

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**February 8, 2010**

**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, February 8, 2010 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (7)

Members absent: Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (2)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael W. Michaels, Mr. Justin Molitoris (Student Rep.), Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Paul Rearden, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Taylor Trapp (Student Rep.), Ms. Mary Kay Williamson, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

**VISITORS** Approximately five 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. Geronikos, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on January 11, 2010 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Donald H. Dengler reported two new members joined the Board of Directors, one from Southern Lehigh and one from Whitehall-Coplay. They also had a tribute to an employee who had passed away.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos reported LCTI Financial and Compliance Audit was clean. She further stated that state funding while favorable for school districts was not for LCTI. Money was taken away from LCTI and given to school districts. She stated that there is going to be a 5.81% increase this year at LCTI but in future years the increase will be much more. Law dictates that LCTI's fund balance is based on the size of the school. Currently LCTI can only have a fund balance of \$250,000. Fund balance is normally used as insurance incase something goes wrong. They are not allowed to have a large fund balance so therefore they must rely on the districts to keep them going financially. She feels this is the last year that district's will see an increase from LCTI as little at 5.81%. She stated that Northern Lehigh had many winners at the Skills USA Competition.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams stated that the Governor will be presenting his final state budget tomorrow at 11:30. He stated he read a recent article from a Minnesota Governor stated that state administration is looking into and considering withholding nearly 1 billion dollars in state aide payment to school district for education basically to use as cash flow for the state so they do not have to borrow money or raise taxes. They will withhold the subsidy payment for education which will cause school districts to use their reserve to operate. He is concerned with the state currently using federal stimulus money in the state budget and what will happen in two years when the federal stimulus money is gone.

**Committee Reports and/or Meetings**

Minutes of the Technology Buildings and Grounds Committee Meetings held on February 3, 2010 were distributed.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings held on February 3, 2010 was distributed.  
Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp reported that Lehigh County Commissioners asked the county solicitor to invite all school district and municipal solicitors to attend their meeting on the topic of tax assessments. The purpose of the meeting was to announce a change in the counties procedure. Previously, if a tax payer would file an appeal claiming their assessment was to high the county would take the lead. Once they were done evaluating the claim they would contact the school district, township or borough with the proposed settlement. The county is feeling the pressure fiscally as is everyone else. He suspects they are changing their procedures to export some of the cost back to the district and municipalities. The county has announced that they will try to negotiate settlements in the beginning. If the county does negotiate settlements, they will send out a bill based upon the relevant millages. He senses they may not put as much effort into it as they have in the past. The county is overwhelmed with appeals currently. Northern Lehigh had a hand full of assessment appeals last year. In the unusual event where there are numerous tax assessment appeals and the school board would like to take charge of the appeals, they can. The county will still be available for information but the county solicitor will not be involved.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas talked about tomorrow night's How to Study Workshop. She also talked about the new Standards Align System. It is a portal on the PDE website that allows teachers to look at standards, assessment, curriculum, framework, materials, resources and more.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber distributed the Single Audit Report ending June 30, 2009, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Performance Audit Report, 2010-2011 LCTI General Fund and Academic Center Budget and the 2010-2011 LCCC Operating, Debt Service and Capital Expenditures Budget. Mr. Melber stated that Mrs. Geronikos talked about the increase at LCTI which means approximately a \$50,000 increase in our budget. Northern Lehigh will see an increase of \$608 in our LCCC budget. These items will all be on next months board agenda for approval. Next month he will have rough numbers on our district budget. The Board has passed a resolution that states we will not exceed our state index of 4% which equals 2.5 mils. He stated that we will not exceed or even come close to that number. He stated that a big concern is our 20% increase in health coverage this year and an anticipated 15% increase next year. The consortium is sending out an RFP for health insurance coverage. He stated when we see a 20% increase in the district's health care coverage and then it is also applied to LCCC, CLIU & LCTI more of an increase is passed onto the districts. In the 2010-2011 school district budget we are seeing a \$700,000 increase in salary and benefit budget which equates to 3 ½ mils. He stated that the district is ahead of the game because he only budgeted a 2% increase in basic education subsidy last year and the district did receive an 8% increase. Next month he will have a rough preliminary budget to give to the Board to see where we are and what type of a millage increase for the district. CLIU's budget is on the agenda tonight for approval.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michaels stated that Board and Committee Meetings beginning in August 2010 will be held in the middle school because of the renovations at Slatington Elementary.

Mr. Michaels stated that last week district personnel started cleaning out the warehouse. There were very few items that could be salvaged.

He stated that last week was National School Counseling week. He acknowledged the wonderful counseling staff that we have at Northern Lehigh. He thanked them for their hard work with our staff and students.

Mr. Michaels talked about Race To The Top. He stated that it looked good on paper but would cost us more money in the long run and would not help us educationally. The Board of Education

unanimously decided not to sign onto that program. The superintendent and the teacher's association also did not sign onto the program. He further stated that we have great teachers and an excellent administrative team and he thinks the Race To The Top is not the way to go for our district. He thanked them all for their unified approach to this program.

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

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

Appointment- Instructional	Deborah Magnotta Assignment:  Salary:  Effective: Termination Date:	Temporary Vacancy Replacement Slatington Elementary Title I Reading Teacher replacing teacher who was granted a family medical leave Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30; Day 31 and beyond \$41,500 prorated (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2009-2010 CBA Salary Schedule) On or About March 5, 2010 Upon Exhaustion of Teacher's 12 Week Leave (approx. June 1, 2010)
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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 2009-2010 school year:

Amanda Bashore  
From: Step 5B + 24  
To: Step 5M

Michael Mengel  
From: Step 7B + 24  
To: Step 7M

Resignations/  
Retirement  
J. James Accept the retirement resignation of Jean James from her position as cafeteria worker at the middle school, effective the last day of school, June 2010. At this time she will begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after 26½ years of service.

H. Kline Accept the resignation of Harold Kline from his position as second shift maintenance worker, Tuesday through Friday, effective the end of the work day, February 6, 2010. Mr. Kline has accepted a position with Lehigh County.

P. Eible Accept the resignation of Paul Eible from his position as a personal care assistant at Peters Elementary, effective the end of the work day, February 11, 2010. Mr. Eible is leaving because of educational obligations.

C. Lutz Accept the resignation of Christine Lutz from her position as instructional aide at Slatington Elementary, effective the end of the work day, February 9, 2010. Mrs. Lutz accepted a position with Lehigh Valley Hospital.

R. Druker Accept the resignation of Rebecca Druker from her position as assistant girl's varsity soccer coach.

Co-Curricular Appointments 2009-2010	Fred Wagner	Asst. Girl's Soccer Coach	\$2,680.34
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Co-Curricular Appointments 2010-2011	Joe Tout Steve Hluschak Mark Lavine Andrew Lynn Dan Blazosky Mark Hoffman	Head Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach Asst. Football Coach	\$6,674.73* \$4,337.92* \$4,337.92* \$4,337.92* \$4,337.92* \$4,337.92*
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	Terry Bowman	Asst. Football Coach-Shared Stipend	\$2,168.96*
	Christopher Jones	Asst. Football Coach-Shared Stipend	\$2,168.96*
	Jessica Frew	Head Field Hockey Coach	\$3,998.99*
	Kelly Follweiler	Asst. Field Hockey Coach	\$2,598.86*
	Cynthia Fritzing	Middle School Field Hockey Coach	\$2,547.40*
<b><u>PERSONNEL</u></b>	Dave Oertner	Head Cross Country Coach	\$3,998.99*
<b>(cont.)</b>	Beth Case	Asst. Cross Country Coach	\$2,598.86*
	John Sitaras	Head Boy's Soccer Coach	\$4,824.60*
	Rebecca Druker	Asst. Boy's Soccer Coach	\$2,680.34*

**\*2009-2010 salaries will apply until a new collective bargaining agreement is approved.**

Co-Curricular	Alden Farber	Assistant Football Coach
Volunteers	Bob Sutjak, Jr.	Assistant Football Coach
2010-2011	James Tkach	Assistant Football Coach
	Sarah Arndt	Assistant Field Hockey Coach
	Amy Zeiser	Assistant Cross Country Coach

Substitute-  
Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2009-2010 school year at the 2009-2010 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Jared Case – Elementary  
Christi Dengler\* – Elementary  
Ashley Krutsick – Elementary Middle Level Math  
Charley Ortiz\* - Elementary  
Angela Trainer\* – Elementary  
Joshua Wuchter\* – Elementary

**\*Pending verification of missing paperwork.**

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,  
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

### **CONFER- ENCES**

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

Karen Nicholas – 41<sup>st</sup> PAPFC Annual Conference – March 21-24, 2010 – Hershey Resorts, Hershey, PA – Registration: \$360.00, Lodging: \$535.59, Travel: \$35.00, Meals: \$66.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$996.59 – Funding: Title I

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,  
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

### **POLICY**

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

Board Policy  
First Reading Approve PSBA recommended school board policy #113 – Programs – Special Education, as presented after first reading. This policy will replace the districts current policy #113.

Board Approve to reaffirm the school board standards and code of conduct referenced in school

Governance  
Standards/  
Code of  
Conduct board policy #011 - Local Board Procedures – Board Governance Standards/Code of Conduct as recommended by the Pennsylvania School Board Association.

Disposal of  
District  
Property Authorize administration to dispose of old text books according to school district board policy #706.1.

Authorize administration to dispose of old computer equipment according to school district board policy #706.1

Field Trips PA 5th Grade – Slatington Elementary School – State Museum & Capital Building, Harrisburg, – June 10, 2010 – Funded through PTO and student fundraising efforts

Upper Level German Classes – High School – Ellis Island, New York – February 20, 2010 – Funding: Northern Lehigh Education Foundation Grant

**POLICY**  
**(cont.)**

Anatomy & Biology II Classes – High School – Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, PA – February 24, 2010 – Funded through students and department

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**NEW**  
**BUSINESS**

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

Clerical Agreement Approve the new Salary and Benefit Agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Northern Lehigh Clerical Staff.

Confidential Secretary Agreement Approve the new Compensation Agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent.

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (5)

NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha (2)

Motion Carried.

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial Reports Approve the Following Financial Reports:  
General Fund July – December 2009  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of January  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Acct for the month of January

List Of Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund month of January  
Capital Reserve Fund month of January  
Cafeteria Fund month of January  
Athletic Fund month of January  
Refreshment Stand Fund month of January

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

Advertise Summer Help Allow administration to advertise and hire six (6) summer workers. The rate for the summer workers will not exceed \$9.00 per hour.

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2010-2011 Budget Approve a resolution regarding the 2010-2011 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Operational and Program Services budget. Total expenditures equal \$2,388,072.00 an increase of \$174,643.00 (7.89%) over the 2009-2010 budget. Northern Lehigh's share is proposed to be \$19,714.00 an increase of \$556.00 from the 2009-2010 budget. A copy of the budget was distributed at the January 11, 2010 school board meeting.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Williams stated that Mrs. Ganser has informed the Board that she is taking some college classes working towards a degree and unfortunately some of those classes are scheduled on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

**INFOR-  
MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 3, 2009 was distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on December 9, 2009 was distributed.

**INFOR-  
MATION**  
**(cont.)**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on December 21, 2009 was distributed.

**RECOG-  
NITION OF  
GUESTS**

Gregory and Lori Harakal – Washington Township – addressed the Board concerning their daughter and the high school girl's basketball program and coach.

Mr.

The Board listened to their concerns and told them it was being taken under consideration. Michaels stated that he is not in the habit nor will he ever tell a coach how many minutes a player should play.

**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 8:12 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Edward E. Hartman