

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
May 9, 2011

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 9, 2011 in the Middle School Auditorium.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Natalie J. Green, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Ms. Heather Heiney (Student Rep.), Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mr. Justin Molitoris (Student Rep.), Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Paul Rearden, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Ms. Mary Kay Williamson and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

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

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on April 11, 2011 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha reported the minutes from the meeting are attached to the agenda and Board Briefs are at your seat.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported the House Finance Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow to consider HB1326. This is the Bill that will eliminate all exceptions to the Act 1 index. The Senate voted 48-2 to pass a Bill which will increase penalties to violations to Sunshine Act to \$1,000 for 1st offense and \$2,000 for 2nd offense. That fine is levied against the individual not against the district. Lastly, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved Senate Bill 612 which would allow School Boards to furlough professional employees for economic reasons.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. reported the Foundation for the community college held their clay shoot fundraiser which raised \$35,000.00 for their scholarship fund.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on May 4, 2011 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on May 4, 2011 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Justin Molitoris and Ms. Heather Heiney distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS
(cont.)

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas shared with the Board that she received a letter from Community Services for Children stating that although they had recently advised the district they would be willing to continue the Pre-K Head Start Program at Peters Elementary for the 2011-2012 school year without financial support from the district, they have now decided that they would not be able to continue with this venture.

Mr. Williams asked if the district has evaluated the cost to run the program without supplying transportation. Mr. Williams stated that this is an extremely successful and instrumental program in the district over the past 6 years and he feels this merits discussion amongst the Board before we decide to just discontinue offering this program.

Mrs. Nicholas stated the Accountability Block Grant covered \$65,000.00 for classroom expenses and there was an additional \$25,000.00 for transportation.

Mrs. Green asked if there was not a Head Start Program available in our district, are our residents allowed to go to a Head Start Program in another area.

Mrs. Nicholas stated they are eligible to attend another Head Start Program and there is a program at LCTI, but there is no transportation involved and parents must transport their students.

Mrs. Green asked if in the past all students that attended the Head Start Program at Peters Elementary used the transportation service and do we have numbers on how many students were enrolling in the program for next year.

Mrs. Nicholas stated that all students were transported to Peters Elementary in the past and to her knowledge next years program is fully enrolled and there is a waiting list.

Mr. Hartman asked if in other bigger districts Community Services for Children will continue to run the programs there.

Mrs. Nicholas stated that they will continue to fund the program in Allentown School District as well as Bethlehem School District. She stated that she believes there are 175 students in the program within those districts.

Mr. Williams stated that our relationship with Community Services for Children was unique in that it was a collaborative between them and the district. The understanding was the program would continue as long as the district was able to help fund half the program.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber stated Governor Corbett's budget will be going to the Appropriations Committee in the House. The Republican controlled Appropriations Committee is going to be increasing the basic education subsidy amount for all school districts to at least the 2008-2009 levels. It doesn't mean any more money for Northern Lehigh because our subsidy is already above the 2008-2009 levels. We are also hearing that the

Appropriations
Grant which
Committee does

Committee will be putting \$100,000,000.00 back into the Accountability Block equated roughly to about \$139,000.00 for next year. If the Appropriations approve it, Governor Corbett must sign off on it.

Mr. Melber stated the 2011-2012 school district proposed budget is on the agenda for approval this evening. Once approved this evening it will be locked in at a 0% increase, no economic furloughs, no salary freezes and no major program cuts. Mr. Melber addressed the board concerning particular line items within the budget.

Mr. Williams asked if we do see a restoration of \$139,000.00 for the Accountability Block Grant funds, he would like that money to be put in to restore the Pre-K Head Start Program assuming Community Services for Children is still willing to fund their half of the program.

Mr. Melber stated that one problem with that is we are still losing \$348,000 in the ABG from funding received last year and a big chunk of that money was paying for full day kindergarten which will now have to come out of the general fund money. He stated that these are just early numbers that we are receiving and we are not even sure that Governor Corbett will go along with any recommendations from the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. Williams stated that up until this evening he agreed with what was being said but with the loss of this program, he can not agree with the statement, "no significant program cuts" because from his stand point, cutting of the Pre-K Head Start Program is a major program cut and will have a **SPECIAL** negative budgetary impact on this district moving forward. If the ABG in restored, why wouldn't **BOARD** we want to save a program that was as successful as this program has been.

REPORTS

(cont.)

tight budget.

current

2011-2012

be severely

does believe that we

by getting 40% of grant

early projection and we

will probably not be

divided up across all school

Mr. Melber said that our budget is underweighted in Charter School and Special Education costs already. He didn't put significant increases in there because we do not know what the projections are going to be next year and because we do not want to over inflate an already very Our Charter School Budget for secondary education is budgeted at \$60,000.00 for this year and we are approaching \$100,000.00. We did increase that budget slightly in the school year however, with Charter School Reimbursements going away we could be under budgeted by anywhere from \$100,000-\$150,000 under next year. He have growth other places to offset a deficit if that would occur however, money back, we were cut over \$1,000,000.00. This \$139,000.00 is an really are not sure how much we will be getting back. He's guessing we getting the full \$139,000.00 back when all the numbers are run and districts.

Mrs. Kulp stated that she understands where Mr. Williams is coming from but she is concerned about getting the most bang for our bucks and she feels that will come by investing that money into the full day kindergarten program which will effect more students.

Mrs. Green stated that the district is very fortunate in that we were able to keep our full day kindergarten program where many school districts had to cut the program.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Michael W. Michaels

Mr. Michaels stated that May 2-6 was National Teacher Appreciation Week and he thanked them for the wonderful job they do with the students in our district.

Mr. Michaels stated that today he received a phone call from a State Senator in York PA asking questions about how we do business in Northern Lehigh and then a little while later we received a phone call from the Governor's Office. The Governor's Office wanted to commend the School Board, Business Manager, Faculty and Staff of Northern Lehigh for getting it right with the budget. The Governor will be sitting down this week with Mr. Michaels and Mr. Melber to talk about how the budget was put together.

Mr. Michaels stated that he is most pleased with Northern Lehigh. We still have a great number of issues that we have to work out. We have to figure out if we get any money back form the Governor, where are we going to put it to get the biggest bang for our kids. In talking to the Governor's Office he did make it very clear that we are still under funded.

Mr. Hartman reported that an executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Family
Medical
Leaves

Approve the request of employee #2630 to take a Family Medical Leave beginning on or about June 8, 2011. Employee plans to return to current teaching position upon release from their attending physician on or about August 22, 2011.

Approve the request of employee #4930 to take a Family Medical Leave beginning on May 16, 2011. The employee will be using ten accumulated sick days in conjunction with the Family Medical Leave. Employee's intention is to return to their current teaching position upon medical release from their attending physician.

Approve the request of employee #3655 to take a Family Medical Leave beginning on May 18, 2011. The employee will be using accumulated sick days, emergency days and

vacation days in conjunction with the Family Medical Leave. Employee's intention is to return to their current position upon medical release from their attending physician.

PERSONNEL

(cont.)

Retirements
K. Heiser Accept the retirement resignation of Kathleen Heiser from her position as High School Library Aide, effective the end of the work day, June 17, 2011. At this time she will begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after 20 years of service.

Substitute
Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year at the 2010-2011 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Debra Lakatosh – Spanish & French
Amber Kuntz* – Elementary & Special Education
Kaitlin Parlman – General Science

***Pending verification of missing personnel file items**

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Approve the recommendation of the administration that, effective August 29, 2011, school lunch prices are increased as follows:

Elementary Schools – from \$2.10 to \$2.15
Middle School & High School – from \$2.35 to \$2.40
Adult Lunches – from \$3.80 to \$3.85

Mrs. Kulp stated that the Board of Education is not looking to increase the cost of our student lunches; we are being mandated by the State to do this.

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

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items including the appointment of Mrs. Donna Kulp as Treasurer for the 2011-2012 school year .

Financial
Reports Approve the Following Financial Reports:
 General Fund March & April 2011
 NLMS Student Activities Account month of April 2011
 NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Acct for the month of April 2011

List Of
Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:
 General Fund month of April & May 2011
 Cafeteria Fund month of April 2011
 Athletic Fund month of April 2011
 Refreshment Stand month of April 2011
 Construction Fund month of April 2011

Supplemental
Salary
Schedule Approve the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule for the 2011-2012 school year as presented.

Sweet, Stevens, Williams & Katz, LLP Approve to appoint Sweet, Stevens, Williams & Katz, LLP as special counsel for the 2011-2012 school year. The hourly rate for non-routine matters will be \$185.00 per hour. The rate for routine or general advice will be \$140.00 per hour. There is no increase over last year's rates.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

Sports Physicals Co-payment Approve the co-payment amount for student athletes receiving a sports physical from OAA during the 2011-2012 school year at a cost of \$5.00 per student in accordance with school board policy #122.

Western Pest Services Agreement Approve a three year service agreement (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2014) with Western Pest Services for pest control service at all 4 buildings in the amount of \$255.00 per month for years one and two (\$3,060.00 per year) and \$265.00 per month for year three (\$3,180.00).

Election of Treasurer Election of a Treasurer for the 2011-2012 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 2011-2012 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

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

NAY: None (0)

**CORR-ESPON-
DENCE**

Mr. Williams received a letter from PSERS stating that if anyone is interested in getting elected to be the School Board Member Representative on that Board they should let Mr. Williams know.

Mr. Williams stated that PlanCon I was reviewed and approved by PDE.

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on March 23, 2011.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Board of Directors meeting held on March 21, 2011.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on March 3, 2011.

**ADOPTION
OF
PROPOSED
FINAL
of
BUDGET
FOR
2011-2012**

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the proposed final budget and legal notices as presented:

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopts the proposed general fund final budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2011-2012 school year in the amount of \$28,537,458.00.

The preliminary budget is adopted with a 0 mill increase for Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

Legal Notice

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

Joann Ahner – Township Secretary
Washington Township Municipal Building
PO Box 27, Slatedale, PA 18079
610-767-8108

**ADOPTION
OF
PROPOSED
FINAL
BUDGET
FOR
2011-2012
(cont.)**

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

Joan Cheesbrough – Assistant Secretary
125 South Walnut Street
Slatington, PA 18080
610-767-2131

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,
Mr. Hartman (7)
NAY: Mr. Green (1)
Motion carried.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman