

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special School Board Meeting
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA
April 10, 2017**

PURPOSE

The special school board meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:01 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2017, in the Administration Office Board Room.

Mr. Fedorcha explained that the purpose of the meeting was to interview candidates to fill the board member seat of Edward Hartman, who resigned last month. The person chosen tonight will be seated at the May meeting and will serve until December, 2017. To continue past that time, they will have to be on the ballot in November and fill the remaining two years of that seat.

**VACANT
BOARD
MEMBER
INTERVIEW
DAVID
ROBERTS**

Mr. Fedorcha asked that everyone at the board table introduce themselves.

Mr. Fedorcha asked two questions to the candidate: 1) Why did you not run to be on the ballot in November? Mr. Roberts responded that at the time he was working as an operator and working many hours and he is finally at a point of a more normal 40 hour work week. He stated that he did not want to waste anybody's time and not be able to commit fully to the position.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) Why he was applying for the position now and what makes him the best Candidate? Mr. Roberts explained that he now has the time to commit to the position, he has six children in the district and he is from Slatington and he would like to give back to the community.

Mr. Fedorcha asked if there is anything else he would like to add. Mr. Roberts stated that he is a System Operator for the electrical industry and has experience in public safety, budgetary aspects, staffing, and reducing costs, and he would like to apply those experiences as a board member.

The board thanked Mr. Roberts.

**VACANT
BOARD
MEMBER
INTERVIEW
KRISTIE
WILK**

Mr. Fedorcha asked two questions to the candidate: 1) Why did you not run to be on the ballot in November? Mrs. Wilk stated that she didn't know at the time, but saw there was an opening now and decided she should run again since she ran last March.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) Why she was applying for the position now and what makes her the best candidate? Mrs. Wilk answered that her children are a little bit older now and she has the time to volunteer and would like to serve the community. She added that she has management and human resources experience and is currently working at Northern Valley Emergency Medical Services where she deals with conflict resolution and believes her experiences will be helpful on the board. She stated that she would be the best candidate because of her experience in human resources, she is a good listener, and not impulsive with decisions. She added that she cares about the community, has five children in the district, and her own children are doing well in the district and she would like to see other children do as well.

**VACANT
BOARD
MEMBER
INTERVIEW
MICHELLE
HECKMAN**

Mr. Fedorcha asked two questions to the candidate: 1) Why did you not run to be on the ballot in November? Mrs. Heckman stated that she knew there would be seats open for the 2017 election; however, she became pregnant and just had a baby in the middle of March. Recently, she discovered that she could get on the ballot with a write-in campaign and had planned to do so until she saw the posting on the website for the open position.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) Why she was applying for the position now and what makes her the best candidate? Mrs. Heckman answered that she is a 27-year resident of the district who cares about the best education for our students, but believes it is equally important to make fair and knowledgeable decisions for the taxpayers. She believes she will make fair choices because she is discreet, and handles difficult decisions professionally every day. There is nothing more important in the community than a strong educational system where community members rally around and support the district. She had a wonderful experience at Northern Lehigh and she would like to be on the board to continue that support so others may have the same experience. Mrs. Heckman added that she will bring new, creative perspectives to certain issues. She has experience in budget planning, fiscal planning, curriculum planning and would be committed to all meetings and requirements as a board member and the important decisions made by the board.

**VACANT
BOARD
MEMBER
INTERVIEW
ELISSA
PESESKO**

Mr. Fedorcha asked two questions to the candidate: 1) Why did you not run to be on the ballot in November? Mrs. Pesesko stated that she just moved into the district three years ago and she is becoming more involved in the district and not just as a parent.

Mr. Fedorcha asked 2) Why she was applying for the position now and what makes her the best candidate? Mrs. Pesesko answered that next year she will have three children in the district and she has a vested interest in them doing well. She feels that she could be an asset to the board because she cares passionately about public education. She feels that public education has come under attack recently and this will enable her to take an active role in advocating for public education and the importance of school boards. She added that she has been a teacher for fifteen years and she would be able to offer a perspective as a teacher for curriculum, professional development and teacher support, as well as a parent in the district. Mrs. Pesesko asked what kinds of things the committees do and what specific committee or role she would have. Mr. Fedorcha stated that whoever is chosen tonight will be seated next month and serve until December, 2017. There is a two-year term available for that person to fulfill. On the regular ballot, there are four board seats up for election. Mr. Fedorcha explained the four standing committees. Mr. Fedorcha added that it would be the responsibility of the board member to come to committee meetings as well as board meetings, and to represent the board whenever there is a function. Mrs. Pesesko stated that she would be very interested in Education/Policy and Community Relations because she believes it is important for the public to know what public schools offer since there is a negative spin on public education. When people hear school choice, they don't realize what they would be giving up if they chose a charter school. She added that her children have had an excellent experience at Northern Lehigh. She stated that she is a teacher in Parkland School District and grew up in the Bethlehem School District and she was pleasantly surprised at the quality of education, support of teachers and administrators at Northern Lehigh. She added that it is really important to engage parents and show them how accessible the district is no matter what their background, and to encourage them to take an active role in their child's education. Mr. Fedorcha added that all of our committees are important and function to make sure the board is doing its job and making informed decisions.

Mr. Williams noted that an informal roll call was conducted.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp that the Special meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha