

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 2, 2008

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:36 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mrs. Sandi L. Young, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mr. Donald H. Dengler (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep.), Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Taylor Trapp (Student Rep.), Mrs. Aileen Yadush, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS Approximately six visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News.

APPROVE MINUTES Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the minutes of the regular school board meetings held on November 3, 2008 and November 10, 2008 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. reported that financially LCCC has improved and there is a little bit of a cushion in their budget. Proposed 2009-2010 budget is a 3.25% increase. Mr. Green stated that Northampton Community College is offering free tuition to some people who are out of work. There has been no talk of this at LCCC but with the economic conditions like they are now, this is the time when people come back to community colleges to pick up credits and gain new skills. He stated that we could be seeing some increases in enrollment in the near future.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the School Board Committee Meeting Calendar for 2009 as presented.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Mrs. Kulp stated that she would serve on the Finance Committee and Sandi Young would serve on the Policy Committee. Sandi Young will serve as the chairperson for the Community Relations Committee and Mrs. Kulp stated that she would serve as the co-chair on the Technology Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Mrs. Geronikos asked if next year the Board could look at moving Board members around to serve on other committees so members do not have to serve on the same committee for four years. They will visit this issue next year.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp that the Board of Education approves the School Board Committee Meeting List for 2009 as presented.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Hartman stated that he attended a PSBA meeting in November at Parkland. The discussion was on legislative platforms for 2009. He stated that Governor Rendell has imposed a hiring freeze at the present time and that he was unaware of this. He further stated the three issues local school districts wanted PSBA to look into was; relief from the prevailing wage and separation act, increase state contributions for special education services and expand waiver from mandates to create more efficient school systems spending of local tax dollars and student achievement.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Michael Showak and Mrs. Taylor Trapp distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber stated that the AFR was submitted and accepted. The auditors were in and completed the single audit. He met with LCCC and their budget has a 3.6% increase. LCTI and CLIU are projecting a 3 ½ to 4% increase. He reminded board members of the finance committee meeting this week and stated discussion will be on auditors suggested changes in the general fund and the tax collectors request letter.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Michael W. Michaels

Mr. Michaels said that Mr. Melber is the district office liaison for the food drive and he is also the contact person for the toys for tots drive.

Mr. Melber is setting up a meeting with the director of LCTI and their business manager to review finances. He is also setting up a meeting with Jack Houser from CLIU#21, Laurie Newman-Mankos and Mr. Michaels to review their budget.

of In November he received a letter from the US Department of Education and PA Department Education stating that the district is in total compliance with IDEA. He commended Laurie Newman-Mankos on the great job she is doing.

Mr. Michaels thanked First Student's mechanic, bus drivers and station chief on their efforts this morning with the bus that caught on fire. The district will be issuing thank you letters to First Student personnel and the local fire departments that responded to the fire.

Mr. Hartman stated that the board was in executive session prior to tonight's regular school board meeting to discuss personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Content Area 720 Coordinators Approve the following list of employees as Content Area Coordinators for the 2008-2009 school year. Stipend for this position is \$1,800 per year and is funded through the Project 720 Grant. This is one of the Project 720 initiatives for the next three years.

Christine Leslie – Science
Renee Evans – English
Stephen Drake – Applied Arts
Erwin Pruztman – Business/Technology

James Yadush – Social Studies
Gregory King – Mathematics
Tanya Simms – Wellness/Fitness (K-12)
Sharon Hunsicker – Special Education

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Substitute- Instructional	Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:		
	Kristin Keiser – Elementary Timothy Noble* - Physics Amy Kresge – Elementary *Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items/Clearances		
Non- Instructional Aides	Approve the following individuals as substitute aides for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:		
	Noel Dimmick* – Clerical Aide Kathy Hughes – Clerical and Teachers Aide Catherine Smith* – Clerical and Teachers Aide *Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items/Clearances		
Cafeteria	Approve the following individuals as substitute cafeteria workers for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:		
	Noel Dimmick* Deborah Kuhns *Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items/Clearances		
Family Medical Leave A. Zeiser	Approve the request of Amy Zeiser, Middle School Special Education Teacher, to take a family medical leave beginning November 3, 2008. Ms. Zeiser needed this time to recover from an injury. She has since returned to work effective November 24, 2008.		
Co-Curricular Volunteers 2009-2010	Robert Sutjak Jr. Amy Zeiser	Assistant Football Coach Assistant Cross Country Coach	
Unpaid Volunteers	Approve the following unpaid volunteer aide in the Slatington Elementary School for the 2008-2009 school year: Kathy Yelinek		
Co-Curricular Appointments 2009-2010	Joe Tout Steve Hluschak Mark Lavine Andrew Lynn Dan Blazosky Mark Hoffman Terry Bowman Alden Farber Jessica Schoenberger Kelly Follweiler Cynthia Fritzinger Dave Oertner Beth Case John Sitaras Candice Longworth	Head Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach-Shared Stipend Asst. Football Coach-Shared Stipend Head Field Hockey Coach Asst. Field Hockey Coach Middle School Field Hockey Coach Head Cross Country Coach Asst. Cross Country Coach Head Boys Soccer Coach Asst. Boys Soccer Coach	\$6,674.73 \$4,337.92 \$4,337.92 \$4,337.92 \$4,337.92 \$4,337.92 \$2,168.96 \$2,168.96 \$3,998.99 \$2,598.86 \$2,547.40 \$3,998.99 \$2,598.86 \$4,824.60 \$2,680.34

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young,
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: Mr. Follweiler (1)

Motion Carried.

POLICY

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:

Homebound Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for an 11th grade student, Student No. 1012600, for 2.5 hours per week, effective November 18, 2008. This student was granted 5 hours per week homebound instruction on

November 7, 2008 and, effective November 18, 2008, the doctor has released the student to return to school for half days. The student will continue on 2.5 hours per week of homebound instruction until full release from the doctor anticipated to be on or about January 13, 2009.

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 12th grade student, Student No. 0990330, for five hours per week, effective November 10, 2008 and continuing until approximately December 15, 2008.

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 10th grade student, Student No. 1103000, for five hours per week, effective November 18, 2008 and continuing until approximately February 15, 2009.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction item:

HS Programs Of Study Book

Approve the High School Program of Studies Book for the 2009-2010 school year as presented and recommended by administration. **(Distributed to Board Members Only)**

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Geronikos talked about the Breakfast with Santa being held at Slatington Elementary School by the Education Foundation on Saturday morning. She further stated that the Education Foundation received a grant for the Bigs and Littles program which will be reinstated this year.

Mr. Williams talked about the PBS reading program offered weekly at Peters. He said it was a wonderful program. His children received free books each week. He thanked the people behind the scenes that work to make these kinds of things available to the students within our district.

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the December 8, 2008 regular school board meeting be canceled.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: Mr. Green (1)

Ms. Trapp stated that the high school is having a winter clothing drive from December 15th – 19th. Used clothing can be dropped off at any district building.

/High School Assistant Principal. The Board stated that this issue will be dealt with in January.

Mrs. Geronikos stated that she feels the assistant principal position is something that needs to be acted on early in January because she is concerned that there is some stuff not getting dealt with because the buildings are without an assistant principal. Mr. Williams stated that he feels

**NEW
BUSINESS
(cont.)**

most of the Board members know how they are going to vote on this issue and if they don't already know then what information are they looking for. He feels the Board should make a plan of attack and deal with making this decision because currently he feels the Board is just not dealing with this issue and he has a concern with that. Mrs. Geronikos agreed and stated that she is ready to make a decision tonight. Mr. Green stated that he is not ready to vote on this issue. He has made up his mind but was not prepared to make a statement tonight because he did not bring along the information that the high school and middle school administration prepared for the Board. He would like to further review that information and be prepared to make a presentation when this issue comes for a vote.

Mr. Michaels said that a few weeks back he stated that he would be willing to talk about this issue in January. He also has some concerns that he wants to share at the Finance Committee Meeting this week. He further stated that he is feeling pressure from some that if he says the district is in need of the transition assistant principal that he is anti-taxpayer and if he says that there is no need for the transition assistant principal that he is anti-education. He stated that this is going to be a tough decision. He stated that how a Board member votes does not mean they are anti-education or anti-taxpayer.

FINANCIAL

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

Abatements/
Exonerations Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

Financial
Reports Approve the Following Financial Reports:
General Fund month of June 2008 – Final Audited Report
NLMS Student Activities Account month of October
NLHS Student Activities Account months of October

Payment Of
Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:
General Fund month of November
Cafeteria Fund month of November
Athletic Fund month of November
Refreshment Stand Fund month of November

2008-2009
District Salary
Schedule Approve the 2008-2009 Northern Lehigh District Salary Schedule as presented.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,
Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)
NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

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

Appointment
School Board
Solicitor Approve to appoint the law firm of Steckel & Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh
District for 2009 at a retainer fee of \$1,875.00. There is no increase over last year's fee.

Steckel &
Stopp YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,
Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)
NAY: None (0)

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 20, 2008 was distributed.

**CORR-
ESPON-
DENCE**

Mr. Williams stated that the Board received a thank you card from Peters Elementary staff members for the cake they received for American Education Week. Mr. Williams also received information from PSBA on new bus idling regulations. Mrs. Ganser stated that all Board members received the CLIU Board Briefs.

Mr. Green asked if the committee meetings for this week are still being held. Mr. Michaels stated that they would be held.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman