

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Reorganization Meeting**  
**Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA**  
**December 5, 2022**

**Civility and Decorum** – District officials and members of the public are expected to conduct themselves with civility and to afford each other a measure of dignity and respect. Shouting, personal insults, and attacks or any conduct that disrupts the flow of business is considered to be out of order. Members of the public are to direct their comments to the Board in its entirety, cannot single out Board Members for response, nor can a member of the public address specific issues with other members of the community who may be present at the meeting or who are virtually present if it is a virtual or hybrid meeting. In addition, members of the community shall not bring signs or placards to the meeting and shall not applaud or engage in any actions that would impede another community member's right to make comments at the meeting. At the discretion of the Board/Board President, individuals who are disruptive shall be subject to removal from the venue of the Board meeting, unless the disruptive individual agrees to maintain civility and decorum.

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2022, in the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Room..

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Gale N. Husack (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mr. Todd Breiner, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Jones, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Mollitoris, Atty. Avery Smith, Mr. John Rushefski, Mr. James Schnyderite, Mr. Michael Strohl.

**VISITORS** Approximately 1 visitor attended the meeting and ninety-four visitors viewed the meeting.

**NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION MEETING** The notice of organization was read by Mrs. Rhonda Frantz.

**OPEN NOMINATIONS TEMPORARY PRESIDENT** Mrs. Frantz opened nominations for Temporary President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors.

**NOMINATION FOR TEMPORARY PRESIDENT** Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Robin Distler, to nominate Mrs. Donna M. Kulp for Temporary President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors.

**Vote on Closing** Roll Call.  
YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
Motion carried.

Mrs. Donna M. Kulp was unanimously declared duly elected Temporary President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors.

Mrs. Kulp read the list of legally elected and qualified school directors: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mrs. Gale Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp.

**ELECTION OF PRESIDENT** Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Temporary President, called for nominations for President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors for a one-year term.

Nominations For President Mrs. Heckman made a motion to nominate Mr. Mathias Green, Jr. for President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors for a one-year term.

Close Nominations A motion was made by Mrs. Donna that nominations for President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be closed.

Vote on Mathias J. Green, Jr. Nomination Roll Call.  
YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
Motion carried.

Mathias J. Green, Jr. Board President Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. was declared by a vote of 8 to 0, duly elected President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors for a one-year term.

**ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT** President Green called for nominations for Vice-President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors for a one-year term.

Nominations For Vice-President Mr. Robin Distler made a motion, with a second by Mrs. Donna Kulp, to nominate Mr. Gary Fedorcha, for Vice-President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors for a one-year term.

Close Nominations For V.P. Election A motion was made by Mrs. Kulp, with a second by Mr. Distler, that the nominations for Vice-President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be closed.

Vote on Gary Fedorcha For V.P. Roll Call.  
YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
Motion carried.

Gary Fedorcha Vice-President Mr. Gary Fedorcha was declared by a vote of 8 to 0, duly elected Vice-President of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors for a one-year term.

**SET BOARD MEETINGS TIMES AND PLACES** Mr. Green commented the next item is to set the board meetings and agendas and I think you all have a copy of that, the colored sheet. Two items come up and the one is, do we want to stay with Monday night for meetings. There's some discussion on whether we would change that or whether we would stay to Monday night. So, I don't know if there's any discussion on that, where we want to go, thoughts, anyone?

Mr. Christman commented right down here, Matt. I've been reached out to multiple times about committee meetings being the same time as Slatinton Borough Council Meetings on the first Monday. So, I would like to make a motion to change that to the first Wednesday of every month. The first Tuesday is Washington Township's meeting, so trying to appease as many masses as possible, I suppose.

**SET BOARD  
MEETINGS  
TIMES AND  
PLACES  
(cont.)**

Mr. Green commented motion by Mr. Christman to change the meetings to the first Wednesday. Is there a second to that motion? Is there a second to that motion?

Mrs. Rhonda Frantz seconded the motion by Mr. Christman to change the meetings to the first Wednesday.

Mrs. Heckman commented wasn't there a reason that we couldn't do the Wednesday, something with the schedule of administration. Because it was the first Wednesday at some point during COVID, do you guys remember that?

Mr. Link commented it was Mondays and Wednesdays.

Mr. Fedorcha commented it was Mondays and Wednesdays and then we moved it to one night a month. Then we moved it to Wednesday first then moved that over to a Monday in that sequence.

Mrs. Heckman commented okay, all right.

Mr. Green commented the Wednesday wasn't working for people, that's why we moved it back to Monday. I don't remember exactly what the conflict was, but there was some kind of conflict with traveling, so there was a request that we go back to Monday so we moved it back. But, again I don't remember exactly what that was. I don't know if anyone else does, but yeah.

Mr. Fedorcha commented I know you tried to do that and I think we have to try harder to streamline though on that evening, because it goes extremely long. So if we could somehow do even more than we're already doing if we go to one night.

Mr. Green commented that's the next item for discussion. Thank you. Okay, we have a motion to change to Wednesday.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin Distler, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz (3)

NAY: Mr. Gary Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle Heckman, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (5)

Motion denied.

Mr. Green commented okay, so that motion will be defeated and we will stay with Monday night. The other item I wanted to discuss and this is hand-in-hand with what Mr. Fedorcha was saying. I had a couple of people come to me over the years and say, not over the years but over the course of the last few months and say is there any way we can change our meetings so that we always have for example meeting a first and then meeting b and then c and then d. Some people said a., they were looking to have their meeting first so they could get home earlier and didn't have to get home so late. Ironically, someone else said they wanted their meeting to be second because they had trouble making the first meeting. So, again I'm throwing that out for discussion. I don't know where we're at on it, but is there any thought of doing that and I would say that based on the input I have we would probably do something like Finance, Building and Grounds and Education, you know in that order.

Mr. Fedorcha commented if I can add two things to that. If we do keep it as a,b,c,d and whatever else, can we also have a time-frame put in there so that if I forget, let's just say that I am in the later session and really can't get here for the first, I don't want to come here like I did one time and find out that everybody left. So, my point is I think we need to have a little bit more of a time structure in that, but I also agree that we need to keep it. I like the idea of going a,b,c,d and the only reason is when it isn't, it becomes confusing to us to know what time I'm really coming in tonight. So, that's my opinion.

Mr. Green commented I hear what you're saying, Gary. I think one of the problems is, we never know which meeting is going to take the longest. Sometimes the policy meeting takes an hour and

**SET BOARD  
MEETINGS  
TIMES AND  
PLACES  
(cont.)**

sometimes it takes 10 minutes. I suspect that our January buildings and grounds, if McClure comes back we might have a very, very long buildings and grounds meeting, but you know it's hard to. But, I would say maybe not before 8 o'clock to start the other one or something might work if we do it that way. Do you think we can get done by then?

Mr. Link commented my opinion is I don't think we can do that. Each committee takes as long as it takes depending on how the agenda drives it that evening. I know as far as what the rotation is for that particular month that is set out ahead of time when those agendas go out and which one we're starting with and then the ones that will follow. So, back to the original question of can we put time slots in, the danger with that is we may not get through an agenda and we have to abruptly cut it short and then carry it over to the next month. Or, we get done very early and then there's 20 minutes, 30 minutes down time until the next one starts.

Mr. Fedorcha commented the only thing to that I would like to add is the fact that, for example, if policy and whatever other committee if we get the written stuff ahead of time, do I really need to have somebody ready it to me that night. That is a time consuming process. More or less, if I have a question, I should ask if we can have a discussion. I don't know, I'm just throwing something out here.

Mr. Green commented it's like yes, I don't need someone to read to me. I'm a big boy, I could do that. We've talked about that. I think we have consolidated our meetings considerably over where they were when they started. You know, we were here until ridiculous hours, so I think we've come in the right direction but is there still room maybe to do better, probably yeah.

Mr. Link commented and again I would just caution. So, I do agree that we have considerably condensed those times by basically saying here's everything let us know if you have questions ahead of time that seems like it's working well. But I just caution the board that we still have to be responsible of transparency and that we shouldn't be rushing topics through a committee agenda or a committee meeting.

Mr. Kern commented yeah, at times you don't know what questions are going to arise unless there's more explanation at that meeting. You don't know what you don't know, I guess is what I'm saying. So, I do like that we did streamline it a little bit. I mean some of our meetings were - the one was like 10:30. But, if it's an important topic, you know it should need to be explored and thoroughly looked at. But I don't need to know how many lightbulbs Mr. Derr is buying next month, you know, I don't need to know that. Not to pick on Mr. Derr, but you understand what I'm saying. But I agree with you, we need to streamline as much as we can.

Mrs. Kulp commented do we split it again like we did before?

Mr. Green commented what was the question?

Mrs. Heckman commented is the goal to make sure that no one misses their meeting because we know what time each committee is starting or is the goal of this conversation to set a time limit for the meetings because I'm not advocating for that. I don't think you are either.

Mr. Fedorcha commented not to set a time limit, no.

Mrs. Heckman commented correct.

Mr. Fedorcha commented but to understand that there's a point of, I mean if I'm going to be on the second part of it and even though I'm not saying I did not want to hear the other stuff because I'm going to get to read it all, and I do not have the time or whatever else to come to the first two meetings and I'm in the last two. What time should I be coming? I mean about what time? That's all I'm asking and I don't know if that's possible, honestly. It's not an easy process and I know that. My concern is that getting here at 5 o'clock and sitting in on 2 meetings that I have no definite response to understand, and that's my job to be here to learn, I know that. And then sitting here until 9:30 to 10

**SET BOARD**  
**MEETINGS**  
**TIMES AND**  
**PLACES**  
**(cont.)**

o'clock at night is a little ridiculous. That's the second wave. Where, if you're on the first wave, you can go home.

Mr. Kern commented I know the education meeting lasted a good 2 hours and then pushed all the other ones back. Then people were coming for finance, you know they were sitting in on that 2 hour item and you were an hour and half early, you know when yours should have been started earlier and I agree with that.

Mr. Fedorcha commented I just don't know how to balance that, Michelle.

Mrs. Heckman commented yeah, but on the flip side of that one time I was the third meeting and I came not at 5 I came at 6 and I was like oh two committees that will definitely take an hour and that third meeting was almost already done. I had missed my meeting because you don't know when it's going to start. I thought an hour was pretty conservative.

Mr. Fedorcha commented and that's one thing I was saying. Plus, I know at our last committee meeting, the committee that met last, the chair was the only person sitting here anymore. There was no others, everybody else left even if they were on that committee they were done because they were done earlier. I mean I don't know how to balance it, honestly. If we can just streamline it maybe is what I'm saying and get some idea that we would be, I don't know. Just my comments, I apologize for going on and on.

Mr. Link commented this is great conversation by the way, thank you for everybody weighing in. I would propose give administration the opportunity to continue to streamline, get information out ahead of time on the posted agenda to the public and to the board even if the information that's shared out ahead of time is pages, right. And then this kind of becomes a responsibility of the individual to review it and come prepared to have the conversation. I would propose and request that we kind of follow the same pattern that we have been for the last few months and maybe do a revisit of it in like March and see if we were able to get closer to meeting everybody's unique needs. Because I think everybody does have kind of you know, they have their own reasons for either wanting to start early or coming in later.

Mrs. Heckman commented or at least not have the schedule rotate, like the order of the meetings. Or is that like a critical part of this?

Mr. Green commented no it's just discussion and I only brought it up, Michelle, because some people have come to me and asked if we could do that. You know, if we can go with a certain schedule and some people, like I said, some people didn't want to be the last meeting of the night because it got too late and someone might have their meeting later because they had conflicts that they couldn't get here early and I'm bringing it up to see what the majority. It's up to the majority, if you want to do anything? Do you want to stay where we are? Okay, I'm not hearing any kind of motion.

Mr. Distler commented there is a comment down here.

Mrs. Kulp commented Mr. Green, there was voice for a Wednesday meeting. Is there any chance we can go back to a Monday and a Wednesday or is that not something we're going to do?

Mr. Green commented I had a lot of pushback on that also, Donna. What that meant was that people had to come out more than one night depending on what committees they are. The administration have to come out more than one night. I also heard people saying that "oh wow, I'm glad I really went to a finance committee meeting because I never knew that we were really doing some of those things". And I think a lot of people were saying that they kind of got a little bit more insight into some of the things that were happening. People who were going, maybe not going, to an education meeting said "oh wow, I'm really glad to hear about some of those things and it gave me the opportunity in one night to do that instead of having to come out two nights. I mean then you ask the administration to

**SET BOARD  
MEETINGS  
TIMES AND  
PLACES**  
**(cont.)**

come out two nights, and the board members to come out two nights, and that's why people were pushing back on the two nights. I don't think there's an easy answer.

Mr. Fedorcha commented that's why I was saying if we would streamline if and I would not make a motion to tell you how to streamline it because depending on what the nature of the meeting is, it may change a little bit. Again, if we can streamline it a little so that we're not here from 5 to 10.

Mr. Green commented and I can tell you that Mr. Link and I have had several conversation on that. I think we've had conversations as a board on that in attempting to streamline it and you know we're moving direction. And unfortunately, here we go in December and we don't even have a committee meeting, so now comes January and you have to have 2 committee meetings in one. July comes and you don't have a committee meeting. So, you know there's those bottlenecks that occur over the course of the year. So again, if there's not a motion to move one way or the other, Mr. Link is suggesting that we stay where we are. If no one wants to make a motion to change it, then I would say discussion is over, unless I get a motion.

Mrs. Heckman commented I don't have a motion, but I just have one final comment. I definitely don't think we should split it into 2 nights again. I live down the street, but not everyone that works here lives down the street. I think it is a hardship for the administration and the individuals that have to be at some of these meetings to come out 2 nights a week. That's my comment.

Mr. Kern commented Matt, I also have a comment. I also like the structure where it stays the same. So I know finance will be at 5:30, you know or education will be at 6:30. Whatever it is, in the pecking order so that we have a pretty idea where it might fall.

Mr. Link commented may I ask a clarifying question on that? Do you mean Mr. Kern, keep it like it is where we rotate which one comes first or set?

Mr. Kern commented no, set order. Set number 1, set number 1, set number 3.

Mr. Link commented so Monday nights, set order.

Mr. Kern commented yes.

Mr. Link commented okay.

Mr. Green commented okay, I would say again we've kind of drug on quite a bit of a conversation. I do not have a motion of any kind. If someone wants to make a motion, we can get a second. We can have discussion, but other than that I think it's time we move on and go from there.

Mr. Fedorcha commented if we have no other motion, I would like to move to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Green commented one second. No motion, Mr. Fedorcha you have the floor.

Mr. Link commented so no motion means that it defaults to what we've been doing.

Mr. Green commented yes.

Mr. Link commented which means we're going to rotate.

Mr. Green commented exactly.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned.

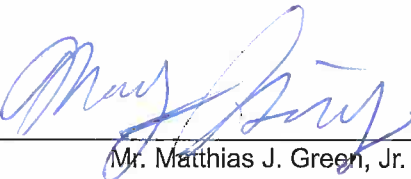
YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (8)  
NAY: None (0)  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Rhonda Frantz  
Acting Secretary

ATTEST:



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President

Mr. Matthias J. Green, Jr.