

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 5, 2005

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, at 7:59 p.m. on Monday, December 5, 2005 in the boardroom of the 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. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. Mr. Peter A. Ruth, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Philip Bertolino, Mr. Robert Kern, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. John Fidelibus, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Atty. Keith Strohl (Solicitors Office), Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Ms. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Andrea Madochick, Ms. Jessica Fidler, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS

Approximately ten visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Joel Kern, reporter for The Times News and Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Cox – Washington Township – Requested permission to comment on any agenda item.

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Requested permission to comment on any agenda item.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS
Director

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer

Mr. Dorshimer reported from the CLIU Board Brief which was distributed to all board members.

He also announced that Mr. Robert Keegan was appointed to the position of Executive of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit. He will assume this role in April 2006.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles was appointed as the LCTI Joint Operating Committee representative from the Board to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Lori Geronikos until December 2007.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams was appointed to the position of Legislative Chairperson for the Northern Lehigh Board of school directors. Mr. Williams reported on the Legislative Breakfast that he and some other board members attended.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings -- The Finance Committee meeting scheduled for November 28, 2005 has been postponed and has been rescheduled for December 7, 2005 immediately following the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Student Representatives Report -- Ms. Jessica Fidler and Mr. Nathan Hunsicker distributed a written report and reviewed it with the board.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Stopp reported on two issues, one dealing with searches of student possessions and the other to ask permission to be excused from the meeting when Agenda Item IX is discussed.

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

Dr. Sham discussed the new PSBA Standards for Effective School Governance and a Revised Code of Conduct for members of Pennsylvania's School Boards. He suggested that the policy be turned over to the policy committee for review.

He announced that the Weatherly District is offering a PSBA New Board Orientation Fast Track Weekend.

He distributed new PSBA New Board Member Packets and Certificates.

He announced that he received a request to go into arbitration with regard to the Act 80 Grievance that was acted upon at the last public board meeting. He announced that he also received a grievance from the Clerical Group which deals with understanding what was negotiated in their contract. A Level II hearing, with the clerical group representatives, is scheduled with the superintendent for December 13.

PERSONNEL Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

Substitutes Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2005-2006 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$80.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; \$105.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days: Laura Graser – English

Volunteer Winter Refreshment Stand Director Approve, per school board policy #915, the recommendation of the athletic director, to hire Kathy Neff as the volunteer director of the winter refreshment stand for the 2005-2006 winter season.

Resignation Football Coach Accept the resignation of Jim Tkach from his position as head football coach, effective November 21, 2005.

Unpaid Volunteers Approve the following unpaid volunteer girls' soccer coaches for the 2006 spring season: Crystal Kistler and Jamie Machik

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

NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to remove from the table the discussion of board meeting dates and committee meeting dates that was tabled during the reorganization meeting of December 5, 2005.

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

NAY: None (0)

Accept Suggested Schedule For Board Meetings Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approves to accept the meeting dates as presented by Mrs. Ganser, holding board meetings the first Monday and third Wednesday of each month.

Amend Motion the Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the Board of Education amends the motion to separate the committee meetings and assignments and only vote on regular school board meeting nights.

Public Comment Robert Cox – Washington Township – It may be good to have the actual dates to make sure that everyone comes away from the meeting with a clear idea of the dates.

Attorney Stopp addressed the board. He informed them that in order to conduct business a board of nine members requires a quorum of five. It is good to have everybody in attendance because it is a very important position and also important to have as many people as possible in attendance at each meeting. The school code requires that in some very important instances that a majority of the board must be present to take action. If there is a meeting where only five board members are present, it would take all five board members to agree to take action on some very important and significant business. He suggested that the board conduct their deliberations and choose the most convenient night for the board so that there are as many elected board members in attendance at the meetings as possible.

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – Agreed with Mr. Ruth as far as the different nights for the monthly meeting.

Amend Amendment to Mrs. Giles made a motion that the board meetings take place on the first Monday and third Wednesday with the contingency that if there is a holiday the meeting would be pushed the following day just as it has been in the past.

Motion died for lack of a second.

Vote On Amendment ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (6)
NAY: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Beers (3)
Motion carried.

Vote On Main Motion ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dengler, Mrs. Ganser (6)
NAY: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Beers (3)
Motion carried.

There was some discussion regarding the structure of the board committees. Several members asked to be reassigned from one committee to another. An updated list will be distributed at the December 12 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Beers asked what will happen to Jim Tkach's position as head football coach.

FINANCIAL

Education

Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of approves the following items listed under Financial:

PC Abate-ments Approve abatements/exonerations of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as listed presented.

Cash Manage-ment Approve the Arthurs Lestrangle Cash Management Portfolio for the month of September and October ment Portfolio 2005.

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

LEGAL

Appoint
Solicitor
2006

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves to appoint the law firm of Steckel & Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh for School District for 2006 at a retainer fee of \$1750.00. There is no increase of over last year's fee.

Table
Motion
if

Mrs. Giles made a motion to table approval to appoint Steckel & Stopp as district solicitors to allow the board the opportunity to discuss whether this is the most economical way to go and there are any other ideas they may have. Mr. Ruth seconded her motion.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth (2)
NAY: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler,
Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser (7)

Motion defeated.

Vote On Main
Motion

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer,
Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser
NAY: Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth (2)

Motion carried.

Appoint
Special
Counsel

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves to appoint Sweet, Stevens, Tucker & Katz, LLP as special counsel. Effective for the 2006-07 school year, the hourly rate for non-routine matters will be \$165 per hour. The rate for routine or general advice will be \$120 per hour. The current rates of \$145/\$110 will continue for the balance of this school year. The new rates will effective July 1, 2006. The current rates have remained unchanged for four years.

become

Table
Motion

Mrs. Giles made a motion to table approval to appoint Sweet, Stevens, Tucker & Katz, LLP as special counsel. Motion died for lack of a second.

Vote On
Main Motion

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler,
Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser (8)
NAY: Mrs. Giles (1)

Motion carried.

**CORRES-
PONDENCE**

Mrs. Ganser offered an invitation to the board from Northern Lehigh Connections inviting the entire board to a "Meet the School Board Night" on January 25, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. at the Slatington Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Ganser made some comments to her fellow board members, the Northern Lehigh staff, administration, students, and community stating that she hoped that everyone could work together as a conscientious unit striving toward goals to enrich our district in a manner that our means allow. She hoped that despite differences everyone would strive to make our school board respectful, cooperative, and effective in our community.

the

Mr. Dorshimer asked if an organization invites the entire board to attend an event, and there are more than four board members in attendance, does that event need to be advertised. Attorney Stopp stated that if there is a prearranged meeting where an item will be discussed that could lead to a decision or a vote later at a board meeting, that would be a violation of Sunshine Act.

**INFORM-
ATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 17, 2005.

Minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on October 11, 2005.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on November 3, 2005.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS
committees.

Robert Cox – Washington Township – Offered some advice as the new board plans to organize their committees. Over the years that he chaired committees it was rare for them to last less than an hour and a half. It takes time to make informed decisions on issues presented to the

Being on the board is an appointment of commitment – a commitment of time the students need for us to give them proper guidance. Don't make light of it and don't short change those processes.

Susan Fullas – Washington Township -- She wanted to point out that she was having a little trouble hearing Mrs. Ganser. She may want to think about speaking up a little bit.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the regular meeting of Northern Lehigh School District Board of Education is adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President)
Lauren A. Ganser