teachers for the day for an approximate total of \$353.00 and was approved by the district's Continuing Professional Education Committee.

1st Reading

1. Approve revisions to existing school board policy #906 – Public Complaints, as presented after first reading.
2. Approve to replace existing school board policy #324 – Personnel Files, with PSBA recommended policy #324, as presented after first reading.
3. Approve to replace existing school board policy #424 – Personnel Files, with PSBA recommended policy #424, as presented after first reading.
4. Approve to replace existing school board policy #524 – Personnel Files, with PSBA recommended policy #524, as presented after first reading.
5. Approve to replace existing school board policy #404 – Employment of Professional Employees, with PSBA recommended policy #404, as presented after first reading.
6. Approve to replace existing school board policy #504 – Employment of Classified Employees, with PSBA recommended policy #504, as presented after first reading.
7. Approve revisions to existing school board policy #202 – Attendance of Non-Resident Students, as presented after first reading.
8. Approve revisions to existing school board policy #127 – Assessment of Educational Program, as presented after first reading.
9. Approve revisions to existing school board policy #213 – Assessment of Student Progress, as presented after first reading.
10. Approve revisions to existing school board policy #807 – Opening Exercises/Flag Displays, as presented after first reading.
11. Approve new school board policy #251 – Homeless Students, as presented after first reading.
12. Approve new school board policy #919 – District/School Report Cards, as presented after first reading.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (6)
 NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion carried.

OLD
BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve to adjust the price of student school lunches for the 2003-04 school year, effective November 1, 2003 as follows:

Elementary Students	from \$1.45 to \$1.50
Secondary Students	from \$1.50 to \$1.55

It was recommended that the administration research the possibility of increasing adult lunches as well and bring the information back to the board.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (5)
 NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles (2)

Motion carried.

Table
 Reconfiguration
 Restructuring

Mr. Green made a motion, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve to table the recommendation of the administration to alter the previously approved reconfiguration structure of the elementary schools and approve to reconfigure the elementary schools beginning with the 2004-2005 school year with the Peters Elementary School housing Kindergarten, Grade 1 and Grade 2 students, and the Slatington Elementary School housing Grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. This recommendation to table was entertained because the date was erroneously reported in a newspaper publication as being discussed at the October 14, 2003 meeting and the October 6th meeting was not being held in our home district.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)
 NAY: None (0)

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Kathryn Pradel – Asked if the board ever thought about entertaining another basic vote as to whether the district should reconfiguration their elementary schools at all. She presented Mr. Fedorcha with a petition signed by 123 district residents.

Donna Kulp addressed the open structure of the classrooms in Slatington Elementary School.

Jamie Farber asked whether all day kindergarten was a possibility in our district in the future.

**OLD
BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Giles, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve to adopt an additional goal area to be included in the Northern Lehigh School District Goal Areas and Action Plans for the 2003-2004 school year as presented.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)
NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve to authorize the food service director to adjust schedules of cafeteria workers at the senior high school by no more than 30 minutes per day on an as-needed basis.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Escott, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (5)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles (2)

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Financial:

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

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

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

Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the month of August 2003.

NLSHS Student Activities Acct. Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Account Fund Statement for the month of August 2003.

NLMS Student Activities Acct. Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activities Account Fund Statement for the month of August 2003.

Open An Account Approve the request of the senior high school to open the Class of 2007 account in accordance with the Student Activity Fund Policy.

Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a real estate tax refund for the 2002-03 tax year in the amount of \$3,110.33 to Yeswant Kademani, 1 Main Street, Walnutport. The refund is due to the assessed value being reduced from \$364,400 to \$295,300 effective July 1, 2002.

Approve a real estate tax refund for the 2003-04 tax year in the amount of \$46.85 to Floyd and Christine Hoppes, 3058 Spring Valley Road, Slatington. The refund is due because a house trailer was removed and the assessed value was reduced from \$1,000 to zero on July 1, 2003.

FINANCIAL (Con't.)

Replace Postage Meter Approve to replace the existing postage meter for the district by entering into a 4-year lease/purchase agreement with Pitney Bowes. The monthly lease shall be \$189.19 per month and includes the DM 400 machine, meter, scale, reset for postage by modem and maintenance for mail machine and scale.

CLIU Internet Consortium 2004-2005 Approve to authorize the administration to enter into an agreement to allow the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit to proceed in completing the necessary documents for the Northern Lehigh School District to participate in the CLIU Internet Consortium for the 2004-2005 school year.

Real Estate Tax Refunds Approve the following real estate refunds due to duplicate or overpayment during the discount period:

- 1. First American Real Estate Tax Service in the amount of \$7,325.96 for the following properties:
a. Tax bill #040, 232 Walnut Street Slatington Borough \$1,164.32
b. Tax bill #196, 503-507 Franklin St., Slatington Borough \$2,930.71
c. Tax bill #676, 1226 W. Oakhurst Dr., Slatington Borough \$1,749.99
d. Tax bill #1435, 231 S Walnut St., Slatington Borough \$1,286.13
e. Tax bill #907, 1059 Pine Tree Drive, Slatington Borough \$194.81
2. Countrywide Home Loans in the amount of \$918.34 for the following property:
a. Tax bill #594, 319 Washington St., Slatington Borough \$918.34
3. Wells Fargo in the amount of \$4,781.43 for the following properties:
a. Tax bill #959, 7835 Furnace Road, Washington Twp. \$2,811.23
b. Tax bill #3085, 7192 PA Route 873, Washington Twp. \$1,970.20

Stadium Sound System Approve the base price quote and Option #1 for the Bulldog Stadium Sound System. Work to be completed by ET&T of Allentown. Funds for this project are to come from the extended bond funds.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)
NAY: None (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

All board members received copies of the following minutes:

- 1. Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on August 18, 2003.
2. Minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on August 7, 2003.
3. Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees Meeting held on September 4, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was 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 9:15 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President)
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha