

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
October 10, 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, October 10, 2011 in the Administration Office Board Room.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (7)

Members absent: Mrs. Natalie Green, Mrs. Donna Kulp (2)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Anthony Connell (Student Rep.), Mr. Greg Derr, Ms. Heather Heiney (Student Rep.), Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. Paul Rearden, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Attorney Charles Stopp (District Solicitor), Mr. Robert Vlasaty, Ms. Mary Kay Williamson and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS Approximately four 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 Mr. Fedorcha that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on September 12, 2011 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

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.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Geronikos reported that LCTI is offering a new program for secondary students that was introduced by Dr. David Lapinsky called the S.T.A.R. Rewards Program which stands for be **S**afe, practice **T**eamwork, **A**chievement = Success and being **R**espectful. Incentives and rewards are given for positive behavior. Some of the rewards are items from the LCTI Bakery, School Store and positive letters and calls home to the parents. The students may also get a free pass for an assignment or homework, extra credit and an employability grade. So far, the students are enjoying the program. The Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology in cooperation with Lehigh Carbon Community College, held their grand opening on September 28, 2011 in which Congressman Charlie Dent was the featured speaker along with Lehigh Valley Work Force Investment Board Executive Director, Nancy Dischinat. According to Christopher Donegan, Vice President of Human Resources at B. Braun, the Lehigh Valley almost lost 1900 jobs, but because of B. Braun's customized training program offered at LCTI for their workforce in Pennsylvania and in California, they decided to stay in this country. Air Products President has been in contact with the CBS Evening News and showed them the facility at LCTI. The CBS Evening News program will be airing in a few weeks. In addition, the state of Wisconsin's Technical College President will be visiting LCTI to learn how LCTI transformed into a great training facility.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that the House passed Senate bill 200 which establishes the management of concussions for athletes. An amendment this week revises the definition of "appropriate medical professional" by adding "*a licensed or certified health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and designated by a licensed physician who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.*" The amendment removes certified athletic trainers and licensed physical therapists from the definition of "appropriate medical professionals."

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Mr. Williams reported that House Bill 1610 was passed by the House. House Bill 1610 requires the Department of Health and Education to provide information about the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest to be given to parents of children wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics. It also involves a mandatory training program for coaches on this subject. House Bill 1610 will now go to the Senate.

Mr. Williams shared that the Prevailing Wage is going through an overhaul. The Prevailing Wage Act of 1961 requires workers on public projects costing more than \$25,000 to be paid the prevailing wage in their region. That threshold has not changed since 1963. There were five different bills that were passed by the House Labor & Industry Committee all looking at raising thresholds, exempting certain projects and one that would exempt school districts completely.

In addition, Mr. Williams reported that Governor Corbett is expected to announce his education agenda tomorrow which is likely to include proposals for vouchers. Govern Corbett said he is looking for something that will specifically address, "failing schools." Mrs. Geronikos asked if the bill was more directed to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Mr. Williams stated that last year it hadn't been remotely directed to those areas but it is his hope that it will be directed to the districts who fail to meet all of their standards for three years consecutively and not try to take money away from schools who are on the right path.

Committee Reports and/or Minutes

Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on October 3, 2011 were distributed.

Minutes of the Community Relations Committee Meeting held on October 3, 2011 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on October 5, 2011 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Ms. Heather Heiney and Mr. Anthony Connell distributed their written student representative Report and verbally reported on its contents.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen Nicholas reported that today was a very successful in-service day. Topics included Professional Learning Communities, Co-Teaching, and Reading in the 90 minute block. Mrs. Nicholas announced that on October 18, 2011 parents are invited to visit our elementary schools. As part of the Title I Schoolwide grant, a parent involvement session must be held explaining exactly what the Title I Schoolwide Reading program is and parents need to give us their input on the program. Parent Involvement sessions will be held at Peters and Slatington Elementary schools with refreshments being served. From the R.S.V.P., over 110 parents from Peters and over 120 parents from Slatington signed up for the sessions. Mrs. Nicholas also reported that the Barnes & Noble event will be held November 9, 2011. There will be a raffle for \$10 Barnes & Noble gift cards and Barnes & Noble will be donating a basketful of books and offering a cookie party for the class that has the most attendees. The district will get a percentage of the sales from the event when the event voucher is presented. Mrs. Nicholas noted that online purchases from 11/9-11/14 will also qualify when the Bookfair ID number is entered at checkout.

Business Manager's Report

Mr. Hartman reported that Mrs. Frantz was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to the death of her mother. Mrs. Bahnick distributed the Food Service September sales report. Mrs. Molitoris reported that revenues are up and expenditures are down even though the amount of pupils buying lunches has decreased. Mrs. Bahnick is also without a kitchen, and down one full time employee in the Middle School and three full time employees at the High School.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Mrs. Molitoris reported that the index for 2012-2013 is set for 1.7% with an adjusted index of 2.3% for Northern Lehigh. The auditors have completed their end of year audit for the 2010-2011 school year. The auditors will return in mid-November for the single audit of federal programs. At that time, they will have their exit meeting. Board members will be notified of the date of this meeting, should they wish to attend.

Mrs. Molitoris stated that on the agenda tonight for approval is per capita abatements/exonerations and a list of bills for the month of September and October. Also on the agenda, is Board Policy #620 – Fund Balance which needed to be passed as of June 30th. This policy outlines fund balance categories and staff that are authorized for assigning these funds. An official board motion is required to establish, modify, reassign or rescind a commitment of fund balance which is a current practice and will continue.

Mrs. Molitoris stated that also on the agenda is a motion for a new Xerox agreement. Seven new copiers for the buildings will be leased at a savings of \$428 per month or \$5,136 per year.

Lastly, Mrs. Molitoris reported that Brandywine Transportation has purchased a box truck to transport band equipment to away football games and competitions. This results in a savings for the district due to the fact that a maintenance person is not being paid overtime.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michaels reported that echoing Mrs. Molitoris' report, every month the board will receive an updated running tally of cost saving measures that are taking place throughout the district.

Mr. Michaels reported how proud he is of the positive educational activities occurring at every building within the district. It is a pleasure to see the excitement of the staff and students.

The Slatington Elementary building project is progressing nicely with cooperation from the construction workers completing the roof during non-school hours. Mr. Greg Derr will be reporting soon about the dates and times for the Open Houses.

Mr. Michaels reported that paw prints have been painted on Bulldog Lane. Mr. Michaels then introduced Mr. Robert Vlasaty and asked him to explain the thought process behind the paw prints. Mr. Vlasaty explained that to boost morale and community involvement, the paw prints were painted on Bulldog Lane in preparation for the Northwestern Lehigh vs Northern Lehigh rivalry football game. A press conference was held today with Northwestern Lehigh to bring attention to Tackle ALS and the Under the Helmet foundation. Mr. Vlasaty also reported that Mr. Bryan Geist proposed an idea to have Bulldog banners on the light posts around campus. The banners will have the Andy Kern bulldog picture and Home of the Bulldogs imprinted on them. Mr. Vlasaty thanked Mr. Michaels for his support. Mr. Vlasaty also reported that there will be a Powder Puff game. Mr. Anthony Connell added that the student body is very appreciative of the new administration soliciting the student's input and the eagerness in bringing back fun activities for the student body. Mr. Michaels commended the student representatives for their enthusiasm and that of the students in this district.

Mr. Michaels stated that he has challenged all of the principals to work on a unique program for each of their buildings, similar to the All Pro Team in the high school to keep the students excited and motivated.

Lastly, Mr. Michaels asked Mr. Greg Derr to share information on the yard sale. Mr. Derr reported that there will be an ad in the Gazette for the yard sale being held October 21-22, 2011 from 8-2 in the bus garage. Mr. Terry Ahner will also put something in the Times News. Mr. Derr is in contact with some community groups, such as the Slatington Library, to use this opportunity to do fund-raising activities, as well. Some of the items being sold are used desks, chairs, old office furniture, filing cabinets, and old cafeteria tables.

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

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

Administrative Transfers Sharon Sherman
 From: Bookkeeper II
 To: Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools
 Salary: \$41,000 (prorated for the 2011-2012 school year)
 Effective: September 26, 2011

Karen Beltz
 From: Middle School Clerk Typist
 To: District Office Clerk Typist
 Salary: \$33,869 (no change in salary)
 Effective: September 26, 2011

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

Appointments Instructional Anthony Tulio
 Assignment: Temporary Vacancy Replacement
 Slatington Elementary 6th Grade Teacher replacing an employee on sick leave
 Salary: Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30;
 Day 31 and beyond \$43,580 prorated
 (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2011-2012 CBA Salary Schedule)
 Effective: August 25, 2011
 Termination Date: Undetermined: Upon Physicians Release of Teacher to Return to Work

Resignation M. Miller Accept the resignation of Michele Miller, Slatington Elementary School Personal Care Aide, effective September 30, 2011. Mrs. Miller has accepted a position as a Medical Assistant for a local physician group.

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of employee #4930 to take a Family Medical Leave beginning on October 10, 2011 for her own medical reasons. She will be using ten accumulated sick days and upon conclusion of sick days will then be requesting a Family Medical Leave. She plans to return to her current teaching position upon release from her physician.

Co-Curricular Appointments Mike Lehtonen Assistant Girls Basketball Coach \$4,469.03

Co-Curricular Volunteers 2011-2012 Barry Herman Assistant Softball Coach (JV)
 Suzanne Lynn* Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
 Katie Guarini* Assistant Field Hockey Coach
 Trevor Miller Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach

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 2011-2012 school year:

Jillian McMullen
 From: Step 5B+24
 To: Step 5M

Unpaid Volunteers Approve the following unpaid volunteer aides in the Peters and/or Slatington Elementary Schools for the 2011-2012 school year: Sharon Boyeson and Lori-Beth Guelcher.

Substitute Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Joseph Bigley* – Elementary

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Adrian Bumbulsky* – Elementary
Cynthia Fritzingler – Elementary
Jessica Gasper* – Art
Robin Hersh – Early Childhood N-3
Michelle Krill – Elementary
Benjamin Tkach* – Elementary and Special Education

Substitute
Instructional
Cafeteria
Workers

Approve the following individuals as substitute cafeteria workers for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Rosa George
Schelene Fritzingler

Teacher's
Aide

Approve the following individual as a substitute teacher's aide for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Michele Miller

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Ms. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the following conferences:

Scott Pyne – Fall Institute, Journey to the Common Core Workshop - October 27, 2011 – Harrisburg, PA – Registration: \$145.00, Travel: \$56.00, Lodging: \$209.79, Meals: \$25.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$379.79 – Funding: Title IIA Budget

Karen Nicholas – Fall Institute, Journey to the Common Core Workshop - October 27, 2011 – Harrisburg, PA – Travel: \$86.35, Lodging: \$137.64, Meals: \$25.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$248.99 – Funding: Title IIA Budget.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Mr. Williams 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 a 12th grade student, Student No. 1290039, for five hours per week, effective September 5, 2011 and continuing for an indefinite amount of time.

Board
Policy-
First
Reading

Approve school board policy #620 – Finances – Fund Balance, as presented after first reading.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

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

Adolescent
Central Intake
Unit (SAP)
(SAP)

Approve to authorize the superintendent to execute a letter of agreement for the 2011-2012 academic year with the Adolescent Central Intake Unit to provide Student Assistance Program Assessment services. The Student Assistance Teams in our school district will use these services.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approve the following new business:

Assistant to
The Food
Service
Director

Approve the new agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Ms. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

List of Bills:

Approve the Following List of Bills:
General Fund months of September & October
Cafeteria Fund month of September
Construction Fund month of October
Athletic Fund month of September
Refreshment Stand month of September

Per Capita
Abatement/
Exoneration

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

Xerox Authorize administration to enter into a lease agreement with Xerox for the purchasing of 7 new Lease copiers. The copiers will be placed in each building office, middle school library and 2 in central Agreementadministration. The new lease agreement will be \$428.00 per month less then our current lease agreement which equates to a savings of \$5,136 per year. The district machines that are being replaced are 6 years old and are constantly being repaired.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, (Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**CORR-
CORR-
DENCE**

Mr. Williams reported that the district received information from PSBA regarding the travel accident policy and upgrade that is available for a cost. If anybody is interested, please see Mrs. Sherman.

Mr. Williams received correspondence from The Nutrition Group advertising their upcoming conferences for 2011-2012.

Mr. Williams also reported that a letter was emailed to all board members from retiree, Diane McMullen thanking the board for recognition of her retirement and years of service.

**CORR-
CORR-
DENCE**
(cont.)

Mrs. Geronikos reported that the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation will have their annual Breakfast with Santa at Peters Elementary on December 3, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. Mrs. Geronikos thanked Peters Elementary for hosting the event again and all proceeds from the event are returned back to Northern Lehigh.

Mr. Hartman voiced his frustration with the push for vouchers and charter schools. This school district is performing beautifully and the focus should be on the poorly performing districts and not public education as a whole. Citizens should ban together and make phone calls to our public officials to stop the voucher system.

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on August 15, 2011 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on August 24, 2011 were distributed.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Ms. Ganser, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President

Edward E. Hartman