

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA
December 8, 2003**

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2003, in the gymnasium located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Ms. Angelique M. Papay (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Amberly Gable, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, and Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 41 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News, Terry Ahner, reporter for the Chronicle newspaper, and Blue Ridge Cable TV 13.

APPROVE MINUTES A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on November 3, 2003 and the regular school board meeting held on November 10, 2003 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, that Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles be appointed as the representative to the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operation Committee. Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser will be the alternate representative.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)

NAY: None (0)

Student Representatives Report – Ms. Amberly Gable and Ms. Ashley Kunkle distributed a written student representative report for the month and verbally reported on its contents.

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

Dr. Sham announced that there will be a Resolution on the January 5, 2004 agenda recognizing the 2003 Northern Lehigh Bulldog Football team.

PERSONNEL A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser, with a second made by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Substitutes Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher 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: Lauri A. Stehley – Elementary Education (K-6)

Non-Instructional Approve the following substitute custodian for the 2003-2004 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour: Leon Christman

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conferences

Approve the request of Theresa Lobach to attend a Appelbaum Training Institute conference on January 22, 2004. Expenses for this conference includes \$135.00 for registration, \$8.00 for meals for a total cost of \$143.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and will be funded through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Susan Beil to attend a Appelbaum Training Institute conference on January 22, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$135.00 for registration, \$8.00 for meals for a total cost of \$143.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and will be funded through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Judith Costa to attend a Appelbaum Training Institute conference on January 22, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$135.00 for registration, \$8.00 for meals for a total cost of \$143.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and will be funded through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Linda Thompson to attend a Appelbaum Training Institute conference on January 22, 2004. Expenses for this conference include \$135.00 for registration, \$8.00 for meals for a total cost of \$143.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and will be funded through IDEA funds.

Field Trip

Approve the request of the middle school seventh grade teachers to take a field trip to the Museum of Anthropology & Archaeology in Philadelphia in the spring of 2004 with a tentative date of April 16, 2004. The cost of the trip, including transportation and admission to the museum, will be approximately \$2800.00. They are also requesting permission to conduct a variety of fundraisers to pay for this trip.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)

NAY: None (0)

Early Retirement Incentive Plan For 2003-2004

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve to adopt an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2003-2004 school year, as presented.

Table ERIP

A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education table approval of an Early Retirement Incentive Plan for the 2003-2004 school year until the first meeting in January so that the entire board can have an opportunity to review the plan and the financial information associated with it.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)

NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Green announced discussion of the reconfiguration of the elementary schools would end at 9:45 p.m. due to the fact that some board members had other commitments. If the discussion is not finished at that time, he asked that the board recess the meeting and reconvene next Monday at 7:30 p.m. and continue the discussion at that time. The board is interested in getting all the input, comments, and participation that is needed with regard to this issue.

At this time, Mrs. Giles also expressed some concern about the evaluation of the Superintendent asking that they be held, at least until next month, until the new board members have an opportunity to observe what goes on in our district.

Mr. Green stated that the evaluation of the Superintendent should have been done last June or July. It is merely an attempt to get some kind of base line to find out where we stand on the issues and look at those issues and use the strengths and weaknesses to develop some kind of plan of improvement if needed for the district.

After further discussion, Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approves to have all of the Superintendent evaluation forms, which were distributed at the December 2, 2003 board meeting, shredded and have new evaluation forms distributed to board members and administrators for completion and submission at the January 5, 2004 board meeting.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)
NAY: None (0)

Mrs. Giles addressed the fact that she had spoken publicly at last weeks regular meeting about some things that had happened during the reorganization meeting that had upset her.

A motion was made by Mrs. Giles, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that if our Solicitor, Attorney Charles Stopp, instructs the Board of Education that they can revoke on the board officers, they should do so and call for a revoke in January 2004.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Ms. Papay, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Revisit
Reconfiguration
Of Elementary
Schools

Dr. Sham & Mrs. Fedorcha gave a PowerPoint presentation and revisited the reconfiguration of our elementary schools. He also addressed some of the questions that were distributed at last week's meeting.

RECESS

President Green called for a short recess at 9:20 p.m. The board reconvened at 9:28 p.m. and Dr. Sham continued his presentation that ended at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Mrs. Geronikos spoke of her concerns with the way the board and administration went about the reconfiguration process, which may have made them look as though they do not have all of the information they needed. That seems to be a lot of the concerns in the community.

It was the consensus of the board that they should wait to do any action regarding changing their decision to reconfigure our elementary schools until the January 5, 2004 meeting; however, they did continue to discuss the situation after hearing Dr. Sham's presentation.

Board Discussion/Concerns:

Mrs. Giles – Have we applied for another Title I waiver? She requested copies of test scores for the past 5/6 years (with the waiver and without the waiver). Raised concerns as to why our school psychologists are included in Act 93.

Mrs. Geronikos – Gave the audience a little history of Title I funding in our district.

Mr. Cox –“ If you look at reconfiguration strictly in a business sense, it is ludicrous to have total duplication of services five miles apart”.

Public Comment:

Randy Parkinelli – Did the district consider costing transportation?

Janet Peck – Will the district run out of space if all day kindergarten is mandated? Commented on the problem of getting teachers together.

Maria Gonzales – Where is the \$90,000 that was in the budget just in case the district didn't receive the Title I waiver. Also noted, for the record, that a ceiling tile in the gymnasium looked as though it was ready to fall.

Kathryn Pradel – Indicated that the people you see here tonight are not a vocal minority. She stated she did get 120 signatures and presented it to the board. Addressed the advantages and disadvantages presented. Challenged some of the items discussed.

Tara Balliet – Both elementary schools provide excellent programs. Reconfiguration will lower class sizes. She identified beneficial academic things that reconfiguration will help. We need to look at what is going to help our students academically. Reconfiguration will allow faculty members and teammates to communicate throughout each day to make certain they are providing the best education that they can for our students.

Tricia Seiler – Attended Slatington Elementary and graduated at the top of her class. Her three children will be attending three different schools if reconfiguration occurs. Initially she was not in favor of reconfiguration, but after listening to the information presented, she is all for it. Do whatever is needed for her children to get the best education possible.

Wes Saylor – Expressed concerns about a bus ride of up to one hour. Questioned if we needed to hire more teachers if we do not get the Title I waiver or reconfigure. How many children will be affected by YCare.

Jane Kropf – From an educational standpoint she does not see a whole lot of benefits or advantages associated with reconfiguration. She is mostly concerned with dollars and cents behind it. Are we spending money on things in areas that we shouldn't be spending?

Lynn Sechler – addressed the fact that the funding formula in Pennsylvania is not fair.

Donna Kulp – Information she submitted to the board members was gleaned from newspaper articles, etc. and not intended to be a personal attack on Dr. Sham. Addressed other issues that are more important than reconfiguring the elementary schools. Asked why only 10 teachers respond to the reconfiguration survey?

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Financial:

Treasurer's Report	Approve the report of the treasurer, Mr. Cox, as presented for the month of November 2003.
Reports (Info Only)	All board members received the November 2003 Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve Funds.
General Fund Bills	Approve payment of General Fund bills, as presented, for the month of November 2003.
Athletic Fund Report	Approve the Northern Lehigh Athletic Fund Report, as presented, for the month of November 2003.

Refreshment Stand & Sports Account Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Refreshment Stand and Sports Account Financial Report, as presented, for the month ended November 30, 2003.

NL High School Student Activities Account Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Account, as presented, for the month of November 2003.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)
NAY: None (0)

Solicit Proposals To Borrow Funds A motion was made by Mr. Cox, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approves to authorize Christine Stafford, Business Manager and Les Bear, Financial Consultant to solicit proposals from financial institutions for the purpose of borrowing funds to relieve cash flow restrictions created by lack of funding from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)
NAY: None (0)

INFORMATION All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Intermediate Unit Board of Trustees meeting held on November 6, 2003 and minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting of October 22, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Beers, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Ms. Papay (9)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mathias J. Green, Jr.