

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021
Northern Lehigh Middle School
Auditorium
7:00 P.M.



PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 9, 2021, in the Northern Lehigh Middle School Auditorium.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Michele L. Martineau and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. Eric Hill, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Scott Pyne, Atty. Kristine Roddick, and Mr. Michael Strohl, Mr. Robert Vlasaty

VISITORS Approximately thirteen visitors attended the meeting and three hundred and twenty-six viewed the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Fedorcha stated that public comment will be recognized with the agenda items. Items not on the agenda will be recognized at the end of the meeting. Mr. Fedorcha read a statement regarding public comment at board meetings.

APPROVE MINUTES Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on August 9, 2021, be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that the IU is back in classes and all are doing well keeping students and staff in buildings. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. at the IU building.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha reported that LCTI is also back in session. LCTI staff and students are wearing masks along with the other schools in Lehigh County.

Legislative Report - Mrs. Heckman reported that Pennsylvania Representative Sonney issued a memo introducing legislation to ensure that charter school payments are accurate. This is a key recommendation from PSBA's charter school task force and PSBA is asking school officials, along with others, to reach out to their representatives to sign on as co-sponsors to his upcoming bill. PDE released Volume V of the ESSER extra which is a newsletter that gives extra information to school entities as they continue to develop and implement plans regarding their Federal American Rescue Plan money. The U.S. Department of Education sent a letter to local partners outlining questions and answers which provides guidance on special education requirements during the pandemic specifically geared toward ADA topics. And, a continuing reminder that PSBA's Advocacy Day is October 14th. It is virtual this year so if you have an interest in the topics or participating this year, contact Mrs. Heckman.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - No report.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

- Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on September 7, 2021, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Community Relations Committee Meeting held on September 7, 2021, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on September 8, 2021, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on September 8, 2021, were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Ms Paige Craddock reported that they had their class assemblies and the awards for everyone who had perfect attendance. Open House was held on September 8th. Daycare was provided for the kids thanks to Mrs. Tiedeman, which was very generous. Right before open house, they had student council induction. It was a great experience having it in-person.

Ms. Danielle Dougherty introduced herself as the new junior representative to the board. Ms. Dougherty reported that the upperclassman officers, which are the seniors and juniors, have been helping the underclassmen class officers and advisors because they haven't had any money raised. Thanks to Dr. Gonzalez and Mr. McCarty, they volunteered to be the freshman advisors and Mrs. Dunham and Ms. Wilder are going to be the sophomore class advisors. They are going to help them to raise money. This past week, they got the applications out to the underclassmen. Picture day was today. Financial Aid Night is on Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m. On September 27, there is a meeting with seniors and sophomores for caps and gowns and then a class ring meeting with Jostens for the sophomores. For student council, they are working on Homecoming events such as the parade, the homecoming dance, spirit week and the homecoming court. For the athletic report, boys' soccer in their league are 0-1 and overall 0-4. Boys' cross country in their league are 0-5. Girls' cross country in their league is 3-2. Girls' soccer in their league is 2-0, Danielle and Paige are part of the team, and overall their record is 3-1. Field hockey in league they are 2-0 and are overall 2-1 and football is 1-1.

Attorney Roddick gave the Oath of Office to the Senior Board Representative, Paige Craddock, and the Junior Board Representative, Danielle Dougherty. Board members and the audience applauded Ms. Craddock and Ms. Dougherty.

Assistant Superintendent Report - Dr. Tania Stoker reported that the board members received a summary of the ESSER I, II, and III grants through August 31, 2021. As reported previously, our allocation for ESSER I was \$324,575, and has been fully expended. Northern Lehigh School District's allocation for ESSER II was \$1,463,022. To date, \$246,765 has been spent, \$362,324 encumbered and have \$844,264 on the proposed spending list, which leaves \$9,649 undetermined or left to be spent. Some of the items on the proposed spending list include upgrades to the middle school kitchen, hiring a social worker, software platforms and various computer equipment replacement parts, if needed. ESSER II needs to be expended by September 30, 2023. Northern Lehigh School District's allocation for ESSER III is \$2,948,680 of which 20% or \$589,736 must be spent to address learning loss caused by the pandemic. To date, the district has spent \$349,385, have \$87,845 encumbered, and have \$2,038,224 on the proposed spending list, which leaves \$473,226 undetermined or left to be spent. Staff salaries and additional summer learning opportunities for the next three summers are items that are on the proposed spending list. ESSER III needs to be expended by September 30, 2024. Recently the district was notified about the release of a second allocation to the ESSER III grant. The total allocation expected is \$229,342. This grant is much more prescriptive in what we can spend the money on. There is a 5% set aside, or \$163,816, for learning loss which is broken down further. Thirty percent of those monies, or \$49,145, must be spent on social, emotional, and mental health support for students. Ten percent of those monies, or \$16,382, must be spent on social, emotional, and mental health support for staff and 8% of those monies, or \$13,105, must be spent on reading support and improvement. Additionally, there is a 1% set aside of the total allocation, or \$32,763, for afterschool programs and a 1% set aside of the total allocation, or \$32,763, for summer enrichment. These grants must be submitted by the end of November in order for the district to receive the monies associated with them.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

We will continue to review and release information as we receive it. Lastly, she would like to remind all the stakeholders in the Northern Lehigh School District community that their input regarding our ESSER grants is welcomed and that there are a variety of ways they can participate in the decision making process for these grants. If you have any recommendations, you can contact her directly or share your ideas at one of the committee meetings of the board.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link congratulated Danielle and welcomed her to the board as a junior representative and commented that she is in good hands under Paige's mentorship.

Mr. Link reported about the opening of schools. Today is the first day of the first full week of school, the past two weeks being 4-day weeks because of the Labor Day holiday. Mr. Link thanked everyone for their cooperation leading up to the start of the school year and through the first two shortened weeks. He also thanked all involved in the planning for a successful opening of the school year and shared that since the start of fall sports we have seen COVID cases in the district. Since the start of fall sports the district has had 30 students, K-12, test positive which comes out to a percentage of 1.97% of the student enrollment. As for employees for the same time frame, the district has had four employees test positive, which is 1.55% of the total district employee membership. At the end of each day, under District Announcements, on the district website there is a COVID tracker and that's updated at the end of each day. You can continue to track any trends by visiting the website.

Mr. Link reviewed the Third Day Enrollment numbers. Each school year, district's have to report their third day enrollment with the understanding by usually the third day of school the enrollments and withdrawals have kind of settled down. This year is a little bit of an anomaly because we've had so many people enrolling their children right up to the end of last week. This week it's starting to slow down on the number of enrollments. As of the third day, September 1, Peters Elementary had 321 children, Slatington Elementary had 489 students, Northern Lehigh Middle School had 244 students, and Northern Lehigh High School had 465 students. This is inclusive of the various grade levels and Bulldog Academy. In total, it is 1,519 students. That is up 10 from the third day of school last school year.

Mr. Link recognized a teacher and administrator. Ms. Jennifer Butz, Elementary Physical Education Teacher, has been selected as the SHAPE PA 2021 Professional Honor Award winner. SHAPE PA is the state organization for Health and Physical Education teachers. She has been a member and a leader in the organization. The award is given to a member who has demonstrated distinguished service and scholarship in all the allied fields. Ms. Butz will be honored on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at the SHAPE PA annual conference located at Seven Springs Mountain Resort in Champion, PA. Congratulations to Ms. Butz on receiving this award. Next, Mr. Link recognized the new Slatington Elementary School Principal, Mr. Todd Breiner, for his induction this evening into the Tamaqua School District Athletics Hall of Fame. Mr. Breiner is a three-sport inductee playing football, basketball, and track and field as a student athlete. Congratulations to Mr. Breiner on his induction this evening.

Business Manager's Report - Mrs. Sherri Molitoris reported that the district has it's local auditors coming in next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to audit the end of the year, June 30, 2021. There will be follow up with the board once the full audit is conducted.

**Executive
Session**

An executive session was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Middle School Library for the purpose of personnel items. There was also a special executive session meeting at 6:00 p.m. on August 26, 2021, for personnel items.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Martineau made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Heckman, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

**Resignation/
Retirement
R. Pristash**

With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Robyn Pristash from her position as Peters Elementary Office Paraprofessional, effective immediately.

S. Bahnick

With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Susan Bahnick from her position as Food Services Director, effective December 31, 2021.

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

- D. Minnich Accept the resignation of Denise Minnich from her position as Slatington Elementary Cafeteria/Hall Monitor, effective immediately.
- T. Weaver Accept the resignation of Timothy Weaver from his position as Slatington Elementary Yearbook Advisor, effective immediately.
- S. Kunkel Accept the resignation of Sarah Kunkel from her position as Spanish Club Advisor at the high school, effective immediately.
- K. Seiler Accept the resignation of Kimberly Seiler from her position as Head Field Hockey Coach, effective immediately.
- J. Bittenbender Accept the resignation of Jennifer Bittenbender from her position as Slatington Elementary Instructional Paraprofessional, effective immediately.
- D. Pristash Accept the resignation of David Pristash from his position as a Game Worker, effective immediately.
- Administrative Transfers Non-Instructional Dawn Nagy
- | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| From: | Cook's Helper - Peters Elementary |
| To: | Cook's Helper - Slatington Elementary |
| Salary: | No change in salary |
| Effective: | August 24, 2021 |
- Sheila White
- | | |
|------------|--|
| From: | Instructional Paraprofessional - Slatington Elementary |
| To: | Instructional Paraprofessional - Peters Elementary |
| Salary: | No change in salary |
| Effective: | August 24, 2021 |
- Kimberly Deprill
- | | |
|------------|--|
| From: | Instructional Paraprofessional - Peters Elementary |
| To: | Instructional Paraprofessional - Slatington Elementary |
| Salary: | No change in salary |
| Effective: | August 24, 2021 |
- Jody Remaley
- | | |
|------------|--|
| From: | Instructional Paraprofessional - Peters Elementary |
| To: | Instructional Paraprofessional - Slatington Elementary |
| Salary: | No change in salary |
| Effective: | August 24, 2021 |
- Appointment Non-Instructional Melissa Ambruster*
- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Assignment: | Slatington Elementary Office Paraprofessional |
| Salary: | \$13.87/hour |
| Effective: | August 23, 2021 |
- *60 Working Day Probationary Period**

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Jessica Eckroth*

Assignment: Cook's Helper - Middle School

Salary: \$13.50/hour

Effective: September 20, 2021

60 Working Day Probationary Period**Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Julia Gittins*

Assignment: Cook's Helper - Peters Elementary

Salary: \$13.50/hour

Effective: August 30, 2021

60 Working Day Probationary Period**Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Patricia Guedes*

Assignment: Building Monitor - High School

Salary: \$13.87/hour

Effective: August 24, 2021

***60 Working Day Probationary Period**

Janna Seip*

Assignment: Peters Elementary Office Paraprofessional

Salary: \$13.87/hour

Effective: August 24, 2021

60 Working Day Probationary Period**Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Tara Trainer*

Assignment: Accounts Receivable Bookkeeper

Salary: \$31,518 (prorated)

Effective: September 13, 2021

60 Working Day Probationary Period**Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Kimberly Suskevich*

Assignment: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor - Slatington Elementary

Salary: \$13.87/hour

Effective: On or about September 13, 2021

60 Working Day Probationary Period**Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Co-	Manuel Gonzalez	Spanish Club - HS	\$612
Curricular	Manuel Gonzalez	Freshman Class Advisor	\$720
Appointments	Christopher McCarty	Freshman Class Advisor	\$720
2021-2022	Blasia Dunham	Sophomore Class Advisor	\$726
	Gabryella Wilder	Sophomore Class Advisor	\$726
	Megan Leadbetter	Head Field Hockey Coach	\$5712
	Dakota Schweitzer	Assistant Field Hockey Coach (1/2 Stipend)	\$819.69
	Kassandra Beller	Assistant Field Hockey Coach (1/2 Stipend)	\$819.69

Co-Curricular Renewals 2021-2022 Motion to renew the appointment of the following Co-Curricular position for the 2021-2022 school year.

2021-2022	Nicole Nightlinger	Aevidum Club - HS	\$204
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PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Webpage Maintenance Approve a stipend in the amount of \$500.00 for Mr. Andrew Kern for High School website maintenance and working with students during the 2021-2022 school year.

Mr. Kern has constant contact with teachers, secretaries, and administrators in an effort to update the website on a daily basis with the latest information, handouts, and scheduled events. Stipend to be funded by the General Fund High School Student Activities Fund.

Approve a stipend in the amount of \$1,000.00 for Mr. Andrew Kern for maintenance and updates of the district website during the 2021-2022 school year. Stipend to be funded by the superintendent's budget.

Approve a stipend in the amount of \$500.00 for Mr. Andrew Kern for Middle School website maintenance and working with students during the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Kern has constant contact with teachers, secretaries, and administrators in an effort to update the website on a daily basis with the latest information, handouts, and scheduled events. Stipend to be funded by the General Fund Middle School Student Activities Fund.

Approve a stipend in the amount of \$500.00 for Ms. Janet Bashore for maintenance and updates of the Peters Elementary website during the 2021-2022 school year. Stipend to be funded by Peters Elementary principal's discretionary account.

Approve a stipend in the amount of \$500.00 for Ms. Kori Dibilio for maintenance and updates of the Slatington Elementary website during the 2021-2022 school year. Stipend to be funded by Slatington Elementary principal's discretionary account.

Game Workers 2021-2022 Motion to appoint the following list of people as Game Workers for the 2021-2022 school year. Game workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges, scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2021-2022 Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Shawn Wanamaker
James Yadush
Amy Zeiser

Brandywine Transportation Bus Drivers/Aides Motion to approve the following bus drivers/aides from Brandywine Transportation to transport Northern Lehigh School District students for the 2021-2022 school year:

Courtney Crowley - Driver
Rafael Cruel - Driver
Sandra Larrison - Aide

Substitutes - Instructional Motion to renew the appointment of the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year at the 2021-2022 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Kathrine Barhight Herzog - CLIU Guest Teacher
Thomas Battista
Ricky Guth
Dawn Kemery
Patricia Passick
Candace Steffie

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Substitutes - Non-Instructional Motion to renew the appointment of the following individuals as substitute secretary for the 2021-2022 school year at the 2021-2022 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Kristin Garrison
Shelly Pender
Dawn Tulio

Motion to renew the appointment of the following individuals as substitute paraprofessional for the 2021-2022 school year at the 2021-2022 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Kristin Garrison
Brenda Hahn

Motion to renew the appointment of the following individual as substitute cafeteria worker for the 2021-2022 school year at the 2021-2022 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Wendy Brown

Permanent Substitute Teachers Approve the following individuals as District Wide permanent substitute teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. They will be paid a daily per diem rate of \$150.00 and will receive district health benefits according to the Affordable Care Act regulations with co-payment amounts equivalent to that of district personnel.

Stephanie Gursky
Karie Miller Mallory
Michael Smith

Clerical/ Classroom Volunteers Approve the following unpaid volunteer aides in the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2021-2022 school year.

Margaret Blose
Deborah Geiger
Sharon Karpiszin
Nancy Wagner

Co-Curricular Volunteers 2021-2022	Kim Corle Steven Jonkman Michele Richards Jason Steigerwalt Rebecca Steigerwalt	Band Advisor Band Advisor Middle School Cheerleading Advisor Band Advisor Band Advisor
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Salary Adjustment Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the 2021-2022 school year:

Shelby Bailey
From: Step 6B
To: Step 6B+24

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Detention Supervisor Approve to appoint the following person as Secondary Detention Monitor for the Senior High School for the 2021-2021 school year. Work will be on an as needed basis and compensation will be at a salary of \$20.00 per hour worked:

Julie Everett

Salary Increase Per the Northern Lehigh Educational Support Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreement, approve Crystal Buck to receive the rate of pay of \$21.96 per hour, for performing Head Cook duties effective on August 30, 2021, and terminating on or about September 19, 2021, or upon return of employee on an approved medical leave of absence.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

Mr. Fedorcha abstained from voting on Personnel, Webpage Maintenance.

Mr. Distler abstained from voting on Personnel, Co-Curricular Appointments 2021-2022.

POLICY

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy #006 - Meetings - Local Board Procedures, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #006.1 - Attendance Via Electronic Communication (Previously Use of Teleconferencing) - Local Board Procedures, as presented after first reading.

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #615 - Finances - Payroll Deductions, as presented after second reading.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Martineau, that the Board of Education approves the following conference items:

R. Frantz A/CAPA Rhonda Frantz – A/CAPA Annual Conference – October 27-29, 2021 – The Hotel Hershey - Hershey, PA – Registration: \$335.00; Lodging: \$334.00; Travel: \$86.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$755.00 – Funding: Business Office Budget

M. Wagner A/CAPA Melissa Wagner – A/CAPA Annual Conference – October 27-29, 2021 – The Hotel Hershey - Hershey, PA – Registration: \$335.00; Lodging: \$334.00; – Total Approximate Cost: \$669.00 – Funding: Business Office Budget

M. Link SAC Matthew Link - Superintendent's Advisory Council (SAC) Conference - November 3-5, 2021 - The Hotel Hershey - Hershey, PA - No Cost to the District

CONFERENCES**(cont.)**

D. Hauser David Hauser, Robert Vlasaty - CFES Global Conference - October 25-26, 2021 - The Sagamore
 R. Vlasaty Resort - Bolton Landing, NY - Travel: \$331.20 - Total Approximate Cost: \$331.20 - Funding: Middle
 CFES School & High School Budget

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
 Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUCTION**

Mrs. Martineau made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction items:

LUSSC Approve to allow administration to continue membership in the Lehigh University School Study
 Membership Council at a fee of \$1,250.00 for the 2021-2022 school year, to be paid from the Superintendent's budget.

Mystery As per the recommendation of the Administration, approve the renewal of Mystery Science
 Science Curriculum for Slatington Elementary at a cost of \$1,499.00. Funding through the 2021-2022 Title
 Renewal IV Grant.

PTS Authorize administration to sign an addendum to the Pediatric Therapeutic Services Agreement to
 Agreement extend services to provide Social Work services at a rate of \$66.99/hour, effective September 1,
 Extended 2021 through June 30, 2022. Funding through ESSER Grant.
 Services

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
 Motion carried.

**(A) NEW
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves the following new business items:

Approve to designate and authorize the following to sign summary offense notices for district students for the 2021-2022 school year, after consultation with the superintendent:

Mr. Frank Gnas – School Police Officer
 Mr. David Jones – School Police Officer
 Mr. James Schnyderite – Peters Elementary School Principal
 Mr. Todd Breiner – Slatington Elementary School Principal
 Mr. David Hauser – Middle School Principal
 Mr. Robert Vlasaty – High School Principal
 Mr. Michael Strohl – Secondary Assistant Principal

YEA: Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None
 ABSTENTION: Mr. Distler
 Motion carried.

Mr. Distler abstained from voting on (A) New Business.

**(B) NEW
BUSINESS**Election of PSBA Officers

RECOMMEND That the Board of Education elects the following candidates as officers for the Pennsylvania School Boards Association, effective January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

President-elect: Sabrina Backer
David Shaap

Vice President: Allison Mathis

East Zone Representative: Edward Brown

Insurance Trust Trustee (3 year term): Richard Frerichs, William LaCoff,
(Vote for up to three) Nathan Mains

Forum Steering Committee (2 year term): Jennifer Davidson, Deana Lancenese,
(Vote for up to three) Bethanne Zeigler, Jaime Lynn Zimerofsky

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves David Shaap as President-elect, Allison Mathis as Vice President, Edward Brown as East Zone Representative, Richard Frerichs, William LaCoff, and Nathan Mains as Insurance Trust Trustee.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion that the Board of Education approves Jennifer Davidson, Deana Lancenese, and Bethanne Zeigler as Forum Steering Committee.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Heckman, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items:

Financial Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. NLHS Scholarship Account month of July, 2021(Unaudited)
2. NLHS Student Activities/Clubs Account month of August, 2021 (Unaudited)
3. PE Student Activities/Clubs Account month of June, 2021 (Unaudited)

Payment of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of August & September, 2021
2. Cafeteria Fund months of August & September, 2021

Abatement/
Exonerations

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

FINANCIAL**(cont.)**

Reading Elevator Service Contract

As per the recommendation of the administration and the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve the renewal of the Reading Elevator Service Contract at the cost of \$176.00 per quarterly service with additional hourly rate of \$245.00, if needed. Funding through the Buildings and Grounds Budget.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meetings held on July 19, 2021.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meetings held on July 1, 2021.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on June 23, 2021.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Fedorcha recognized Mr. King. Mr. King passed. Mr. Fedorcha recognized Mr. Christman.

Mr. Chad Christman, a resident and alumni with an 8th grade son. He comes here for a couple of reasons. One is to keep up to date on what's going on specifically with the latest masking orders. He's sure some of you have seen videos of the exact demonstration he's about to do. I have a confined space parts per million meter. It measures the amount of toxins in the air. If you're in a confined space, right now everything's good, everything's green. If you're in a confined space and this alarm goes off, you must vacate that area immediately or you're in danger of health or death. I'm going to take this meter, see right now it's all good, right now everything's good, I'm not hiding anything. I'm going to stick this meter inside my mask and we're going to see what happens. The meter flashed red and made a warning noise because his CO2 level, carbon monoxide, escalated to dangerous levels. This is what we're subjecting our kids to for eight plus hours a day. Now, let that sink in. This is a confined space meter used for utility workers in ditches doing any kind of utility work. When this goes off, they must get out. No if, ands, or buts. This just went off within three seconds of being under my mask. I understand you guys are in a really tough spot with having to adhere to the state as to what their mandate is ordering. But, make no mistake about these mandates and orders, they're not law. Here we are a year and a half into a two-week curve and there's a lot of variables that can go into this. We're just getting tired of the whole situation. We're tired of it all. There's a lot of people who can't be here because of work, sports, or other prior engagements. So, we've got to stand here and we've got to be their voice. We've got to stand up for our children because it wasn't too long ago during the, I believe it was the August meeting, when Governor Tom Wolf came out and said he's leaving it up to the individual school districts. Well, a lot has changed since then, it has changed almost daily or hourly about this whole situation. Since he's made that statement, it almost feels like he's seen how many school districts, ours included, that left masking optional to students and parents and he could no longer make an order to mandate masks so he had the Department of Health issue it. Now we're saying this about scientific data. Exactly what scientific data. The average COVID death in Lehigh County, according to Lehigh County Coroner's death is 80.1 years old. The average life expectancy, according to seniorliving.org is 79 and a half. We have 814 deaths since April 2020. Fifty-seven of them were in assisted living facilities. All I'm saying is, I wish you guys would have a backbone and let us parents make the decisions for our children and end the nonsense.

Mr. Fedorcha recognized Mr. Shaffer. Mr. Shaffer passed. Mr. Fedorcha recognized Ms. Bender.

Ms. Katja Bender, I want to start by saying I understand that all school boards in our state have been put in a really horrific situation and I don't envy you one bit having to deal with everything that's

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (cont.)

going on right now. My concern is that we as a state are opening a potential Pandora's Box and I want to speak to the board tonight to make sure that you're aware of this concern that I have when it comes to any future decisions you may be making. We consistently use the terminology keeping our children safe but if this becomes an excuse for creating blanket mandates across the state, how does this guarantee that we are not mandating things that are not actually keeping anyone safe in the future. COVID-19 is a real illness. It has taken the lives of many people. However, our children are the least likely to have severe illness or complications from this virus and they are even less likely to die. However, but it seems that our children are the ones that our state is placing the most restrictions upon while the majority of adults do not have to abide by similar mandates and rules throughout their day. So, I ask is this really about the safety of our children. For example, according to PennDOT, every 33 seconds, a child under the age of 13 is involved in an automobile accident. The number two is the number of children under 13 who are killed every single day in 2016 while riding in cars, SUV's, pickups and vans. At the same time, 82% of children under age 4 in Pennsylvania who did not sustain an injury in a car crash were restrained in a proper car seat. But, are our schools inspecting our parents' cars to ensure that children are properly restrained in order to keep the children safe. No, parents are given the choice to decide how they restrain their children in the car. In addition, Pennsylvania has laws and also recommendations, a word that we are all too familiar with these days, for keeping our children safe. I'm only going to use the examples for school-aged children because that's what's applicable here. The Pennsylvania state law states that four to eight year olds must be restrained in an appropriate booster seat and that children eight years and older must be in a seat belt. Again, are we inspecting these cars to ensure that parents are doing what they need to do to keep children safe? No, we're allowing parents to make the choice. My personal favorite is the state recommendation that all children through the age of 12 do not sit in the front seat of a car. Is anyone making sure that children under the age of 13 are not in the front seat of a car in order to ensure their safety even though this is a state recommendation? Are our schools concerned about this? No, parents are allowed to make the choice. In the same manner, parents should be allowed to make the choice for what is best for their children in all aspects of health and wellness. Does every parent always make the best decision? Maybe not. Do they think they are making the best decision? Most of the time, yes. In addition, in the 2009 flu season, 282 children died of the flu. In a regular year, about 150 children die from the flu. We've never required our children to wear masks to keep them safe from this very real illness that affects children and can be a threat. So, how much of this is really about keeping the children safe and how much of it is just about making people feel more comfortable because there's a visual sign that somebody is trying to do something. We can never eliminate all risks in life, it's impossible. For decades we have recognized there's no way to completely eliminate the risk of the flu which is why we don't all walk around in a mask every flu season. So, my question to you is this, are we really doing everything with all these mandates to keep the children safe or are we doing it because we are afraid of our state government? Because if it is the latter, that is not the America that I learned about in Pennsylvania public schools as a child and it is not the American I want my children to grow up in. So, as you make your decisions in the future as a board, I ask you to remember those who elected you and their wishes because you don't work for the government, you work for the people. Thank you.

Mr. Fedorcha recognized Ms. Graver. Ms. Graver passed. Mr. Fedrocha recognized Ms. Herzog.

Ms. Lauren Herzog, good evening everyone, my name is Lauren Herzog. My son goes to Peters. I would just like to address the masks mandates also. I think that it is important to respectfully note that every single person in this room believes in science. I believe that to be a fact. I do believe that using the phrases "anti-maskers", "anti-vaxxers", don't believe in science is ignorant, divisive, and quite honestly, helpful to nobody. Every parent in this room, who like myself, believes masking should be a choice has probably done a lot of research on their own on the matter. Our research doesn't end when (inaudible) stops speaking or a CNN anchor finishes a broadcast or when the CDC flips its data again. It simply means we have dug beyond what the mainstream media wants us to hear. I personally have found many different studies and articles which show masking to be more harmful than good and I'm more than happy to share them with anybody who would be interested. That being said, I'm wondering if we're all looking at the same data. Children zero to nineteen years of age have a 99.973 chance of surviving the virus. The fear-mongering surrounding this is

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (cont.)

astounding to me. If anyone's been paying attention the last year and a half, you'll recognize these organizations have been historically wrong in their reporting. I have found notorious flaws and holes in their research and have come to the realization that the people giving us the guidance are lining their pockets by these organizations, that is public knowledge. The science is bought and paid for. The fact that you can only research one side of things and the fact that you're not allowed to ask questions should be concerning to every American regardless of whatever your political affiliation is. You can wear one or twelve masks if you choose to and I will politely stay in my own lane and respect that. That is your right as an American. However, my choices and my freedoms do not end where your fear begins. What our Governor did repulses me. We voted to strip him of his powers back in May. He went above legislature. This mandate has no grounds to stand. He is playing political games with our children and I do not consent. I prefer dangerous freedom over peaceful slavery and I will not subject my children to this lunacy. As a school board, you are the last line of defense for our children. Children who wore masks for seven hours a day came home with higher levels of CO2 than safely allowed by any grown adult. It's also important to note that these masks have been tested and came back positive for staph infection, traces of fecal matter, parasites, mold and fungus. A year ago, this topic wouldn't have been up for debate. However, given the recent discoveries, I have to stand strong in my convictions. I believe forcefully masking our children is harmful in many ways. There has been zero studies of the long-term effects of what this will do to our children psychologically in the long run. Masking our children causes mental and emotional trauma well beyond what we know yet and I'm not comfortable using my child as a science experiment. I cannot imagine how mentally detrimental this is on our children. Making our children the burden that we as adults are responsible for is reckless and abusive. Since when do we start sacrificing our children to bear the burden of adults? What a backwards world it is. It is our job to protect our children and we need to do it how we see it best fit. Children are not cut from the same cloth. What about our children on the spectrum or children with Down Syndrome or children who just have sensory disorders? What about those that don't have an actual diagnosis but are quirky? My son fits that description. And, to just assume that this is fine for everyone's kid because it's what we're supposed to do is dangerous. Children that are five years old have spent a third of their lives being muzzled. That is a third of their life they haven't been able to see human emotion from their beloved peers and teachers. We have gone from two weeks to slow the spread to mask up or you can't work. Mask up or you can't attend school. Mask up or you can't travel. If you don't see a problem with this, respectfully, you're probably part of the problem. They are inhibiting our freedoms as American citizens. It's our responsibility as parents to secure the free will of our children. To allow them access to education and experiences. To allow them to think for themselves. To allow them to breathe freely. It is our responsibility to speak for our children when they can't be heard themselves. We are the role models and we need to start acting like it. Medical professionals are only supporting one side of the science as inaccurate. Countless doctors and nurses have voiced their experiences and knowledge. It is important to note that just because not all medical professionals support the same perspective does not make them any less valued, respectable individuals. This belief system shall carry through to our day-to-day interactions. Our country is built on the premise of freedom. We are designed to be free thinkers. We are designed to voice our feelings, beliefs, our knowledge, our experiences. Take what you will from the people in power, those from the medical profession, and your own neighbor and do not forget you are capable of thinking for yourself. Mr. Link asked which municipality Ms. Herzog lives in? Ms. Herzog replied Slatington.

Ms. Graver asked a question from the audience. Mr. Link responded that at this time there are no plans to do on-site testing.

Mr. Fedorcha announced that there were two statements to be read from guests who were unable to attend. Mrs. Husack read the statements in order as received.

Statement from Justin Jachowicz - Received today at 9:53 a.m. - Mr. Link and School Board, I wish I could deliver this message in person but our school board and Superintendent have implemented a discriminatory policy of mask wearing for every attendee at this board meeting. No surprise as the Northern Lehigh community's voices were censored and silenced during most of the Covid-19 pandemic by not allowing public speaking even when the meetings were streamed on YouTube.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (cont.)

The United States and local government exist on the premise of democracy and people having a voice in the decisions being made. Our school board during the August board meeting chose to eliminate our voices by allowing Mr. Link to become the sole decision maker in terms of Covid-19 and the health and safety plan. As other local school boards and communities have had public debates and influence on how the district approaches unjust state mandates, our Superintendent makes last minute, unilateral decisions the day before our children left before Labor Day break. As people of Pennsylvania, we voted to end the one sided control of Governor Wolf on May 18th and should do the same with Mr. Link. The main job of school board directors is to provide oversight over the Superintendent and the school district and right now, we have neither. Our school board needs to vote tonight to reassert their control and remove Mr. Link's ability to manipulate and change the health and safety plan. Countless school districts have listened to their constituents and went against the illegal mask mandate or provided their families an avenue for exemption and we need to do the same. As I stated during the August meeting, there is no state of emergency in Pennsylvania. In terms of decision making throughout the Covid-19 period, Mr. Link and the school board caved to hysteria and fear and have not made rational choices to best protect our children. I have asked Mr. Link and the school board on many occasions to show, #1 where is the data, studies and evidence that Covid-19 is spreading in schools, specifically our school district; #2 where is the data, studies and evidence to show masks work to prevent the spread of Covid-19? Without providing any of this proof, our school should have never closed its doors and never required students to wear masks. Mr. Link claimed that he has a direct line to the PA Department of Health in a Times News article so where is the evidence to back up this irrational decision making? When my Right-to-Know request is processed, we will see how much communication Mr. Link had with the PA Department of Health and Education and if he fought for our children or if it was all a big lie. As educators, we are supposed to be researchers, critical thinkers and pursuers of the truth and yet the decisions Mr. Link and the entire school board have made go against our society's belief of educational principles. I will ask the school board to actually do their job and provide oversight of Mr. Link and this school district or resign tonight and allow for other community members to step up when you chose to step out. I also ask Mr. Link to be a leader and not a follower of unjust state mandates, not laws, or he should also resign tonight and we will find someone who wants to actually make decisions based on what is really best for our children. I will end with this, all of our school administrators, teachers, staff and bus drivers who are forcing students to comply and wear masks are communists and are committing child abuse and have already been reported with the hundreds of others across the state. If you have proof that wear a face covering prevents Covid-19, please reach out to me directly and I would love to see the science, proof and data. You all are wearing masks right now but are you wearing masks at restaurants, malls, supermarkets and other indoor places? I talked with administrators last school year who said they stay in their office so they do not have to wear the mask but yet you force our children to, with limited breaks. We are a country founded on freedom, liberty and choice and parents have the right to determine whether or not their child wears a face covering, not government. Please confirm the receipt of this email.

The second one received was from Cory Huff today at 11:10 a.m. Statement from Cory Huff - First of all, we greatly appreciate that masks are now mandated given the increased volume of reported COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations due to the Delta variant. We are even more appreciative that NLSD has opted to put students' health and safety ahead of politics and dangerous rhetoric. If this decision were to be rescinded, we would be forced to reconsider our options for our children's educations, as we have an immune compromised child who will not be able to be vaccinated for the foreseeable future. However, we are concerned at the lack of communication from the school district regarding positive cases. Our oldest has seasonal allergies so we tested him at home with an over the counter test after he became symptomatic Friday morning. Because we had not received any communication of positive cases at Peters Elementary, we assumed that they would be sufficient. However the nurse confirmed this morning that there has been positive reported cases in the school since returning and our son is being sent home without a medical release because of his allergies. How are we supposed to be able to make these decisions without any communication from the school? If we had known there was the chance for exposure we would have gotten an official test performed right away and self isolated appropriately. How will his absences be reconciled now that he will have additional time away from school because of this lack of communication?

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Mr. Link commented that as he noted in his update and we have said several times at public meetings, the data is updated on the website at the end of each day on the COVID tracker per our Health & Safety Plan.

Mr. Fedorcha thanked the guests who sent in their statements and thanked everyone else who had spoken tonight, we hear you.

Mrs. Martineau asked a lot of people keep saying that mandates aren't laws, is that true? Attorney Roddick commented that the Department of Health order is legally obligated to be followed. PDE has sent letters to school boards. Mr. Fedorcha asked Atty. Roddick to repeat what she said because the audience did not hear her. Atty. Roddick repeated the Department of Health order, until it is overturned in a court, has to be followed. PDE has sent letters to school boards that are refusing to implement that order indicating a variety of sanctions that can be filed against school board members. The biggest, in short, is that you would lose qualified immunity meaning that if the district would be sued, you could be held personally liable, they go after your personal assets. So, it is current PDE's position that we have to follow it until it's overturned, yes you do.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Roll Call:

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha