

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA
January 15, 2001**

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, January 15, 2001 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. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas Sham, Dr. Brian Gessner, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Lisa Vaughan, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 11 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

APPROVE MINUTES Motion made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the minutes of the reorganization meeting held on December 4, 2000, the regular school board meeting held on December 4, 2000, and the regular school board meeting held on December 11, 2000 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on January 3, 2001. were distributed.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Escott that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following individuals to school board committees for 2001:

1. Approve the appointment of Mary Ann S.-Mattiola as a member of the Policy/Education Committee.
2. Approve the appointment of Michelle Raber-Gass and Joan MacKinnon as members of the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee.
3. Approve the appointment of Erv Prutzman as a member of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Mr. Fedorcha announced that the Technology/Buildings and Grounds committee meeting has been moved from February 7 to January 29, 2001 at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom.

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

NAY: None (0)

Student Rep. Report Ms. Lisa Vaughan gave her student representative report for the month of January 2001.

Acting Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Nicholas Sham

1. Mr. Les Bear of Arthurs Lestrage, Inc. gave a presentation to the Board to bring them up to date on the status of the bond market with the potential to refund one of the district's bond issues and the impact of the new money issue if the district chooses to do that.
2. Mr. Urban Byler, from the Lehigh Carbon Community College, gave a brief update to the board as to what has been occurring recently at the Community College.
3. Dr. Sham reminded Board Members to bring their School Board Policy Manuals to the next meeting for updating.
4. Dr. Sham introduced Mr. Victor Rodite, representing the Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation, to present an over view of the changes that have developed with the regard to the Keystone Economic Opportunity Zone. After some discussion, the board requested a comparative analysis of the KOEZ and the LURTA program before making any decisions and they also were interested in knowing what parcels in the borough would be involved in this program.
5. Discussion for a School Board/Administrative Retreat was held. After a straw vote, the Board decided to hold the retreat locally, on a Friday evening and all day Saturday. Dr. Sham will select several dates, poll the administration and the board, and report back to them with the chosen dates.

Executive Session An Executive Work Session was held prior to the meeting, beginning at 6:00 PM, to discuss personnel issues and was continued briefly after the meeting.

PERSONNEL Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Substitutes-Instructional Employ the following substitute teacher for the 2000-2001 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:

Angela Friebolin -- Biology

Non-Instructional Employ the following substitute aide for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute rate of \$6.25 per hour:

Matthew Rabenold

Employ Sherri Molitoris Approve to continue employment of Sherri Molitoris in the Central Administration Business Office, effective January 16, 2001 and continuing until a Business Manager assumes his/her duties in the Northern Lehigh School District at an hourly rate of \$12.41, with no fringe benefits. This rate is based on the first step of the clerk/stenographer salary schedule as listed in the Northern Lehigh Clerical Staff Salary and Benefit Agreement.

Appointment Non-Instructional Connie Kistler Connie Kistler * (Pending Verification of Clearances)
Assignment: One-on-One Special Education Aide
New Position – Peters Elementary School
Salary: \$8.38 Per Hour/6 Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
Effective Date: January 16, 2001
*60-Day Probationary Period

Salary Step Increase Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle her to a salary increase for the second half of the 2000-2001 school year:

Cathy Groller
From: 2B \$35,300.00
To: 2B+24 \$35,700.00

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Motion made by Mrs. Giles, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

- Conferences Approve the request of Dr. Nicholas Sham, or designee, to attend the Annual Federal Programs Conference at Seven Springs in Champion, PA from April 22-25, 2001. Expenses include \$160.00 for registration, \$90.00 for meals, \$210.00 for travel, \$505.62 for lodging for a total cost of \$965.62 and was included in the 2000-2001 district budget.
- Homebound Instruction Grant homebound instruction for an 8th grade student, Student No. 05-56400, for five hours per week, effective January 11, 2001 and ending on or about 1/29/01.
- Extend Homebound Instruction Homebound instruction was granted for Student No. 04-04750 on December 4, 2000 for five hours per week from December 4, 2000 through January 12, 2001. It is further recommended that homebound instruction, for five hours per week, be extended until the end of the 2000-2001 school year or until the student can return to school after surgery.
- High School Student Act. Account Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Account Statement for the month of December 2000.
- Junior High School Student Act. Account Approve the Northern Lehigh Junior High School Student Activities Account Statement for the month of December 2000.
- Board Policy – #333 & #433-1st Reading Approve revisions to existing school board policy #333 and #433 – Professional Development, as presented after first reading.
- Agreement -- Approve to authorize proper officials to enter into an agreement with Bethesda Day
Bethesda Day Treatment Center and the Northern Lehigh School District for the purpose of furnishing Treatment educational services for the 2000-2001 school year.

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Motion made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under New Business:

Approve to authorize the Acting Superintendent to send correspondence to The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Performing Arts requesting a complete and thorough application from them and indicate that the Northern Lehigh School District is not considering their current correspondence at this time because it is not a complete application.

- NLESPA Board Committee Approve the following school board members to enter into negotiation discussions with the Northern Lehigh Educational Support Personnel Association: Mathias Green, Robert Cox, Jane Escott, and Lori Geronikos.
- Act 93 Board Committee Approve the following school board members to meet and discuss with the Act 93 Administrative Group to address several concerns they currently have: Sheryl Giles, Bryan Dorshimer, Lori Geronikos, and Jane Escott.

**NEW
BUSINESS**
(Con't.)

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

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Cox suggested that the administration supply some information via reports/discussion on issues, programs, items that will have a particular impact in the 2001-2002 budget before it appears as a line item during upcoming budget deliberations.

Due to the fact that the district is without a business manager, Mr. Green requested permission to meet, as needed, with a representative from the clerical staff to obtain facts needed during negotiations. The board agreed to utilize the clerical staff for both the support personnel group and the Act 93 administrative group. Dr. Sham will make a recommendation to the board with a name and hourly stipend for the chosen person.

FINANCIAL

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Amend Motion Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education amend the motion and remove Item A – Approval of the Treasurer’s Report-- and hold until the next meeting because the reports were distributed at the meeting, were unaudited, and board members did not have an opportunity to look at them.

Vote On Amended Motion YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Reports (Info Only) All board members received the unaudited December 2000 Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve funds.

Pay Bills Approve payment of General Fund bills, as presented.

Capital Reserve #1 Bills Approve payment of Capital Reserve #1 bills, as presented.

Construction Account Bills Approve payment of Construction Account bills, as presented.

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

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL
Agreement Regarding Expulsion

Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve the January 15, 2001 Agreement regarding a student expulsion from school attendance for the remainder of the 2000-2001 school year and for provision of an educational program for a junior high school student in compliance with School Board Policy #233: Pupils – Suspension and Expulsion.

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

NAY: None (0)

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Rod Snyder – Washington Township – He asked for a copy of the financial analysis from Arthurs LeStrange & Co.

Janet Kern – Commented, as a teacher in the district, not as President of the Northern Lehigh Education Association, that she supports Dr. Sham in his quest to be superintendent of Northern Lehigh School District. Her working relationship and experiences with Dr. Sham over the years has been good. She welcomes the opportunity to work with him as superintendent of the district.

Clifford Logue – Informed the board that a representative of the Northern Lehigh Youth Soccer Association was present at the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President)
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha