

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
May 8, 2023

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 7:05 p.m. on May 8, 2023, in the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Room..

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr. Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

Members absent: Mr. Chad Christman, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz (2)

Non-members present: Dr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mr. Todd Breiner, Ms. Victoria Hanna, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Nichole Fink, Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. David Jones, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Atty. Jody Mooney, and Mr. Scott Pyne..

VISITORS Approximately seven (7) visitors attended the meeting and thirty-six (36) visitors viewed the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Link commented there were no sign-ups for public comment.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on April 11, 2023, be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr. Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS **Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit** - Mrs. Husack commented that we did have our meeting in April. It's always the third Monday of the month. A couple things that came up, again, we are hosting our golf tournament for the Special Needs Foundation, that's June 20th, out at Olde Homestead. So, if you're interested there's information on our website. It's a fantastic event. Always have a great time there. We are still in search for our executive director. We're getting closer, so hopefully by next meeting I'll be able to share with the board and the community who our next executive director is. There are some graduation updates on our website for both Northern Lehigh students as well as the rest of the 14 districts. So, those are all out posted on the CLIU website. Really great, great things to see our students graduating. It's fantastic to see them at our own district graduation but also if they're unable to attend those, the IU graduation ceremonies are fantastic to see. The transportation department did present a presentation and just some things to look at. One of the things that over the last about three to five years that they put in place was a third part PennDOT service center. So, what that means is if bus drivers are required to have CDL licenses and they would have to go to a PennDOT service center in order to schedule training and a class and a test. Sometimes those could take three, four, five weeks to get certified to drive CDL, large buses require your CDL license. The IU now can provide those

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commercial driver's licenses. They have the testing center. They do the road test and over the last few years, they did test and train 250 drivers for the districts. So, what that does is it kind of, they're turning around those drivers' licenses within 48 hours. So, to try to get bus drivers back out on the road for CDL, it's been a fantastic service that we're able to provide. One of the other things the transportation department said about the IU, like I said, we do service 14 districts here in Lehigh and Carbon Counties. They transported roughly a thousand students a year through 85 different programs and roughly have about 200 transportation employees and then in the summer they also transported about four to five hundred students through some of the service programs that they do. And, one of the things I took back was just how many miles those buses travel for the year. They did 735 square miles, that's our service area for the IU. They did 2.5 million miles in a 170 vehicles. So, when you break that all down, that's going to the moon and back five times. So, that's how many times our buses are out on the roads. If you see them and see them out there, they do have all of our students on it, so you see them out there, say hello to them. They are doing a fantastic job transporting, getting our students to our buildings.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha commented you have the minutes of our last meeting to peruse. Also, we have our Senior Awards May 25th at the PPL Center. Also, we hired a new solicitor. I do have a special little comment to make because I think it's very important for Northern Lehigh, one of our graduates, who is the assistant director at LCTI, just received his doctorate degree and that is Darren VanNorman. So, we're very proud of him to be our executive director and most of all coming from Northern Lehigh.

Legislative Report - Mrs. Snyder commented that PSBA testifies on solar projects for schools. This week, PSBA presented testimony to the House Consumer Protection Technology and Utilities committee regarding House Bill 1032 which creates the Solar First Schools Grant program. Representing PSBA at the hearing was Kevin Bushner who is the managing director of government affairs and he spoke of the legislation. Bushner said PSBA's 2023 state of education report showed that more than 70% of responding school districts reported at least one of their district's buildings were in need of major repair or replacement with energy efficiency upgrades cited by many as an area of needed involvement. The minimal number of districts who have currently invested in solar panels is low due to the cost of the panels. House Bill 1032 would provide for the study and installation of solar power in schools allowing districts across the state to access this affordable source of clean energy. So, if all this goes through, there might be grants available for the solar projects that we are considering possibly in the future. The Senate passed Bill 232 which creates a standard protocol in response to a tick being removed from a student during the school day. School officials must notify parents in writing about the tick removal and provide information on the symptoms of Lyme disease. The notification will include the date of the tick removal and the recommendation that the child's parent or guardian promptly seek medical treatment. The tick must be preserved for the student's parents to send to the tick research lab at East Stroudsburg University for free testing for tick-related diseases. I know ticks are pretty high in this area so this is probably an important thing for schools and parents to be aware of. There were some things that were passed by the House of Representatives. One was an eating disorder awareness which requires schools to annually provide information to parents in grades 6 through 12 and key school personnel, principals, counselors and psychologists regarding eating disorders awareness and education. The information would be developed by the PA Department of Education in conjunction with the PA Department of Health and would include input from a newly created eating disorder advisory committee. The committee would include stakeholders from various education and eating disorder organizations. The House of Representatives passed updating terminology in school code. House Bill 301 amends the public school code making editorial changes to replace outdated and derogatory language related to students with mental health issues and disabilities. This one might be, you know, something to consider. Electronic filing of campaign finance reports, the House state government committee approved House Bill 815 which amends the election code to require all candidates for office and political action committees in Pennsylvania utilize the Department of State's online filing system to electronically file campaign finance reports. There's also the school district tax notices. The

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House Finance committee approved House Bill 178 which amends the Taxpayer Relief Act to clarify that the amount and source of school property tax relief on school district tax notices received by taxpayers if funded by state gaming revenue. The provision would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31st. So, it must show it on your tax document what discounts you're actually receiving like the homestead or whatever. One more, mental health care services clearinghouse, the House Human Services committee approved House Bill 409 which establishes a central online clearinghouse that will list mental health care providers organized by county resources including organizations, support groups and local hotlines and other relevant information. The PA Department of Education must notify school entities and relevant school personnel when the clearinghouse is available. There's a bunch more. If anyone's interested in learning more about what bills are out there, you can go to www.legisstate.pa.us for any of the bills to learn more. Also, don't forget that next Tuesday is the primary election, May 16th, so go out and vote.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green commented that we are edging back toward our pre-pandemic numbers. We're not there yet, but in some categories we're having the same number of students. Perhaps not taking as many credits or as many credits but not as many full-time students or part-time students, but we're getting closer. Also, one other thing quickly, I learned something in the last week and I've had a parent ask me about their child going to Lehigh Carbon Community College and they said, how old do you have to be and I don't know. Most of the people who go are like juniors or seniors, but I don't know. Well, there is no age requirement and not only have sophomores and freshmen gone, in some cases 8th graders have actually taken classes down at LCCC. So, I learned something there, I just wanted to put that on the table if anyone is interested. There are possibilities for taking some advanced classes. There's a little bit more of an interview process because of the age difference, but you can do it. So, if anyone's interested in that, it might be something they might want to look into.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

- Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2023.
- Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2023.
- Minutes of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2023.
- Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on May 1, 2023.
- Minutes of the Extra and Co-Curricular Meeting held on May 1, 2023.

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Ms. Victoria Hanna reported that today I will be talking about a lot of the things that we have done since the last time I've seen you guys, upcoming events and it's a lot of stuff. Before I say anything, I know it's stated later on that we're going to welcome Jalah, but this is our new Junior Student Representative, Jalah Cook. So, I wanted to congratulate and welcome her here. So, to start off, on Thursday, April 13th, we had Miller Keystone come for a blood drive at our gymnasium and it was a really nice time. Lots of people came and donated, including myself for the first time and, boy, was I trying not to pass out there. So, Friday, April 21st, we had a career fair that was a hit. We had a helicopter land. There were fire trucks, lots of colleges and job opportunities for lots of students to come and see. We have a lot of students come this year than we had last year which is good to see more improvement and more involvement. Also, on Saturday, April 22nd, Running of the Dawgs which was held around the school and lots of students from National Honor Society came and helped out and with all the people who considered to come and join. For the last time this year, we had Valentino, our therapy dog, come and visit our school on Friday, April 28th and it was a good time for all the students who wanted to take the opportunity to come to visit him for the last time this year. Two weeks ago, the seniors had their Senior/Junior Prom at Penn's Peak on April 29th. It was a very fun time. Lots of dancing and people taking pictures everywhere, lots of kids social interacting and everywhere. Even though it was raining outside, we still partied inside. So, that's everything we had done since I've seen you. And, now these upcoming events that we have starting off with currently we have AP exams and they started May 3rd and they end May 9th. I took my AP exam on Friday for U.S. History and that was hectic but a relief to be done with that

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and I still have one tomorrow actually and good luck for me and all the other kids who take them. Because, boy, it's a lot of stuff for that. Also, we have Keystone exams on May 15th to the 22nd, so good luck to all the students who will be taking those exams. On May 24th, we will have Bulldog Games that will be hosted at the stadium from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and lots of students from our school will be helping out with all the children that will be attending. Also today, student council had Elementary Day at Peters and we basically helped out all the teachers and, you know, put a smile on all the little kids' faces and them looking at the role models, the "big dawgs". This Friday we, and National Honor Society, will be going to New York City as a field trip and that's just like a fun time to like relax and enjoy all the hard work that we've been putting into this year. This Saturday night we will be having Mr. Northern Lehigh. Doors open at 6:30 and the show will start at 7:00 p.m. Admission is free, but you can bring donations of canned goods and stuff if you want to. Hope to see you guys there, support the senior boys that are participating in the show. On May 19th, the high school will be holding their quarterly reward day. It is just like we have various activities to acknowledge all the students who put in hard work each marking period. We have two new locations on for Pennsylvania CareerLink. We have Mr. Lawrence and Mr. James so we welcome them on. We have Ty Grozier and a bunch of other students from the school district who are doing a cheer competition in Florida, so that's really cool that they're doing that and we wish them good luck. At LCTI, we have Holly DeFiore, Gloria Barket, Jackie Richards and David Neff who received Student of the Month in February and so we want to congratulate them. LCTI will also be having their graduation on May 31st at 5:00 p.m. And, as we all know, the school year is coming to an end which means it's a bittersweet moment for the seniors but they also have a lot of events going on. To start off, they'll be having their senior class trip to Kalahari on May 19th and on May 23rd, they'll be having their senior decision day at 1:00 p.m. and it's an optional event where students who want to come that are seniors, they just talk to other fellow seniors and just discuss what their plans are for after high school. On May 24th, there will be Senior Awards Night where certain seniors get scholarships. Also on May 24, 25 and 26, will be their finals and depending on whichever days their last day to take the finals is their last day of the senior year. Then, we also have on May 31st, a senior parade of graduates where seniors will be receiving their caps and gowns, the band will be playing and they'll be parading through the hallways in each district in the school. On June 1st, seniors will be having their senior picnic and after they have one of their multiple days of graduation rehearsals. Then that night, they will also be having a Baccalaureate night at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium which is an optional event. And, that's all I have with clubs and extra activities and now I have sports. Baseball, their record is 3 and 14 overall and 3 and 11 in leagues. We have softball and their record is 11 and 6 overall and 7 and 6 in the league which they are actually qualified for districts, so that's good news and they are possibly qualified for leagues. Track and field has many competitors that are qualified for the league championships which are tomorrow and Wednesday and next week for districts which is next Tuesday and Wednesday. There was also many athletes who received medals in lots of invitationals that they attended, so that was great. Currently, softball and baseball are having their senior nights. So, if this meeting wraps up quickly and you guys want to go watch and support them, softball is at Walnutport playing their game and baseball is at Brownsville. On May 22nd, there's a spring athletic awards night in the high school auditorium from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. So, we just wanted to say good luck to all the teams and hope their season ends well and that's all I have today, thank you.

Dr. Link commented that it will be your last update (Ms. Hanna) as a junior representative. So, great job. That was a great segue taking on both kinds of roles this evening as you transition into the senior representative and, Jalah sit tight, we'll be with you in a second. Mr. Green commented (to Jalah), you've got some big shoes to fill in.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Mooney reported on a very brief update on a case that just came out last week. This case has gotten a lot of press in not only Lehigh County, but I think all over the country. This is the case of the Satanic Club in Saucon Valley School District. So, on May 1, 2023, the United States District Court Judge John Gallagher ordered Saucon Valley School District to permit the after-school use of district facilities to the "Satanic Temple", also known as

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the Satan Club. That club had once been approved for after-school services or after-school groups and then it was later denied by the District. In a very lengthy opinion issued by Judge Gallagher and that is the Eastern District of Pennsylvania which is the federal court that governs our area. Judge Gallagher dismissed the District's claims that there was a disruption and basically the Court ruled that the decision to rescind approval of a club like this was based on the content of what the District believed the club was and the District's reaction and viewpoint to that club. The Court noted that it is a well-established principle that school districts, while not required to, open up their facilities to outside groups, once they affirmatively do that, they engage in what is known as under constitutional law as a designated or limited forum. Once outside groups are permitted to use district facilities, districts cannot deny the use of the same facilities based on their viewpoint. Bottom line, when confronted with an issue of what is determined to be free speech, the government's first reaction or instinct should be to have forward expression of that speech rather than quash it. So, as I said, this decision just came out from the federal court last week. This was a pretty hot button subject between mid-February of 2023 and last Monday. As I said, it received a lot of press coverage and if you have any questions, please let me know. That's all I have.

Mr. Green asked if you are expecting an appeal on that? Attorney Mooney stated that I do not believe so. I mean I can't say that for sure, but given the Court's ruling which is pretty solid in sound, I would be surprised.

Business Managers' Report - Mrs. Molitoris commented no report until further on the agenda at the budget item.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Stoker commented we have the ESSER spending update on the table for the public. This takes us back through April of 2023. After one, that grant has been expended since the end of September 2022. Esser II this month has been spent on salary and benefits of our ESSER paras, our technology integration specialist, the extra Kindergarten teacher we had due to the large class size and our administrative position that was added in. Also, we use that money to purchase our online registration platform we're looking for moving into next school year. We're currently piloting it to have an online registration rather than having everything done with paper. With regard to ESSER III, we did not spend any money this past month. With regard to ESSER III with learning loss, we used that money for Middle School library books. For the after-school part of that grant, it was for tutoring at the high school. And then the summer enrichment we haven't used any money this past month. Additionally, we participated in ESSER II monitoring through the Pennsylvania Department of Education of Federal Programs and Deloitte, who is a private company that they hired on to do their monitoring. We did that during the week of April 17th. So, we had an initial conversation with them on Monday and then they checked in every day that week and we had an exit call on Friday. They reviewed our policies, expenditures, procedures, books and compliance with the law. Overall, we had a very clean audit as described in their exit meeting with them. We were told to expect the formal letter which will detail the audit in about eight weeks from the conclusion of the monitoring week. So, we should expect that relatively soon but we're expecting that to come back as a clean audit.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Link commented that this evening we actually have four retirees that we would like to recognize and thank for their service here in Northern Lehigh School District. Because we have four of them tonight, we're gonna mix it up a little bit and we're gonna share recognizing them. The first one that we'll recognize this afternoon is Mr. Todd Herzog and Northern Lehigh Middle School principal, David Hauser, is going to share some words about Todd.

Mr. Hauser commented it's my pleasure to recognize Mr. Herzog's long career for Northern Lehigh. Todd Herzog was hired full-time in June of 1991 as an elementary teacher serving in Slatington Elementary. He served the district in 1990-91 as a temporary vacancy replacement teacher. Mr. Herzog transferred to the Middle School Mr. Herzog transferred to the Middle School

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in 2009 as a Social Studies Teacher. In 2012, he transferred to the Slatington Elementary as a 6th grade teacher, and in 2014, he transferred to the Middle School as a Social Studies Teacher. Mr. Herzog obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from East Stroudsburg University, Go Warriors. Additionally, Mr. Herzog has served as the advisor for the Sons of Liberty Club, spring and fall intramurals, and as a game worker for the district. He was the Head Wrestling Coach from 1998-2013. He received the Colonial League Coach of the Year 4 times and the District 11's Coach of the Year award 5 times. Mr. Herzog was recently inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame Pennsylvania Class of 2023. While the head coach, he took the team to the Reno Tournament in Reno, Nevada in 1999. Mr. Herzog is an excellent teacher who met the individual needs of each child as he developed their unique talents and interests. Mr. Herzog touched the lives of thousands of Northern Lehigh students over the past 32 years. He truly is a gift to our students and staff and will be missed in our building. Mr. Herzog is retiring from the district at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, after 32 years of service. It is my sincere hope, Mr. Herzog, that your retirement years will bring you much happiness and fulfillment. On behalf of the Board of Education and the School District, we will be honoring your request to have your donation given to the Slatington Public Library as a token of our appreciation for all you have done for the staff and students in this community. Best wishes to Mr. Herzog.

Dr. Link commented next we would like to recognize another one of our Middle School teachers, Mr. Larry Meixsell, and Mr. Meixsell is actually here this evening with his wife Amy and welcome. To lose two such, not to lose, but to see two such experienced teachers at Northern Lehigh Middle School retire within the same year, we're losing a lot of institutional knowledge there, a lot of experience and a lot of time and effort dedicated to just decades worth of children. Larry Meixsell was hired full time in July 1991, as a Junior High School Science Teacher. He served as a Temporary Vacancy Teacher for the 1990-1991 school year. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree from Penn State University in Biology/General Science. He received his Master's Degree from Wilkes University in Science. Additionally, Mr. Meixsell has served as an assistant baseball coach, assistant track coach, game worker and a department chairperson. Mr. Meixsell is an outstanding teacher who met the individual needs of each child as he developed their unique talents and interests over 33 years of experience. Mr. Meixsell is an outstanding teacher. Mr. Meixsell touched the lives of thousands of Northern Lehigh students over the past 33 years. He truly was a gift to our students and staff, our students' families and the community at the Northern Lehigh School District. Mr. Meixsell will be retiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, after 33 years of service. All that at the Junior High/Middle School level. It is my sincere hope, Larry, that your retirement years will bring you much happiness and fulfillment and many adventures. You and I had a conversation recently about some of the ways you are going to fill that time. I want pictures from all those baseball stadiums that you're going to. On behalf of the Board of Education and the School District, we will be honoring your request to have your donation given to the Slatington Public Library as a token of our appreciation for all you have done for the staff and students in this community. Best wishes to you, Larry.

Mr. Meixsell commented I am a "bulldog", you know, I went to Northern Lehigh and then I worked summer jobs before I was a teacher. So, I, you know, put my whole life in Northern Lehigh and I've been proud to be a "bulldog" the whole time and I think I've done a pretty good job spreading the love of Northern Lehigh to my students. I'm proud of what I've done, so thank you.

Dr. Link commented that Dr. Stoker is going to recognize Sheryl Hegedus from Peters Elementary. Sheryl Hegedus was hired full time in August 2006, as a Title I Reading Teacher, serving at Peters Elementary. She served the district in the 2005-2006 school year as a Temporary Vacancy Replacement Teacher. She obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Religion from Gettysburg College, a Master's Degree in Reading Specialist from East Stroudsburg University and an ESL Program Specialist Degree from Lehigh Carbon Community College. Ms. Hegedus is an outstanding teacher who met the individual needs of each child as she developed their unique talents and interests. Ms. Hegedus touched the lives of thousands of Northern Lehigh students over the past 18 years. She truly was a gift to our students and staff and will be dearly

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missed. Ms. Hegedus is retiring from the district at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, after 18 years of service. It is my sincere hope that Sheryl's retirement years will bring her much happiness and fulfillment. On behalf of the Board of Education and the School District, we will be honoring your request to have your donation given to the Slatington Public Library as a token of our appreciation for all she has done for the staff and students in this community. Best wishes to Sheryl Hegedus.

Dr. Link commented that the last retiree that we would like to honor this evening is also with us, Mr. James Yadush. James was also hired full time in July 1991, as a Junior High School Social Studies Teacher. He obtained his Bachelor's Degree from Kutztown University in Secondary Education/Social Studies and his Master's Degree from Kutztown University in Education. Additionally, Mr. Yadush has served as a head softball coach, assistant softball coach, game worker and as a content area coordinator/department leader for the district. Mr. Yadush is an exceptional teacher who met the individual needs of each child as he developed their unique talents and interests. Mr. Yadush touched the lives of thousands of Northern Lehigh students over the past 32 years. He truly was a gift to our students and staff and will be dearly missed. Mr. Yadush will be retiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year, after 32 years of service. He comes from a long line of Yadushs' that have worked here in the school district. And, we're happy to see that tradition continue in the fall with one of your sons. I'm sure that you have trained him very well as well. It is my sincere hope that your retirement years will bring you much enjoyment and contentment and many fun adventures as well. On behalf of the Board of Education and the School District, we will be honoring your request to receive the apple paperweight as a token of our appreciation for all you have done for the staff, students, their families and the entire community. Best wishes to you, James. And, if you would like to come up, I can present you with your apple. Mr. Yadush commented that his son actually started today. It's strange because Larry, Todd and I all started the same day and I knew Larry and Todd before I started here and I didn't go to Northern Lehigh but I quickly became a "bulldog" with great kids sitting in front of me. I did this for 32 years, thank you.

Dr. Link commented congratulations to all of our retirees this evening. Next on the agenda, I would like to recognize another one of our long time Northern Lehigh High District, not yet retiring, but still doing great things, and that is Mr. Shawn Green. Recently, Mr. Shawn Green, our elementary librarian, was recognized by the Pennsylvania School Library Association. He was selected by his peers for his extraordinary library program here at Peters Elementary School and in Slatington Elementary School. Mr. Green was able to take over the PSLA's social media account for a week where he was able to highlight some of the fun things and learning activities that he's been doing here at our elementary schools. So, if you do see Mr. Green, please congratulate him on being nominated by his peers and selected by the Pennsylvania School Library Association as their spotlight teacher

This week, a little bit of last week, and next week, we are kind of recognizing a lot of Educators throughout the district and we know that our Educators aren't always necessarily teachers if they take on many different roles here to support our students and actually each other. So, this week, May 8-12 is National Teacher Appreciation Week, so be sure to thank your teachers if you know teachers in Northern Lehigh School District or outside of Northern Lehigh School District, please let them know you appreciate the great work that they do. It is also National School Nurses' Appreciation week and we have five school nurses here that take extraordinary care of our students. Everything from the bumps and scrapes on the playgrounds to more severe medical needs on an ongoing basis and do a tremendous job making sure that all of our students are healthy and able to engage in the learning process. This past May 5th was Cafeteria Worker Appreciation Day. So, under the leadership of Mrs. Fink here, they are always making sure that our students have nutritious breakfast and lunches five days a week and in some cases, seven days a week. They always go above and beyond to support our students and their nutritional needs. Next week, May 14-20, is National Police Week and we would like to take an opportunity to recognize and share our appreciation for our three school police officers. Chief Jones is

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actually out in the lobby right now and they do a lot more in our district than just kind of security. They are very engaged with our students. They engage in the learning process and they're doing a really great job with building relationships with our students while keeping us all safe during the school day. So, we're appreciative of the work that they do here in our schools.

I'd like to share one more thing that wasn't on my list this evening. I would like to just share with the audience this evening that last week we learned that Northern Lehigh was one of, I believe, only two schools in Lehigh County to receive the full amount of the Pennsylvania Department of Education Dual Enrollment Grant. So, that's under the leadership and grant writing of Dr. Stoker. We received \$75,000 to help our students engage in dual enrollment coursework. For example, at LCCC like Mr. Green was mentioning earlier and that will go towards everything for our tuition and materials to help those students participate in dual enrollment courses that they may not be able to otherwise. So, congratulations to you (Dr. Stoker) on successfully achieving another full grant amount. There was only 100 education entities in the entire state that received that grant. So, again, it'll go a long way to help our students engaging in higher education coursework.

Executive Session An executive session was held at 6:00 p.m. at the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Conference Room this evening for personnel items.

PERSONNEL Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves a motion to approve personnel items A. through I.:

Mr. Green announced that Mr. Fedorcha will be abstaining on Item G. because of his relationship.

Resignation /Retirement

R. Bechtel With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Robert Bechtel from his position as custodian at High School, effective June 30, 2023. Mr. Bechtel will be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after 5 years of service.

T. Trainer Accept the resignation of Tara Trainer from her position as Bookkeeper II, effective May 9, 2023.

P. Wanamaker Accept the resignation of Patrick Wanamaker from his co-curricular position of High School Spring Intramurals, effective immediately.

Appointment - Non-Instructional

Kayleigh Snyder* **
Assignment: Technology Support Technician - Level I
Salary: \$41,000
Effective: May 24, 2023
*Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items
** 60-Day Probationary Period

Co-Curricular Appointments 2023-2024

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Robert Fahler, Jr.*	Head Boys' Basketball Coach	TBD Based on Final CBA
*Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items		Negotiated Agreement

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**Family
Medical
Leave

Approve the request of employee #1650 to take a family medical leave of absence for their own medical reasons beginning May 17, 2023. Employee requests to use sick days during their leave of absence and plans to return to their current position effective at the start of 2023-2024 school year.

Approve the request of employee #7181 to take a family medical leave of absence for their own medical reasons beginning April 28, 2023. Employee is requesting to use available vacation, personal, and sick days during their leave of absence and plans to return to their current position upon release from their attending physician.

Approve the request of employee #3490 to take a family medical leave of absence for their own medical reasons beginning March 16, 2023. Employee plans to return to their current position upon release from their attending physician.

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Instruc-
tional

Motion to appoint the following paraprofessional substitute for the 2022-2023 school year at the 2022-2023 substitute non-instructional rates as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Ingrid Duran

Summer
Program
Positions -
Funding
through
ESSER III

Motion to approve the following individuals to the Open Horizons/I.N.S.P.I.R.E. Summer Program Positions, for the summer of 2023:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Completion Prog.</u> <u>Prem. Pay</u>
Manuel Gonzalez	Secondary Coord.	\$6,290	up to \$1,000
Susan Beil	Elementary Coord.	\$6,290	up to \$1,000
Kimberly Filipovitz	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Amy Shonk	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Blasia Dunham	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Tamara Stubits	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Angela Everitt	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Katlyn Fake	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Kaitline Kocis	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Susan Heil	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	up to \$1,000
Andrea Rosario	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750
Angie Thomas	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750
Kassandra Beller	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750
Denise Minnich	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750
Jessica Walters	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750
Jessica Jones	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750
Megan Farkas	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	up to \$750

STEAM
Camp

Motion to approve the following individuals to STEAM Camp positions for the summer of 2023, funding through the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation:

Timothy Weaber	Director	\$2580
Jennifer Butz	Coordinator	\$2220
Tamara Stubits	Instructor	\$1500
Kori Dibilio	Instructor	\$1500
Nicole Nightlinger	Instructor	\$1500
Christine Leslie	Instructor	\$1500

PERSONNEL

(cont.)

MS STEAM Camp Motion to approve the following individuals to Middle School STEAM Camp positions for the summer of 2023, funding through ESSER III B (Summer Enrichment):

Mary Frank	Instructor	\$1500
Rajeev Gupta	Instructor	\$1500
Jessica Jones	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate

HS STEAM Camp Motion to approve the following individuals to High School STEAM Camp positions for the summer of 2023, funding through ESSER III B (Summer Enrichment):

Christopher Bennett	Instructor	\$1500
Stephen Shuey	Instructor	\$1500

Summer Programs Nurse Approve to employ Tracy Hoffman, as the school nurse for Summer STEAM Camp, Open Horizons/I.N.S.P.I.R.E. and ESY Summer Programs for up to 5 hours a day at the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement amount of \$30 per hour plus the one-time completion program premium pay of up to \$1000. This will be fully funded through the ESSER III (Learning Loss) grant.

Elementary Summer Band Camp Approve a tuition free one-week elementary summer band program and also approve a stipend for summer band program director, Steven Jonkman. Mr. Jonkman's stipend will be \$1,000.00 to be paid out of ESSER funds for learning loss. The summer band program will run Monday, August 14, 2023, until Friday, August 18, 2023.

Secondary Summer Band Camp Approve a tuition free secondary summer band program and also approve a stipend for summer band program director, Mr. David Carroll. Mr. Carroll's stipend will be \$1,000.00 to be paid out of ESSER funds for learning loss. The summer band program will run Monday, August 14, 2023, until Friday, August 18, 2023.

ESY Program Approve to conduct an Extended School Year (ESY) Program for students with special needs from July 10-27, 2023. The program will run weekly, Monday through Thursday, from 9:00AM-12:00PM. Further approve to employ the following individuals to the listed positions for the ESY program:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rate</u>	<u>Completion Prog. Prem. Pay</u>
Kayla Perkowski	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	Up to \$1,000
Ryan Stilwell	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	Up to \$1,000
Lynn Werley-Olesak	Instructor	CBA Curr. Rate/Hr.	Up to \$1,000
Stephanie Stilwell	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	Up to \$750
Sheila White	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	Up to \$750
Tara Hengst	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	Up to \$750
Heather Kuntz	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	Up to \$750
Jennifer Kuhns	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	Up to \$750
Robin Blocker	Paraprofessional	Hourly Rate	Up to \$750

Trans- portation Para- professional Approve to continue to employ Jennifer Haas as transportation paraprofessional for student #2390125. The extended school year program runs June 26-August 4. Approve compensation for three hours per day at her agreed upon 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 hourly rate plus the completion program premium pay of \$750.

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Summer Workers As per the recommendation from the administration and the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve to allow administration to advertise and hire four (4) summer workers. The rate for summer workers will not exceed \$12.50 per hour.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

Dr. Link commented that we have one of our new employees with us in the audience this evening and that is Kayleigh Snyder. Welcome to Northern Lehigh School District and you'll be joining our technology team under the leadership of Mr. Hill. You are now officially a "bulldog".

POLICY

Mrs. Husak made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves a motion to approve personnel items A. through D.:

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #204 - Attendance - Pupils, as presented after the second reading.
Approve school board policy #217 - Graduation Requirements - Pupils, as presented after the second reading.

Approve school board policy #221 - Dress and Grooming - Pupils, as presented after the second reading.)

Approve school board policy #233 - Suspension and Expulsion - Pupils, as presented after the second reading.

Approve school board policy #339 - Uncompensated Leave - Employees, as presented after the second reading.

Approve school board policy #810 - Transportation - Operations, as presented after the second reading.

Approve school board policy #830.1 - Electronic Data Storage - Operations, as presented after the second reading.

6th Grade Student Council Initial Club App. Approve the initial club/activity application for the Slatington Elementary Sixth Grade Student Council Club. This club will adhere to the guidelines within Policy #122. The shared stipend for Amber Wanamaker and Melissa Coppolecchia for the 2023-2024 school year will be \$200.00 (\$100.00/per advisor).

Student Representative to the Board Approve Jalah Cook as Student Representative to the Board for the 2023-2024 school year. Jalah Cook has been appointed as the junior representative to the board and will serve from September 2023 through June 2025. Victoria Hanna will serve as the senior student representative to the board until June 2024.

POLICY
(cont.)

Homebound Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for an 11th grade student, Student #2490234, for 5 hours per week, effective May 5, 2023 and continuing until approximately the last student day of the 2023-2024 school year..

Dr. Link commented Jalah, our school board attorney, Attorney Mooney, is going to administer the ceremonial oath of office. Attorney Mooney asked Jalah to raise her right hand and that the oath is being given to you pursuant of Section 321 of the Pennsylvania School Code. I, Jalah Cook, do solemnly swear and affirm that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and that I will discharge the ceremonial duties of my honorary office with fidelity. Congratulations.

Dr. Link commented congratulations. You have a terrific mentor, please reach out to her.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following conferences:

N. Fink

Nichole Fink - Orientation to School Food Operations - May 3 & 4, 2023 - PATTAN - Harrisburg, PA - Travel: \$204.36; - Total Approximate Cost: \$ 204.36 Funding: Cafeteria Budget

T. Stoker

Tania Stoker - October 17-20, 2023 - 2023 WIDA Annual Conference - Milwaukee, WI - Registration: \$615.00; Lodging: \$537.00; Travel: \$500.00; Meals:\$90.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$1,742.00 Funding: Assistant Superintendent Budget 2022/2023 & 2023/2024

A. DeHart

Allyson DeHart - July 17-19, 2023 - Nonviolent Crisis Intervention - Initial Instructor Training - Allentown, PA - Registration \$4,249.00 - Travel: \$67.47 - Meals - \$45.00 Total \$4,361.47 - Funding: PCCD Mental Health Grant.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction items A. through E.:

Induction and/or New Teacher Program

Approve the following teachers as helping teachers in the Northern Lehigh School District Induction Program for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school year:

Helping Teacher
Tammy Frstick

Inductee or New Teacher
Samuel Yadush

Stipend
\$800

**CURRICULUM
AND
INSTRUCTION**
(cont.)

Dual Credit Agreement PSU Approve administration to enter into a partnership agreement with The Pennsylvania State University in order to provide our students with greater options to earn concurrent high school/college credit. The term of the Dual Credit Affiliation Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and The Pennsylvania State University will be from May 8, 2023, through May 8, 2028.

Head Start Agreement As per the recommendation of the administration, authorize Community Services for Children to operate the Head Start Pre-K program at Peters Elementary School from August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2024. The only obligation to the district is to provide one classroom.

Affiliation Agreement Mercyhurst Approve to authorize administration to execute an Affiliation Agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and Mercyhurst University for a teacher preparation program. This program allows pre-service teachers at Mercyhurst University to complete their clinical education experiences in our district. The period for this partnership agreement is September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2028.

Renaissance Renewal As per the recommendation of the administration, approve to renew the Renaissance Accelerated Reader, Star Math and Star Reading contract for the 2023-2024 school year at a cost of \$9,800.00 for Slatington Elementary School. Funding through the Slatington Elementary School Budget.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item A.:

Boston Area Crusaders As per the recommendation of the administration and Technology, Buildings & Grounds Committee, approve to allow Drum Corps International to utilize the High School, Fields, Field House, and Stadium Complex, on August 4-5, 2023 for Boston Area Crusaders to practice and prepare for their competition in Allentown the evening of August 5, 2023. Their rehearsal in Bulldog Stadium is open to the local community at no cost to spectators.

Mrs. Kulp commented that she'd like to encourage the public to attend, if they would like to, the Drum Corps. It's a really awesome program to watch. So if you're available, feel free to stop by.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

Mr. Green commented that I would just like to call one item of new business and it's not 100% certain yet. We will talk about it in June. I'm going to ask the board to pencil in July 10th, the second meeting in July, for a potential meeting to do Mr. Link's administrative evaluation and we also agreed that we were going to do a board self-evaluation. We will do those three things that night. If that's what we do that will be considered, I think, executive session, there won't be public

NEW BUSINESS
(cont.)

meeting. But, if other other things pop up, we may in fact go public that night. So, I'm just saying there will probably, 95% certain, be a meeting, so you can put it in your calendar so it doesn't come as a surprise the week before.

(a) FINANCIAL

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Snyder, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items A. through K.:

Financial Reports

- Approve the Following Financial Reports:
1. NLSD Investments for the month of April 2023
 2. General Fund Account month of April 2023
 3. Cafeteria Fund Account month of April 2023
 4. NLMS Student Activities/Clubs Accounts month of March & April 2023
 5. NLHS Scholarship Account month of April 2023
 6. NLHS Student Activities/Clubs Account month of April 2023

List of Bills

- Approve the Following List of Bills:
1. General Fund months of April and May, 2023
 2. Cafeteria Fund months of April and May, 2023

Fuel Bids

As per the recommendation of the administration and Technology, Buildings & Grounds Committee, approve the awarding of fuel bid to Diesel Direct Mid-Atlantic LCC with a contract period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024:

#2 GRADE FUEL OIL TANK TRANSPORT DELIVERY -- Awarded to Diesel Direct Mid-Atlantic LLC at a firm price of \$2.5933 per gallon (item #3 on bid summary)

#2 GRADE FUEL OIL TANK WAGON DELIVERY -- Awarded to Diesel Direct Mid-Atlantic LLC at a firm price of \$2.9908 per gallon (item #4 on bid summary)

ULTRA LOW SULFUR DIESEL TANK WAGON DELIVERY - Awarded to Diesel Direct Mid-Atlantic LLC at a firm price of \$2.9948 per gallon (item #8 on bid summary)

UNLEADED GASOLINE TANK WAGON DELIVERY -- Awarded to Diesel Direct Mid-Atlantic LLC at a firm price of \$2.5340 per gallon (item #16 on bid summary)

ANTI-GEL WINTERIZATION ADDITIVE - Awarded to Diesel Direct Mid-Atlantic LLC at a firm price of \$0.02 per gallon (item #22 on bid summary)

Batting Cage to Emerald and Friedens

Per the recommendation of administration, donate one (1) used batting cage each to Emerald Playground Association and Friedens Athletic Association at the conclusion of the spring sports season. Each batting cage has a value of less than \$100.00.

Boundary Fencing

Per the recommendation of administration, approve the sale of boundary fencing at a cost of \$800.00 to Catasauqua Area School District.

Technology Pool

Allow administration to sign the CLIU Technology Pool Consortium Agreement for the 2023-2024 school year, cost not to exceed \$792.00.

Student Transport

As per the recommendation of the administration and the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve the transportation contract at the IRS reimbursement rate with the parent of Student #3190232.

(a) FINANCIAL
(cont.)

School Physicians	Approve to appoint Dr. Nicole Sully and Dr. Amy Gourniak of Parkland Family Health Center as school physicians for the 2023-2024 school year. The fee for grade level physicals will be \$20.00 per physical needed. Consultant services will be provided at no charge.
School Dentist	Approve to appoint Dr. Karen Lehman, DDS of Walnutport Dental Center as the school dentist for the 2023-2024 school year at the quoted fee of \$2.00 per dental exam needed.
Multi-County Resolution	Per the recommendation of administration, approve the Multi-County School Board resolution urging amendment to mandatory millage rebalancing requirements as interpreted under School Code Section 672.1 as presented
Cyber-Security Training	As per the recommendation from the administration and Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve the subscription for Fortinet Cybersecurity Training & Awareness Service at no cost to the district.
	YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)
	NAY: None (0) Motion carried.

(b) FINANCIAL

Treasurer Nominations	Mr. Green asked for a nomination for Treasurer. Mr. Fedorcha nominated Donna Kulp, our current treasurer. Mr. Fedorcha made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Mr. Distler.
	YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)
	NAY: None (0) Motion carried.
Election of Board Treasurer	Election of a Treasurer for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, as required by Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, as amended. RECOMMEND That the Board of Education elects Donna Kulp as Treasurer for the 2023-2024 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

Adoption of Proposed Final Budget 2023-2024	It is recommended that the Board of Education adopts the proposed general fund final budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of 38,461,590.00. The preliminary budget is adopted with a _____ millage rate for Lehigh County and a _____ millage rate for Northampton County. Mr. Green commented that what he will do at this point, if it's acceptable to everyone, we will look for a percentage increase of the budget after she's (Mrs. Molitoris) is done with her proposal. If you want to raise it 3%, 4%, ½%, 2.986% or whatever, you can and then we'll approve the percentage increase. Mrs. Molitoris, and I'm sure she's got ever number worked out in her head
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FOR
2023-2024
(cont.)

already because she's pretty good at doing that, we will then kind of fill in the details of what the message would be etcetera in Lehigh, Northampton counties and then kind of have a revote if you will on whatever that percentage increase. So, having said that, Mrs. Molitoris you're on.

Dr. Link commented before we begin, I do want to give our two student representatives an opportunity, you are more than welcome to stay for the budget presentation, but if you want to go cheer your classmates on, this would probably be a natural break if you want to go do that as well. So, it's up to the two of you. All of our guests are welcome to stay as well. So, this is going to be the third iteration of the 2023-2024 budget presentation this evening. The Board must pass a proposed preliminary budget setting a tax hike ceiling. However, once passed, the Board cannot pass a final budget with a tax hike higher than the approved ceiling this evening. It can, however, go lower in June.

A PowerPoint slideshow was presented.

Dr. Link commented that I'm not going to kind of break all this down for you again. This would be the fourth time that you are seeing this slide. However, I will update you that our current kindergarten list of enrollees for next year stands at 110 children as of this morning. They are somewhere within the registration process. They may not have had all their paperwork in, but right now we're aware of 110 children to enroll in kindergarten next school year. The employee profile slide has also not changed. I will remind you that in April the Board gave administration direction to include an additional SPO, School Police Officer, two special education paraprofessionals, and an additional .5 ESL professional instructor. So, that would bring the .5 added to the current .5, that would make that position a full-time teacher here in Northern Lehigh School District. And, again, we've had four retirees this evening and we're working to fill those positions and we'll see how we plan to do that moving through the presentation this evening. This slide here demonstrates the list of current employees that are funded through ESSER money. So, those are the federal dollars that we received over the last couple of years and we have to expend all those dollars by September of 2024. Total cost for all of those positions currently is \$584,831. You'll see that we're recommending to keep as part of the operating budget to include an administrative position, the district-wide technology integration specialist and a district-wide ESL paraeducator for this upcoming school year. Mrs. Molitoris discussed the next slide regarding fund balance. This is currently where our fund balance has been trending. We ended last year at 14.68 million. It did climb over the last two years. The climbing is due to the fact that we did freeze our bond payments for two years. We made very minimal bond payments and because of that, we put almost three million dollars back in the budget as well, almost four million in the last two years. Dr. Link commented, now we have a slide for each one of our schools and you'll see that all but one are the same as the last time we presented this. For Peters Elementary School, we're recommending to transfer a kindergarten teacher to the first grade due to the class size. So, this year's kindergarten class has been the largest that we've seen in quite some time. When they become first graders next year, we're recommending that one of those kindergarten teachers, the additional one that we brought in last year, this year, transitions with that student group up to first grade. Also to adjust the special education teacher schedules at the elementary and secondary level to better serve building needs and balance class sizes. Those conversations have occurred with the affected instructors. And, to fill the retiring reading specialist position, that is Sheryl Hegedus' position which Dr. Stoker recognized this evening. And, no budgetary increase for materials or programs at Peters Elementary School. For Slatington Elementary School, very similar to Peters, we're going to fill the special education paraeducator position for IDEA compliance, adjust the special teacher schedules. Again, those conversations have already occurred with that group of teachers and no budgetary increases for materials or programs. At the middle school, again this is the same proposal as last time. Some of the special teachers at the middle school will also be affected and kind of rededicated other responsibilities to the other buildings to fill the retiring science and social studies positions which were recognized this evening and then no budgetary increases for materials or programs. At the high school, we are recommending to fill a special education paraeducator position for IDEA

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(cont.)**

compliance reasons. Fill the retiring social studies position not with another social studies teacher but to repurpose that position as a math instructor based on projected course loadings at the high school and then no budgetary increases for materials or programs. Mrs. Molitoris commented that our cost drivers and our concerns for our budget this year is salaries which we are currently in negotiations with our professional staff so that will play a role in our budgeting process this year. Our medical costs have increased by 12.5% this year. As salaries go up, so does the Social Security number. That is the amount that the district must match. LCTI is an increase of \$100,000 and that's due to the academic center and CLIU we had an increase based on students with high needs that moved into our district this year. And, they will, as far as we know, continue with our district next year. So, that is an increase of roughly about \$500,000. Charter school funding, we still have an increased charter school funding and that is a \$200,000 increase. And, outplacement of students as well is an increase of \$150,000. Cost reductions: retirement, our PSERS retirement rate has decreased from 35.26 in the 2022-2023 school year to 34% in the 2023-2024 but then it does start slowly climbing up again starting next year. Charter School Enrollment slide is a repeat of the slide that you saw last time and this is just a line graph of blue representing all of our students that are enrolled in, all of our resident students that are enrolled in charter schools and then it's broken out. Green representing cyber/charter schools and red representing the brick and mortar charter schools. As a reminder, a regular education student attending a charter school costs the district \$12,842 and a student with special needs attending a charter school costs the district \$30,127. This slide represents the cost in millions for those three categories. All charter schools and then broken out by regular education and special education. Mrs. Molitoris commented that I projected 2023-2024 budget revenue streams. I budgeted the tax rate at the 94% collection rate which is what we have been in the past few years collecting at. So, it is a 94% collection rate. Act I index does allow us to raise our taxes by 5.5% which will create an additional \$855,000 in tax revenue. Our Federal revenues are budgeted for the current 2022-2023 amounts. We did learn last week that our Title I funding is within a couple hundred dollars of what we were given this year. So, it's roughly 470 some thousand dollars we will get for Title I. The other two programs have not come out, but following suit, they're probably gonna all be around the same amount of money again as it was last year. State revenues were budgeted at the 2022-2023 rate. Currently, there is not a lot of talk in Harrisburg at all about the state budget. So, that could mean one of two things, it can mean this is really great and the budget's going to pass as is and we're going to see an additional increase in our basic education funding of \$243,000 and our special education of \$146,000 or it could all blow up two weeks from now and we could be back at square one. So, at this rate we budget conservatively, the 2022-2023 rate because we really don't know where that's going to shake out. Also, in the Governor's budget was the school-based mental health block grant that he also proposed for this coming school year that's 116 almost \$117,000 but again that will be targeted for certain things that we can use it on. So, it will not be used to offset our general fund budget. Because, normally grants come with strings and items that you must purchase and buy with them. Then, our Ready to Learn block grant has been flat funded the last umpteen years and that is flat funded again this year. Dr. Link commented that the next slide is just a review of some of the projects we have accomplished and some of the projects we are eyeing for completion over, pretty much up to 2030. Nothing on these two slides has changed since our last presentation. Again, we just want to get out in front of the school board and the community again that probably within the next three years, we're going to have to get serious about making some decisions about Northern Lehigh Middle School. Some potential options could be transition 6th grade to the middle school, renovate the interior and exterior of the building, renovate the interior and exterior with an addition, or total new construction of a middle school. We cannot do any movement on these decisions really within the next three years and that's based on our most recent Moody's Bond rating call and we can't take on any large additional debt for the next three years. Right now, that's one of the reasons why our bond rating has actually improved. It was good to start with and it actually went up to the next level and that is because of how we are timing our major projects. Mrs. Molitoris commented that the way the budget shakes out this year expenses versus our revenues, expenses are coming in at about \$38,461,000 and our revenues are coming in around \$37,023,000 and that is also a fund balance to offset using the healthcare at the 12.5%

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(cont.)**

increase. So, we have money set aside in our fund balance to offset those increases. So this budget is recommending, it has it built in it that we use \$294,000 almost \$295,000 to offset those costs for our healthcare increases. So, with that, we are still at a budget shortfall of \$1,437,000 and the board will determine the percentage of the increase in order to shorten that hole that we're in right now. So our estimated fund balance at the end of June 30, 2023, so the end of this school year I'm currently anticipating we're going to use about \$300,000 out of fund balance so we should end somewhere around \$14,300,000 at the end of the year. And then highlighted in yellow in the center there, is currently if we would use everything out of fund balance, the assigned fund balance, we would use 1.732 to actually balance the budget. \$294,000 again is that medical and healthcare increase and then the 1.43 is what we're currently short. So, that's kind of what your estimated ending fund balance will look like. So, again, our expenses are \$38,461,000, our revenues are \$36,729,000 which puts us at a budget shortfall of 1.732 but of that 1.732, we're estimating use that \$294,000 out of that healthcare fund balance, committed fund balance in order to offset those increases which means were at an additional budget shortfall of 1.437 million. If we would take all of it out of fund balance, and not do any kind of a tax increase, it would bring our fund balance down at the end of our 2023-2024 school year to \$12,636,000. So, the Governor's proposed budget, again I said that is not in the budget right now so if anything of this comes to fruition, that will be an offset to what we are currently short, so that 1.4 million. We could end up with almost \$400,000 in additional revenues from the state budget if that does come through. And, if it does, then we're roughly over a million dollars short in our budget, expenditures versus revenues. So, again as I said, we can't increase our taxes over 5.5%. That is our adjusted index for Northern Lehigh. The actual index for the Act I index for the 2023-2024 school year is 4.1 but ours is adjusted to 5.5. So again, it's an additional revenues of \$855,000. So, if the board would decide to pass a tax increase at 5.5%, a median assessed home in Lehigh County would have a millage rate of 25.346 and a tax bill would be an additional \$190 from what was in the tax bill last year for those properties in Lehigh County. A mill in Lehigh County has worked roughly about \$662,000. Northampton County millage would be 73.1993. Northampton County has a meaning assessed value home of \$45,850. That tax, the bill would increase by \$201. The millage rate at the millage, Northampton County's millage rate would give us an additional \$42,578 is what a mill is valued in Northampton County. Again, dual county school districts must equalize their mills between counties by using the STEB Market Value Data rebalancing each year. So again, here I kind of broke it out from 5.5, took it down to 4%. So, what it would look like for a median assessed home value. So, again if you do the 5.5%, it's \$190 additional tax revenue on that property. If you take it down to 4%, a person would see a \$136.66 increase in their tax bill for this school year. Northampton County to the max of the 5.5% would give \$201.61. If we went down to 4%, it's \$153.89. Tax revenue projections, if we would raise the 5.5%, Northern Lehigh would see an additional \$855,680 in additional tax revenue. If it's 4%, you would see an additional increase of \$589,638. Each one of those quarter of a percent that you drop you lose roughly about \$44-45,000 in revenue. Again, you need to keep into consideration that we do have some of those positions out there that are currently ESSER fund this year which is the Director of Educational Technology, the elementary teacher, the technology integration specialist and that is to a tune of \$430,000 in this upcoming school year budget is the cost for those three positions. So, if we are looking to keep those positions after the ESSER funding, which administration is recommending, that's going to be an increase in our expenditures for these three positions, \$430,000, moving into the 2024-2025 school year. That will have to be factored into our general fund budget. Dr. Link commented that administratively, we are recommending utilization of the fund balance for healthcare increases. Consider a tax increase in conjunction with utilization of fund balance to close the gap in addition to generating some revenue for upcoming years. To continue to look for grant revenue opportunities to fund positions such as our school police officers and a social worker. And, continue to search for expenditure saving options such as utilities, transportation and staffing. So, that concludes our presentation for this evening and we can open it up to discussion.

Mr. Green commented okay, I think most of us have seen almost all this in the past. We've discussed it at several committee meetings, brought it up at a public meeting. So, I guess to get

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(cont.)**

things started, I would look for a motion. And, again, that motion would be to increase taxes by a certain percent or zero percent if you want, whatever, I'm not trying to put any words in anyone's mouth. Take a second on that and then we can go and have discussion from there.

Mr. Fedorcha commented that can I just highlight for the public really that not to get threatened by a possible initial figure. That whatever we do tonight is preliminary and the reason it may be even higher than even we wanted, is because if something special happens that we are not aware of at this point, we cannot raise that figure. So, we need to make sure we prepare ourselves. We can always come down. So, when you see the final budget it will probably be a lot less than what we're putting out possibly today. So, depending on that figure, don't get scared.

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion for 4%, which was seconded by Mr. Distler.

Mr. Green asked for discussion, questions, and comments. I'm just going to look left and if anyone wants to say anything, this would be your opportunity. If not, we'll take a vote on that motion. I've heard some of your comments before. I think I know where people stand. No comments. Anyone to the right, comments? Mrs. Kulp commented that I'd just like the folks to know we do understand that these days everything's gone up, unfortunately, school costs have also gone up but we will do our best to keep things in line as best as we can. But, we still need to have ours because we have a good quality.

Mr. Green commented that I guess I'm getting really sick and darn tired sitting here year in and year out scratching our nails trying to come up with a couple of bucks to make this balance and yet our people in Harrisburg aren't doing anything for us. And, I'm really, you know, the Governor, our Senator Jarret Ryan, Zach Mako, come on guys, you know what are you doing for Northern Lehigh. You're doing nothing for us. We don't have any warehouses that are sending us a million dollars a year. We don't have any Whitehall Malls or Lehigh Valley Malls or Costco's and yet we're still competing on those same shelves. And, I'm really getting tired of it. You guys out in Harrisburg, you've got to do something and you've got to do it now. I mean, you heard Sherri say there's all this money out there that could come, it might not come. We don't know. What's going to change in Harrisburg between now and the time you approve a budget in June. Absolutely nothing. What's going to approve for us? The money we get from Harrisburg which is what affects ours. You guys won't pass the budget. Just sit out there, I don't know what you're doing and it's just, I'm really so tired of the crap you're pulling out there and it's like, get your act together. You only care about the rich school districts. The poor blue collar districts are always, you don't care about, you don't do anything for us, you just walk away and it's just disgusting. I'll just shut up before I get myself in trouble. Anyone else wants to comment, please do so?

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder

NAY: Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.
Motion denied.

Mr. Green stated we need a majority of the board, not a majority of those present. We need five votes to approve it.

Mr. Kern asked to give an explanation of his "no" vote. You know, education has become a competition with the lack of folks going into the educational field. Even though we don't have the industry infrastructures other school districts in our area, I wish we did. We're still competing to keep staff, effective staff in our district for our students. I just felt that at 4% we are just, I mean this is just a preliminary budget, it doesn't mean anything to be quite frank. It's not final in any way that if we lock ourselves in that 4% we're stuck there. And, I just think knowing that if we really want to keep those positions in the future that we thought were very important to use our ESSER funds for and we all knew that those monies were going away and I don't think we spent

them in any disregard. I thought they were well spent dollars and I think those are positions that we

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(cont.)**

think are vital and we have to keep. So, we have to prepare for that in the future. As much as the tax increase hurts, and believe me we all pay taxes up here as well in our district. I just thought 4% was kind of hamstrung us a little bit.

Mr. Kern made a motion to keep it at 5.5%, seconded by Mr. Husack.

Mr. Green asked for discussion on the 5.5%

YEA: Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern

NAY: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.,
Mr. Robin T. Distler
Motion denied.

Mr. Fedorcha commented that listening to Mr. Kern and I kind of concur with what he said and so forth and I would like to make a compromise and make it 4.5%.

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion for 4.5%, seconded by Mrs. Kulp.

Mr. Green asked for discussion.

Mr. Kern asked Mrs. Molitoris what is 4.5% in cash revenue. Mrs. Molitoris commented that it is \$678,361. Mr. Green asked if there were any other questions.

YEA: Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, Mr. Robin M. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha

NAY: Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.
Motion denied.

Mrs. Kulp made a motion for 5%, seconded by Mr. Fedorcha

YEA: Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, Mr. Robin T. Distler,
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Gale N. Husack

NAY: Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.
Motion carried.

XI. ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopts the proposed general fund final budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$38,461,590.00. The preliminary budget is adopted with a 25.2259 millage rate for Lehigh County and a 72.8524 millage rate for Northampton County. 1:28:46

Mr. Green commented do we have to get into discussion on why we have different numbers? Everybody understands why we do that, right? We've been around long enough to understand that. Okay, so as far as the final budget, we are looking at approving, what would that budget be then? Still that amount of \$38,461,590.00?

Mrs. Molitoris commented yes, still the same dollar amount, yes.

ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET FOR 2023-2024 (cont.)

Mr. Green commented still the same budget at the top, it will just be funded differently, correct? So, 25.2259 millage rate for Lehigh County and a 72.8524 millage rate for Northampton County. An increase of five percent.

YEA: Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Gale N. Husack

NAY: Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.
Motion carried.

XII. ADOPTION OF THE LEGAL NOTICES FOR PER CAPITA TAXES FOR 2023-2024

Legal Notice

Authorize the Secretary to publish a Legal Advertisement notifying every resident or inhabitant within the territorial limits of the school district of Northern Lehigh attaining eighteen (18) years of age, and every resident or inhabitant in said school district to notify the proper Per Capita Tax Enumerator within twelve (12) months of his or her becoming a resident or inhabitant, in accordance with the School Laws of Pennsylvania, Section 680, as amended June 16, 1972, Act 138. The assessors to contact are as follows:

BOROUGH OF WALNUTPORT Annette Lacko – Borough Secretary/Treasurer
Walnutport Borough Building
417 Lincoln Ave. Walnutport, PA 18088
610-767-1322, ext. 101

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP Joan Jones - LST Tax Clerk
Washington Township Municipal Building
7951 Center St., Emerald, PA 18080
610-767-8108

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON Daniel Stevens - Borough Manager
125 South Walnut Street
Slatington, PA 18080
610-767-2131

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion to approve the legal notice for per capita taxes for 2023-2024, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp.

YEA: Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., and Mrs. Gale N. Husack (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

LEGAL

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves the following legal item:

Lieu of FAPE Agreement As per the recommendation of the administration, enter into an agreement with the parents of Student #2190093 in lieu of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) agreement.

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

INFOR-
MATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on March 20, 2023.

RECOG-
NITION
OF
GUESTS

Mr. Green asked if there was any guest.

Dr. Link commented there was nothing on non-agenda items.

ADJOURN-
MENT

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

YEA: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

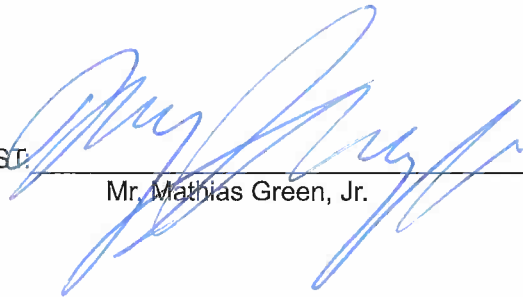
NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST:



President

Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.

BOARD APPROVED

JUN 12 2023

**Northern Lehigh
School District**