

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA
January 8, 2007**

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter A. Ruth, at 7:33 p.m. on Monday, January 8, 2007 in the boardroom of Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (9)

Members absent: (0)

Non-members present: Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Rachel Parisi, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

VISITORS

Approximately twenty-one visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News.

Mr. Ruth stated that on January 3, 2007 they had an executive session to discuss personnel and negotiation reasons and they also had one prior to this evenings meeting.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Bill Turk – Walnutport would like to comment on the budget after it is discussed.

**APPROVE
MINUTES**

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on December 20, 2006 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles stated that LCTI has passed their budget for the 2007-2008 school year. She reported that Northern Lehigh's share has come down approximately \$3,800.00 from last year and this is because of a price increase in our market value and East Penn and Parkland had an influx of students attending LCTI.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. reported that the enrollment at the community college is up from last year. He stated that we also have 57 students enrolled in the dual enrollment. He said that because of these extra students there will be an increase to Northern Lehigh's share of the Lehigh Carbon Community College budget. He stated that last month he was assigned as a committee chairman.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Nathan Hunsicker and Ms. Rachael Parisi distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Mr. Green asked if Sunday night games is okay with policy.

Dr. Sham stated that it is within the guidelines of the policy.

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha reported on the Health e Tools grant and then asked for a motion for approval to enter into an agreement with Highmark for the grant. She outlined the supplies and equipment we would receive after entering into the agreement with Highmark and the educational requirements we must fulfill.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

She reported that Mr. Green stated there were 57 students taking part in dual enrollment, that was for the fall semester. We have a total of 83 students participating in both fall and spring semesters. Many of the students have enrolled in more than one course. The dual enrollment grant is going to enable us to reimburse parents half the cost of tuition for each course taken and a percentage on the text books. She also reported that during the fall semester we had 3 students attending classes at Lehigh University and 2 students at DeSales University and these students were tuition free since they are apart of a scholarship program provided by those universities. The dual enrollment grant for 2007-2008 is due February 15, 2007 and they are looking at adding some courses.

She is also looking for board support to allow us to participate in an on-line college application and exploration system called ConnectEDU. She said that this system is for high school guidance counselors and administrators to help students and families search for, apply to and pay for college. The service is being provided at no cost to participating LCCC districts.

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed the Adequate Yearly Progress Report for 2006.

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

Dr. Sham thanked Mrs. Fedorcha and staff for helping push us towards meeting adequate yearly progress.

Dr. Sham stated that at the board retreat the board had the opportunity to view the budget for the first time. He wants the board and the public to keep in mind that this budget you will see and the process you are going to hear about is far different from anything else we have every gone through regarding a budget process. He discussed the constraints under Act I that we must operate under. He said what he eventually wants the board to approve is a tactical process that will allow the greatest amount of flexibility for the district and allow this board to do what they need to do. He then introduced Mrs. Blank to present the budget to the board and public.

Mrs. Blank outlined the preliminary budget process and how it has changed. The timeframe for adoption of a preliminary budget was explained. She said that after the submission of the preliminary budget the board is allowed to make changes to the budget and that the board is not allowed to increase millage. She stated that the purpose of the preliminary budget is to submit to PDE for approval of the maximum millage increase allowed under Act I for our district. This is the maximum we are allowed without going to referendum. Once we know the maximum, we know the maximum amount of revenue we can have and therefore the highest possible amount expenditures can be. She said that we may not need all that revenue but we will know going in how much we have and how much our expenditures can be. She further explained the calculations for maximum allowable millage, how exceptions will play a part, and our district's exceptions. She then explained two methods for finding our maximum allowable millage and the revenue budget with that method's maximum allowable millage method used.

Mrs. Blank continued to explain the timeline we are up against. January 23, 2007 we must advertise and display a preliminary budget in PDE 2028 format and by February 15, 2007 we must adopt a preliminary budget. She said that this is a tight timeframe and they need to know that this is a preliminary budget, not a final budget. The purpose of a preliminary budget is for PDE to establish the maximum allowable millage rate. The only importance is for PDE expenditures have on submission of the budget is that revenues must support expenditures. Mrs. Blank's recommendation is that she submits a preliminary budget that is very similar to what she has prepared this evening. She feels this is the only way to preserve the district's ability to adopt a final budget with a tax increase that is needed. She also agrees that this is a very tactical move. It allows us our maximum revenue and then we can look at expenditures and then adjust our revenues to where they need to be. This recommendation is also being made by Barbara Nelson from the Division of Subsidy and Data of PDE.

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

Substitutes - Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute teacher rates of \$80.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$105.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Andrew Kern*
Justina Reph**

***Pending Emergency Certification Verification.**

****Pending verification of health physical.**

Non-Instructional Approve the following individuals as substitute cafeteria workers for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Colleen Egan*
Rebecca Herring
Veena Barnett**

***Pending verification of health physical.**

****Pending verification of clearances.**

Approve the following individuals as substitute secretaries/aides for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Colleen Egan*
Rebecca Herring

***Pending verification of health physical.**

Salary Adjustments Acknowledge the following teachers who have completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the second half of the 2006-2007 school year:

Tara Balliet
From: Step 5B
To: Step 5B + 24*

Julie Fehnel
From: Step 4B + 24
To: Step 4M*

*** This salary adjustment represents a lateral move from Bachelors to Bachelors + 24 or Bachelors + 24 to Master's on the 2005-2006 Collective Bargaining pay schedule. They will not move to the next step until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.**

Co-Curricular Appts. 2006-2007 Eric Schmidt SADD Advisor \$ 515.15*

***2005-2006 NLEA Co-Curricular rates will apply until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.**

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

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

Allentown, Jane Kutney* – Increase Your Students' Reading Fluency – February 5, 2007 – PA – Registration: \$185.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$185.00 – Funding: C & I Budget

CONFERENCE
(cont.)

Dawn Wadsworth – NASP Responsiveness: The Fourth "R" – March 27 - 31, 2007 – New York, NY – Registration: \$429.00, Meals: \$120.00, Lodging: \$900.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$1,449.00 – Funding: Psychologist Budget

Maria Pinnata – NASP Responsiveness: The Fourth "R" – March 27 - 31, 2007 – New York, NY – Registration: \$529.00, Meals: \$120.00, Travel: \$250.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$899.00 – Funding: Psychologist Budget

Linda Marcincin – The Master Schedule Building Workshop – February 12 & 13, 2007 – Reading, PA – Registration: \$400.00, Lodging: \$133.00, Travel: \$43.61, – Meals: \$25.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$601.61 – Funding: Slatington Elementary School Budget

*** Due to a possible work stoppage, registration for these conferences will not take place until the last week in January.**

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Homebound Instruction It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 9th Grade Student, Student No.1090062, for five hours per week, effective January 3, 2007 and continuing until January 19, 2007.

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 10th Grade Student, Student No. 981450, for five hours per week, effective January 8, 2007 and continuing until January 19, 2007

Field Trip HS Bio & Anatomy High School Honors Bio II & Anatomy Classes – Franklin Institute "Heart Experience" – February 15, 2007 – Funded by students.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

Highmark Health e Tolls Grant Approve administration to enter into an agreement with Highmark for Health e Tools for Schools, at no cost to the district.

ConnectEdu Agreement Approve administration to enter into an agreement with ConnectEdu, at no cost to the district.

Dual Enrollment 2007-2008 Accept the recommendation of the administration to approve the course proposal between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Lehigh Carbon Community College for three (3) dual enrollment classes to be added to the high school program of studies effective for the 2007-2008 academic year.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,

Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves the following new business items:

State Ethics Commission

The Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors designates Sherri A. Molitoris to receive and file Form SEC-1, Statement of Financial Interests from the Northern Lehigh School District Board members and designated employees as required by law, and the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors requires: the Superintendent, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of Special Education, Business Manager, Director of Support Services, District Solicitor, Elementary Principals, Middle School Principal, High School/Middle School Assistant Principal, High School Principal, Technology Coordinator, Assistant Technology Coordinator, Food Services Director, and School Psychologists to file Form SEC-1, as required by the regulations of the State Ethics Commission.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

Slatington Borough Parks and Recreation Board Liaison

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves the ratification of Slatington Borough's appointment of Jodi Nestor as the Parks and Recreation liaison to the Northern Lehigh School

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

Advertise Preliminary Budget

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education approve to advertise the preliminary budget listing both methods as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Turk – Walnutport Borough thanked Mrs. Blank for her presentation of the budget. He commented on electing to go with method 2 for Walnutport Borough and the impact that would have on Walnutport Borough residents. He commented on the refund that Walnutport residents received years ago from calculations that were done incorrectly. He stated that Northampton County Walnutport with method 2 would be assessed at 66 mills. He feels that with that kind of increase the board would go overboard with expenditures. He suggested changing the health plan to not cost the district as much. His biggest concern as a tax payer is the teachers deserve partly what they get. He stated that spouses of employees of the district who have insurance elsewhere but not as good elect to go on the school district insurance and then the tax payers are paying for everyone. He does not mind paying for someone that works here but does not feel he needs to pay for people working elsewhere when insurance is available to them at their employment. He wants to know what percentage of teachers that work in the school district live here. The ones that do not live in our district don't have to pay the taxes we pay here.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Greg Reph – Slatington Borough wanted to know when is the final date that we have to decide on method 1 or method 2. He stated that he deals with the real estate business and people don't want to move into our district because of the taxes and people are moving out because of the taxes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Turk – Walnutport Borough asked if the budget increase amount stated on page 11 of the preliminary budget includes a settlement with the teachers.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
 NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

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

Mrs. Ganser amended her original motion to approve items A – F which was seconded by Mr. Green.

Financial Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund month of December
2. Athletic Fund month of December
3. Cafeteria Fund month of December
4. NLHS Student Activities Account month of December
5. NLHS Scholarship Account month of December

Payment of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of December and January
2. Athletic Fund month of January
3. Cafeteria Fund month of January

Abatement/
Exonerations
Per Capita

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

CLIU
Operational
Budget
is 2007-2008

Approve a resolution regarding the 2007-2008 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Operational and Program Services budget. Total expenditures equal \$2,133,892.00 an increase of \$194,776.00 (10.04%) over the 2006-2007 budget. Northern Lehigh's share proposed to be \$18,688.00 an increase of \$632.00 from the 2006-2007 budget.

LCTI
General Fund
Budget
2007-2008

The Lehigh Career & Technical Institute has approved a general fund budget for the 2007-2008 school year totaling \$19,845,720.00 (an increase of \$636,177.00 or 3.3%). Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2007-2008 general fund budget is \$792,910.34. LCTI will present a separate budget for the Academic Center after its adoption by the JOC on May 23, 2007.

2005-2006
Single Audit,
EIT & OPT
Reports

Accept the 2005-2006 audit and management report for the single audit and the audit and management report for the earned income tax and occupational privilege tax offices period ending March 31, 2006. Copies of the audits were distributed at the December 6, 2006 Finance Committee meeting.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
 NAY: None (0)

High School
Gymnasium
Sound
System

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education accept the bids for replacement of the Sound System – High School Gymnasium at a cost of \$12,805.00 to Communication Systems Incorporated.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
 NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

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

Advertise
Legal
Notice

Authorize the superintendent to place a legal notice for a public hearing to be held on February 12, 2007 concerning the Act I Tax Study Commissions recommended referendum question.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

**CORR-
ESPON-
DENCE**

Mr. Dorshimer mentioned a letter that he received concerning the use of private delinquent tax collectors.

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 7, 2006 were distributed.

**RECOG-
possible
NITION
OF
GUESTS**

Chip Klocek – Washington Township referenced the letter that went out concerning a teachers strike and the message that was being sent that sporting events would still continue while a strike was going on. Feels this sends a bad message that sports is more important then education.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (9)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Peter A. Ruth