

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
May 11, 2020

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order virtually, via Google Meet, by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:16 p.m. on Monday, May 11, 2020.

Mr. Fedorcha announced that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted on the NLSDDmedia YouTube Channel. All votes this evening will be roll call votes and board members were reminded to state their name before making first and second motions.

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 J. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Michele L. Martineau, and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: (0)

Non-members present: Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Ms. Madison Hoffman (Sr. Rep), Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. Matthew Link, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. James Schnyderite, Dr. Tania Stoker, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mr. Robert Vlasaty and Mr. Aidan Williams (Jr. Rep).

VISITORS Approximately fourteen (14) visitors viewed the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Keegan, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on April 14, 2020, be approved and ordered filed.

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 (0)

Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that the April meeting was held virtually via Zoom and the May meeting will be held via Zoom as well. Mrs Husack stated that the IU is working through the tasks for teachers to continue virtual meetings with the special needs students and continue all of the services the IU provides to our students. They are working on policies and procedures for all of the districts. Mrs. Husack thanked the IU for their support and all of our teachers at Northern Lehigh for their continued collaboration to help our students and our community.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Fedorcha reported that LCTI has also met virtually and has a continuity of education plan for its students. LCTI is having virtual meetings and has just hired and HR employee and Adult Education Director. Mr. Fedorcha announced that LCTI is looking to return some money to the districts due to the pandemic.

Legislative Report - Mrs. Heckman reported that PSBA put on a virtual Advocacy Day today since the one scheduled for April was canceled. It focused on letter writing to the legislation informing them of the concerns and difficulties the district is facing, and possible legislation that may be coming this summer. If anyone is interested in watching the meeting, contact Mrs. Heckman for the link.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green reported that the college is facing the same problems the districts are having as to when or if they can open back up and how much funding they will receive from the federal or state governments. One item of main concern is whether they can continue job training classes which generate quite a bit of revenue for the college.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on May 4, 2020, were distributed.

Minutes of the Extra & Co-Curricular Committee Meeting held on May 4, 2020 were distributed.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting held on May 6, 2020 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on May 6, 2020 were distributed.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Strohl updated the board and administration on a rule change last week regarding Title IX. Policies and procedures must be updated with the rule changes. The enforcement deadline is August 14, 2020. Attorney Strohl forwarded administration the details of the report.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Stoker updated the board on the Future Ready PA Index. This year the state assessments, PSSA and Keystone exams have been canceled due to COVID-19. In turn, we do not have any PVAAS scores which is our growth measure. There is no NOCTI or NIMS for our CTC students. This has really impacted our Future Ready PA Index score. Some of the indicators are lagging which means they are 12-16 month old data. Regular attendance and graduation data will be from 2018-2019. English Language proficiency exams were scored before the shut down so that will be 2019-2020 data. Military and post secondary career data will be from 2017-2018. More information on these indicators can be found on the PDE website.

We have been identified as TSI at the High school for the special education population. There is no guidance on the indicators for this status for the Future Ready PA Index. PDE will not be identifying any new schools this fall. At this point we are not sure how it will impact us.

Policies and procedures are being reviewed with regard to COVID-19 with updated PSBA and PDE recommended policy language. On the agenda this evening are policies that have been updated with these recommendations.

Also on the agenda this evening, is a graduation resolution which allows our students to graduate even though they may not be meeting graduation requirements. This resolution is recommended so that our guidelines can be suspended for the 2019-2020 school year only.

Mr. Green asked Dr. Stoker to explain the TSI designation. Dr. Stoker explained that there were indicators on the 2018-2019 assessment that we did not meet the benchmarks. They were in attendance, college and career readiness, and achievement in ELA and math for the special education population at the high school. A plan was implemented to meet those benchmarks moving forward.

Business Managers' Report - Mrs. Molitoris reported that on the agenda this evening is the adoption of the proposed final budget so that it can be posted for 30 days before adoption. Mrs. Molitoris reported that there was a phone call today with bond counsel to see about refinancing any of our bonds which will be discussed further at the Finance Committee meeting in June.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link announced that last week was Teacher and Nurse Appreciation week. Unfortunately, we could not thank them in person but an email was sent expressing gratitude for the work they are doing supporting our students during the school closure. When we are able to meet again we will be sure to thank them and honor them for all they have done over the past year especially the quick transition into online learning. This week is National Police Week. We are fortunate to have Officer Frank Gnas on our team ensuring the safety and security of our buildings. If you have the opportunity, please send a thank you to Officer Gnas or any police officer who is ensuring our safety.

High School Administration continues to work with the senior class officers on the survey responses for traditional end of year activities. As of now, it seems that a vast majority would like to plan for events in July such as senior farewell dance, senior picnic and commencement. We will plan for in-person events but also simultaneously plan for virtual events. If restrictions are still in place in July from the governor's office for large gatherings, the virtual options will be implemented. Mr. Link thanked all of the community businesses, organizations, and agencies that are working with the school district to celebrate the senior class.

Mr. Link shared the administrative recommendations for the 2020-2021 budget that was discussed at the May Finance Committee meeting. The recommendation includes a 3.5% tax increase to

generate \$455,000 in revenue. Board considerations would include extension of discount and face collection periods on real estate tax bills which would result in \$73,000 in lost revenues. Administration continues to renegotiate the contract with Brandywine Transportation for any cost savings. Opportunities to decrease expenditures and increase revenues may exist with assistance from the CARES act and Federal Funding Elementary/Secondary Emergency Relief Fund. When more clear information becomes available on this money, it will be shared with the board members, which is also why we are looking to schedule another board meeting on June 22, 2020, for adoption of the final budget. Administration is also recommending using \$2,487,201 of fund balance to cover additional deficits. There may be the opportunity to not utilize as much in fund balance by refinancing our bonds. Mr. Link thanked Mr. Green for making that recommendation.

Mr. Fedorcha reported that an executive session was held virtually prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues and will reconvene after the regular board meeting to finish discussing personnel issues.

PERSONNEL Mrs. Heckman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel item:

Resignation M. Houser Accept the resignation of Matthew Houser from his position as Full-time School Police Officer, effective May 5, 2020.

S. DeLong With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Scott DeLong from his position as High School Social Studies Teacher, effective the end of the business day June 8, 2020. Mr. DeLong will be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after 19 years of service.

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 (0)

Motion carried.

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

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy #214 – Pupils - Class Rank, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #626 – Finances - Federal Fiscal Compliance, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #705 – Property - Facilities and Workplace Safety, as presented after first reading.

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #201 - Pupils - Admission of Students, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #204 - Pupils - Attendance, as presented after second reading. This policy will take effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

Approve school board policy #208 - Pupils - Withdrawal from School, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #346 - Employees - Workers' Compensation, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #347 - Employees - Workers' Compensation Transitional Return-to-Work Program, as presented after second reading.

POLICY
(cont.)Graduation
Resolution

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Resolution regarding graduation requirements for the 2019-2020 school year only, due to the mandated closure of schools because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Non-Resident
Students

Approve the request of a parent of a student #2990133 at Peters Elementary School, who is moving out of the district, to allow their student to finish the 2019-2020 school year in the Northern Lehigh School District in accordance with student policy #202.

Approve the request of a parent of a kindergarten student #3290119 at Peters Elementary and a fifth grade student #2790181 at Slatington Elementary, who are moving out of the district, to allow their students to finish the 2019-2020 school year in the Northern Lehigh School District in accordance with student policy #202.

SE Math 24
Club Final
Application

Approve the final club/activity application for the Slatington Elementary School Math 24 Club. This club has enjoyed success and the students have been provided the opportunity to become critical thinkers and problem solvers while practicing with their peers and advisor. Due to the shortened time frame for the club for the 2019-2020 school year, the advisor and the Northern Lehigh Education Association has recommended a stipend for Gail Lafferty of \$120.00 for the 2019-2020 school year. In subsequent years, the recommended stipend for the advisor will be \$200.00. Upon approval by the Board, the approved stipend will be added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as per policy #122.

MS Foreign
Language
Club Final
Application

Approve the final club/activity application for the Middle School Foreign Language Club. This club has enjoyed success this year and the students have been provided the opportunity to explore two languages, host a multi-cultural dance, and have continued practicing languages through Google Meet. The Northern Lehigh Education Association has recommended a stipend for Blasia Dunham of \$1,000.00 for the 2019-2020 school year. Upon approval by the Board, the approved stipend will be added to the Collective Bargaining Agreement, as per policy #122.

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 (0)

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

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

Financial
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:
General Fund Account month of April, 2020
NLHS Scholarship Account month of March, 2020
PE,NLMS, NLHS Student Activities/Clubs Accounts month of March, 2020
Cafeteria Fund month of April, 2020

List of
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:
General Fund months of April & May, 2020
Cafeteria Fund months of April & May, 2020

2020-2021
Sports
Physicals
Co-payment

Approve the co-payment amount for student athletes receiving a sports physical from St. Luke's Sports Medicine during the 2020-2021 school year at a cost of \$5.00 per student in accordance with school board policy #122.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)Frontline
Education
e-star

Approve to authorize proper officials to continue an agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and Frontline Education for the purpose of providing web-based applications for planning, reporting, monitoring and archiving student data in compliance with federal and state mandated regulations. The cost for these services will be \$3,145.50, for the 2020-2021 school year.

CLIU
Technology
Pool Agreement

Allow administration to sign the CLIU Technology Pool Consortium Agreement for the 2020-2021 school year.

Safe Transport
Agreement
2020-2025

Per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee, approve a five year year agreement with Computer Aid Inc, to provide transportation software (Safe Transport) at a cost of \$12,852 for the 2020-2021 school year. Per the agreement, the cost for years two through five will not exceed more than 1.5% annually.

Everase Corp.
Agreement

Per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee, approve an agreement with Everase Corporation to provide turnkey installation of Everase dry erase high gloss resurfacing material on twenty-three blackboards at Peters Elementary School for a total cost of \$11,246.49.

Disposal of
Infinity Web
Playground
Equipment (PE)

Per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee, and in accordance with School Board Policy 706.1 Disposal of Surplus Property, Obsolete Equipment, and Real Estate, grant permission to dispose of or recycle the Infinity Web playground equipment at Peters Elementary School

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 (0)

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)Treasurer
Nominations

Mr. Distler nominated Mrs. Donna Kulp for Treasurer.

Close
Nominations

Mr. Green made a motion to close the nominations, which was seconded by Mr. Kern.

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 (0)

Motion carried.

Mr. Kern made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Martineau to elect Mrs. Kulp as Treasurer for the 2020-201 school year.

Election
Of Board
Treasurer
Donna Kulp

Election of a Treasurer for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, as required by Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, as amended.

RECOMMEND That the Board of Education elects Mrs. Donna M. Kulp as Treasurer for the 2020-2021 Fiscal year, effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

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 (0)

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Board of Directors meeting held on March 16, 2020, were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on March 25, 2020, were distributed.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED FINAL BUDGET FOR 2020-2021

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approves the proposed final budget and:

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopts the proposed general fund final budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2020-2021 school year in the amount of \$35,832,687.00. The preliminary budget is adopted with a 23.434 millage rate for Lehigh County and a 66.4549 millage rate for Northampton County.

Roll call.

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

NAY: Mr. Keegan (1)

Motion carried.

Mr. Keegan stated that he cannot understand how we can raise taxes during this pandemic. He stated that most school districts are trying to give people a break but we continue to raise taxes which is especially difficult for the families that are currently unemployed. For these reasons, Mr. Keegan voted no on the proposed budget.

LEGAL NOTICE PER CAPITA TAX 2020-2021

Mr. Kern made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve the following legal notice for per capita taxes for 2020-2021:

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
Walnutport Borough Building
417 Lincoln Ave. Walnutport, PA 18088
610-767-1322

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

Joan Jones - Assistant Secretary/LST Tax Collector
Washington Township Municipal Building
7951 Center St., Emerald, PA 18080
610-767-8108

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

Colleen Bresnak – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer
125 South Walnut Street
Slatington, PA 18080
610-767-2131

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 (0)

Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Barnes thanked the board for streaming the board meetings as it is helpful to keep everyone connected. Mr. Link thanked Mr. Barnes for attending the meeting and keeping our students engaged with the publication of The Slate, the high school newspaper. Mr. Fedorcha thanked him for participating in the meeting.

Mr. Fedorcha reminded the board members that Executive Session will reconvene at the conclusion of the regular board meeting.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mrs. Martineau made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 7:58 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 (0)

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha