

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
May 6, 2002

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, May 6, 2002 in the senior high school auditorium.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

Members absent: Mr. Cox (arrived at 8:10 p.m.), Mrs. Giles (2)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Laurie, Newman, Ms. Pamela Grammes, Mr. Nicholas Sander, Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS

Approximately 25 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer gave a brief report of the CLIU Board of Directors meeting.

Ballots were distributed to all board members to elect CLIU Board Members.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

All board members received copies of the minutes of the Finance Committee meetings held on March 25 and April 22, 2002; the minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on April 4, 2002; and the minutes of Policy/Education Committee meeting held on April 15, 2002.

Mr. Green thanked Mr. Geiger and Dr. Sham for sending out the Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting agenda in advance. He felt that it would be good for the other committees to try to do this as well.

Student Representatives To The Board Report -- Ms. Pamela Grammes and Mr. Nicholas Sander gave their reports for the month of May.

Solicitor's Report -- Attorney Charles Stopp

Attorney Stopp informed the board of a recent case that was published dealing with a disciplinary hearing and civil rights claims. A copy of the case was provided for the superintendent to review.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos gave a brief legislative report, touching briefly on the state funding for the 2002-2003 budget.

Federal and Other Programs Update -- Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written report and highlighted items within that report.

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

1. Dr. Sham announced the SkillsUSA-VICA District 11 2002 Skills & Leadership gold, silver, and bronze medal winners.
2. Voting ballots were distributed to elect a Lehigh Carbon Community College Trustee At Large.
3. Dr. Sham brought the board up-to-date on the status of The Einstein Academy Charter School.

Executive Session

An Executive Session for personnel and legal issues was held prior to the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the high school faculty room. An Executive Session for personnel issues was held immediately following the meeting.

PERSONNEL

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

Substitutes-
Instructional

Approve to employ the following substitute teacher for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Linda Deurer – Mentally and/or Physically Handicapped

Non-Instructional

Approve the following substitute aide for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:

Jared Scott Case – Instructional Aide

Unpaid Leave
James Bauer

Approve the request of James Bauer to take a two and one half day unpaid leave of absence on May 10 (1/2 day), May 16 and May 17, 2002. He is requesting permission to take these unpaid days in conjunction with his three personal days that will be taken on May 13, 14 and 15, 2002. His request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Resignations-
Instructional

Accept the resignation of Nadeen Boykin, Reading/Language Communication Skills teacher in the middle school, effective August 31, 2002.

Co-Curricular

Accept the resignation of Joseph Tout from his position as Assistant Football Coach for the 2002-2003 school year.

Accept the resignation of Ellen Yenser from her position as Middle School Student Council Advisor at the end of the 2002-2003 school year.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green,
Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conferences

Approve the request of Mark Hoffman and Earl Snyder to attend a Pennsylvania School Business Officials conference in State College, PA on May 8, 2002. Expenses for this conference, entitled "Grounds Management" include \$125.00 each for registration, \$50.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$300.00.

New Board
Policy #622
1st Reading

Approve new board policy #622 – GASB Statement 34, as presented after first reading.

Attendance Of
Non-Resident
Student

Approve to permit a Peters Elementary student, whose parents are moving from the Northern Lehigh School District on May 15, 2002, to remain in attendance for the duration of this school term in accordance with School Board Policy #202.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green,
Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND

A motion was made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of education approve to adopt the textbooks as listed below. Money for these textbooks was included in the 2001-

INSTRUCTION 2002 budget. Sample texts were available for perusal before and after the board meeting.

Title Of Book	Grade Level	Company	Copyright Date
Middle School Math Course 2 SE	Secondary	Prentice Hall	2002
Middle School Math Course 3 SE	Secondary	Prentice Hall	2002
Prentice Hall Algebra 1 SE	Secondary	Prentice Hall	2001
Prentice Hall Algebra 2 SE	Secondary	Prentice Hall	2001
Lial Trigonometry 7 th Ed. SE	Secondary	Prentice Hall	2001
Geometry Pupils Edition	Secondary	McDougal Littell	2001

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green,
Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Mr. Dorshimer inquired as to how his vote with regard to the reconfiguration of the elementary schools could be acknowledged since he was not present at the April 29 meeting when the motion was defeated because of a tie vote. Attorney Stopp indicated that a board member who is not present at a meeting for purposes of voting would be treated as absent for that evening. The vote cannot be counted. The board members at that meeting were authorized to vote. Attorney Stopp indicated that at another meeting or session of the school board the reconfiguration subject could be brought up by anyone from either the prevailing or the non-prevailing side of the vote. Mr. Dorshimer wanted to go on record that this situation will be revisited before the final 2002-2003 budget is drawn up.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve the Eagle Scout Project as proposed by Stephen D. Geiger of Troop 66 Slatington. His project is to remove trash, repair bridges and study areas, and clear and widen the path of the Northern Lehigh School District's Nature Trail. (This project will not only be a benefit to the students of NLSD but also to the residents of the community).

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

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

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

Extended Construction Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented.

FINANCIAL (Con't.)

Walnutport Approve a refund for overpayment of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes for the property owners as listed for the

Tax Refund	month of May 2002.
Portfolio Summary	Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of March 2002.
Restore Tennis Courts	Approve to employ Pavement Maintenance Contractors, Inc. of Bath, PA to restore the district's tennis courts at a cost of \$9,436.00. Funding for this project will be taken from the Capital Reserve Account.
CTC Associates Permission To Bid	Approve to allow CTC Associates and proper school officials to bid for the Closed Circuit TV, Door Entry Monitoring, and Proximity Card Door Access Systems for all buildings. Estimated cost for this project is \$213,640. (Note: This price does not include any door hardware or door strikes that may be necessary to use the door access system, this will be done separately).

Resolution Supporting House Bill No. 621 of 2001

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District are empowered and directed to establish, equip, furnish and maintain schools within the District; and
WHEREAS, the provision of said services requires funding by local taxation or through the state legislature; and
WHEREAS, House Bill No. 621 provides state funding to school districts which enroll students in a program or programs for students with Limited English Proficiency; and
WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District supports legislation which assists local school districts in fulfilling its directives.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Northern Lehigh School District that the President of the Board and Superintendent of Schools issue this Resolution supporting House Bill No. 621 of 2001 providing for payments to school districts with Limited English Proficiency Programs. Further, that this Resolution be forwarded to the District's State Representative(s) and State Senator together with said Resolution being disseminated to other school districts within the Commonwealth.

Adopted by the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors this 6th day of May 2002.

State Subsidy Resolution

WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed Commonwealth Budget for the 2002-3003 fiscal year would increase subsidy for special education by only 1.5%; and
WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA) calculates that the proposed level of funding for special education would be only 47.1%, a decrease from 49.0%; and
WHEREAS, reductions in the portions of special education subsidy paid by the Commonwealth will require increased millage and a greater tax burden on the taxpayers of our six participating districts; and
WHEREAS, the Governor's proposed budget further detracts from the equitability of regular and special education funding in Pennsylvania.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Northern Lehigh School District request that the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Governor adopt a Commonwealth Budget for 2002-2003 which increases the state's share of regular and special education funding across the state and for the Northern Lehigh School District.

Adopted by the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors this 6th day of May 2002.

FINANCIAL (Con't.)

Audit Response	Approve the audit response and corrective action plan to the Auditor General's audit report for the years ending June 30, 1999 and June 30, 2000 as presented.
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- Agreement Of Sponsorship Approve the Agreement of Sponsorship to Attend Another Pennsylvania Community College for Vicki Jacoby, in accordance with the guidelines established under Policy #912. Beginning in the Fall 2002 she will be a fulltime student at Northampton County Community College to pursue her course of study in Dental Hygiene.
- Budgetary Transfers Approve budgetary transfers as presented.
- Sweet, Stevens Tucker & Katz Legal Service Fees Approve the rate of \$110 per chargeable hour for legal services rendered relative to general advice and \$145 per hour for adversarial matters from Sweet, Stevens, Tucker & Katz for the 2002-03 school year. The Northern Lehigh School District is billed on an hourly basis, new fees effective July 1, 2002.
- Ethernet Switches Approve the purchase of Ethernet switches for the middle school from Corporate Networking, Inc. of Worcester, PA at a cost not to exceed \$25,000 and an ATM switch from Qwest Internet Solutions of Philadelphia, PA at a cost not to exceed \$5200. Funds to be taken from the 2001AA bond.
- LCTI Budget Distributed The 2002-2003 Lehigh Career and Technical Institute School Budget was distributed to all board members. Mr. Green requested a 3-5 year historical prospective on Northern Lehigh School District's cost. It was requested that a representative from LCTI be present at the next board meeting for questions.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
- NAY: None (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

Board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on March 18, 2002.

Board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on April 4, 2002.

Board members received a copy of the minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on March 12, 2002.

INFORMATION

Notification has been received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education of their approval for PlanCon Part I: Interim Reporting for the middle school. Copies of these documents and appended materials will be entered into the official minutes of this meeting.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Rockowich reviewed the 2002-2003 tentative budget which was adopted on April 29, 2002.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Eugene Mayberry – Washington Township
Expressed some concerns about the middle school and asked that the board please keep the middle school a priority as they make decisions in attempting to adopt the 2002-2003 budget. "Please don't cut the middle school."

President Fedorcha asked if there was any direction from the board to the administration as to what some suggestions might be to cut the budget to lower the millage rate.

Mrs. Geronikos – Asked the business manager if he had any suggestions as to where budget cuts could be taken from.

Dr. Sham told the board that he needs to know how many mills the board wants to cut from the preliminary budget. He will then give the board a prioritized list of all the cuts that it will take to get to that point.

Mr. Green – Asked for clarification on several items:

1. He asked for solid rational as to why there is a \$102,000 increase in transportation?
2. Why are the payments to the CLIU increased by \$95,000?
3. Why is there a 20% increase in tuition reimbursement?

He also requested a list of high school and middle school courses and the enrollments of those courses.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

A motion was made by Mr.Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha