

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**Slatington, PA  
November 10, 2003**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:45 p.m. on Monday, November 10, 2003 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip C. Bertolino, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. John Hrizuk, Ms. Christine Stafford, Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Amberly Gabel, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

**VISITORS** Approximately 17 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News and Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle.

**APPROVE MINUTES** A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on October 6, 2003 and the regular school board meeting held on October 13, 2003 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Mr. Dorshimer highlighted the CLIU Board Brief that was distributed to all board members.

Student Representative Reports – Ms. Amberly Gable and Ms. Ashley Kunkle distributed and read their report for the month of November.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos  
Mrs. Geronikos reported about a Legislative Forum meeting she attended at Parkland High School.

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

Board members were reminded that December's Reorganization Meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2003 beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the boardroom. The regular school board meeting will follow beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Dr. Sham introduced Ed Newcome and Jim Matteo of the Northern Lehigh School District Educational Foundation. The Foundation is in the process of initiating a Capital Campaign to raise funds that will be turned back to the district for various programs that the district might not be able to afford. Mr. Newcome spoke of an opportunity the Foundation would like to undertake. They are seeking permission from the board to solicit the Trexler Trust in Allentown for a donation. The Trexler Trust is celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of General Trexler's birth and they are looking to emphasize recognition of the General and his legacy. One of the priorities of the Foundation is prevention and intervention counseling in kindergarten through sixth grade. The Foundation is proposing that in its request for money from the Trexler Trust that they offer them the opportunity to name a group of rooms in one of the elementary schools that could easily be defined as a counseling center. The Trexler Trust has the capacity of giving a gift like \$100,000. The Foundation is proposing that the district offers the Trexler Trust the opportunity

to name the counseling and guidance center at either one of the elementary schools for a gift of \$100,000 in honor of General Trexler. Application deadline is December 1, 2004 deadline. Gifts will not be awarded until April 2004.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(Con't.)**

Mr. Newcome is also seeking permission from the board to have similar conversations, where appropriate, with other groups with similar kinds of opportunities with the stipulation that they come back to the board for review.

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education accept and support the endeavors of the Northern Lehigh School District Educational Foundation to apply to the Trexler Trust for a gift of \$100,000, as presented and also allow the Foundation to pursue similar opportunities with the stipulation that they come back to the board for review.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,  
Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)  
NAY: None (0)

An Executive Session was held, for personnel issues, in the superintendent's office for beginning at 7:00 p.m.

**PERSONNEL**

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Appointment  
Instructional

Steven D. Miller                      Half-Time Temporary Vacancy Replacement Teacher  
Assignment:                              Half Time Physical Education Teacher in the senior high school,  
replacing Robert Kern, who was administratively transferred to  
Dean of Students.  
Salary:                                      \$18,750 (Pro-Rated) (Step 1 Masters on the 2003-2004 Collective  
Bargaining Agreement Salary Schedule)  
Effective Date:                            November 3, 2003  
Termination Date:                        On or about June 16, 2004

Substitute -  
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2003-2004 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days: Steven D. Miller – Health & Physical Education

Administra-  
tive Transfers

Approve to pay a stipend in the amount of \$5,000 (pro-rated) to Dr. Linda Marcincin for assuming the duties of Interim Principal at Slatington Elementary School effective with the temporary administrative transfer on October 20, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

Approve to pay a stipend in the amount of \$5,000 (pro-rated) to Mr. Robert Kern for assuming the duties of Dean of Students at Northern Lehigh High School effective with the temporary administrative transfer on October 20, 2003 through June 30, 2004.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,  
Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)  
NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

Mr. Newhard made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conferences

Approve the request of Sandra Becker to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference on November 11, 12, 13, and 14, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for each day and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Approve the request of Robert Kern to attend a Lehigh University on November 21, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$125.00 for registration and will be paid for through Title IIA funds.

**POLICY**  
**(Con't.)**

Approve the request of Julie Everett to attend the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association Annual Convention in Hershey, PA on December 4 and 5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$85.00 for registration, \$96.00 for lodging, \$10.00 for meals for a total cost of \$191.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and will be paid for through Title IIA funds.

Approve the request of Christine Leslie to attend the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association Annual Convention in Hershey, PA on December 4 and 5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$85.00 for registration, \$49.80 for travel, \$96.00 for lodging, \$10.00 for meals for a total cost of \$240.80 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and will be paid for through Title IIA funds.

Approve the request of Theresa Cinicola to attend the Pennsylvania Science Teachers Association Annual Convention in Hershey, PA on December 4 and 5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$85.00 for registration, \$96.00 for lodging, \$10.00 for meals for a total cost of \$191.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and will be paid for through Title IIA funds.

Approve the request of Suzanne Mengel to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference in Bethlehem, PA from December 2-5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Approve the request of Bonita Treadway to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference in Bethlehem, PA from December 2-5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute nurse for each day and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Approve the request of Gail Lafferty to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference in Bethlehem, PA from December 2-5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration, \$24.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$399.00 and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Approve the request of Kori Dibilio to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference in Bethlehem, PA from December 2-5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration; \$54.72 for travel, for a total cost of \$429.72 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for each day and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Approve the request of D. Michelle Fleck to attend a Project Care SAP Training conference in Bethlehem, PA from December 2-5, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$375.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for each day and will be paid for through Title IV funds.

Extend  
Attendance Of  
Non-Resident  
Student

On September 8, 2003 the board approved the request of two Peters Elementary School students, whose parents are moving into the district, to attend school until October 31, 2003. Because construction of their home has exceeded their move-in expectations, the parents are requesting an extension of their enrollment status until November 30, 2003.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos,  
Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**NEW**  
**BUSINESS**

Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the individual administrative goals for the 2003-2004 school year as presented.

NOTE: An additional goal will be added and one goal will be revised and presented to the board for approval at their next regular meeting.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Newhard,  
Mr. Fedorcha (6)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green (3)

Motion carried.

**NEW**

**BUSINESS (Con't.)**

Salary Adjustments Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve the following salary adjustments for the 2003-2004 school year:

John Hrizuk Approve to adjust the 2003-2004 base salary of John Hrizuk, Director of Technology, to \$65,000, effective November 1, 2003 (pro-rated \$61,052).

Jeffrey Bachman Approve to adjust the 2003-2004 base salary of Jeffrey Bachman, Assistant Director of Technology, to \$50,000, effective November 1, 2003 (pro-rated \$45,826).

Public Comment Jane Kropf – Slatington – Asked how the board could justify 25% and 30% raises at this time?

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Is there money in the budget to cover these increases?

Mrs. Ganser requested that she go on record stating that she was not happy with the technique used to adjust these salaries.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Fedorcha (5)

NAY: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles (4)

Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL**

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Treasurer's Report Approve the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Cox, as presented for the month of October 2003.

Reports (Info Only) All board members received the Expenditure Reports and Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve Fund reports for the month October 2003.

General Fund Bills Approve payment of General Fund bills for the month of October 2003, as presented.

Athletic Fund Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Athletic Fund Report for the month of October 2003, as presented.

Sports Account Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Sports Account Financial Report for the month ended October 31, 2003, as presented.

Exempt Real Estate Taxes Approve the Citizens Fire Company #1, Inc. exemption from 2003 real estate taxes on parcel #554290347335 in the amount of \$262.96. The fire company has received total tax exemption by Lehigh County effective January 1, 2004.

Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a real estate tax refund for the 2003-04 tax year in the amount of \$1,721.16 to Dean C. Serfass, 8763 PA Route 873, Slatington. The refund is due to an overpayment.

Purchase Firewall & Professional Services Approve the purchase of Contivity 1740 Firewall/VPN device and professional services for \$7003.00 from Corporate Networking, Inc. of Worcester, PA as part of the Tenex Financial Software implementation as presented at the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.

Purchase APC From ePlus Approve the purchase of an APC Uninterruptible Power Supply for \$1800.00 from ePlus Technologies of PA of Pottstown, PA as part of the Gigabit Ethernet Upgrade Project as presented at the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.

**FINANCIAL**  
**(Con't.)**

ET&T Initiate Part I & II Of District-wide Discovery Plan Approve to authorize ET&T to initiate Part I and Part II of a district-wide Disaster Recovery Plan at a cost of \$10,920.00.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Fedorcha announced that he received a letter from two band parents which called attention to a situation that recently occurred at a band competition they were scheduled to participate in but needed to leave the competition before receiving their award to return to the district to perform at a rescheduled sporting event.

**INFORMATION**

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on October 2, 2003.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Bryan Mohlman – Washington Township -- Wanted to know when he and his wife would be receiving their real estate tax refund check.

Before adjourning, Dr. Sham thanked the board members that will be leaving the board, for their support and service to the district stating that they always put the district and students ahead of everything else and all other issues.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ (President)  
Gary S. Fedorcha