

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
January 9, 2023

Civility and Decorum – District officials and members of the public are expected to conduct themselves with civility and to afford each other a measure of dignity and respect. Shouting, personal insults, and attacks or any conduct that disrupts the flow of business is considered to be out of order. Members of the public are to direct their comments to the Board in its entirety, cannot single out Board Members for response, nor can a member of the public address specific issues with other members of the community who may be present at the meeting or who are virtually present if it is a virtual or hybrid meeting. In addition, members of the community shall not bring signs or placards to the meeting and shall not applaud or engage in any actions that would impede another community member's right to make comments at the meeting. At the discretion of the Board/Board President, individuals who are disruptive shall be subject to removal from the venue of the Board meeting, unless the disruptive individual agrees to maintain civility and decorum.

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., at 7:05 p.m. on Monday, January 9, 2023, in the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Room..

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

Members absent: Mr. Mathias Green, Jr. and Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman (2)

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mr. Todd Breiner, Ms. Danielle Dougherty, Mrs. Nichole Fink, Mr. Bryan Geist, Ms. Victoria Hanna, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. David Jones, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Scott Pyne, Atty. Kristine Roddick, Mr. John Rushefski, Mr. James Schnyderite, and Mr. Michael Strohl.

VISITORS Approximately 2 visitors attended the meeting and one hundred and sixty-seven visitors viewed the meeting.

ATHLETIC REPORT Mr. Fedorcha commented we now move into the Athletic Report. Mr. Geist, if you are ready?

Mr. Link commented so if at this point if the board members and any other guests this evening would like to head out into the lobby. Mr. Geist is going to honor and recognize our 2022 football team and coaching staff for their excellent season. So, if at this point, we can have all board members but anyone else that would like to join us please transition to the lobby.

PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Link commented so Mr. Williams indicated that he may want to comment? Perhaps? Okay, so are you saying you would like to hold until the end of the meeting? Okay. Thank you, Mr. Williams. Then, our secondary librarian, Mrs. Krystal Tiedeman, has also indicated that she would like to comment. I just saw Krystle. Oh, she's literally standing right in front of me. Krystal, would you like to comment this evening.

Mrs. Tiedeman commented I think I'll just do it at the, I'm just here to say thank you, so I'll say thank you after you know why I'm thanking you.

Mr. Link commented so there is no public comment at this time, Mr. Fedorcha.

APPROVE MINUTES Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Christman that the minutes of the regular board meeting as well as the reorganization meeting held on December 5, 2022, be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack commented Thank you, Mr. Fedorcha. We did have our December meeting. It was a holiday celebration like ours here at the school board. We had a fantastic dinner to start and some of our students sang Christmas carols. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, they're still doing some of that as a WebEx, so they put a fantastic video together. So, that's out on the website, feel free to take a look at it. They did a fantastic job. A couple other things coming up in the year, this year that we're working on. As a board, we'll be asked to approve a budget for the IU, that budget has not changed for what we have done in the past. It's the general operating budget, so it's really just the function of the IU. There are some other things that we do pay by student, if we use those services, which is different budget, so just to be clear on that. But, the budget that we will see for the general operating budget has no change to our school district coming and we should see that on the board agenda for approval February or March coming up, so look for that. Uhm, the other thing, we are still in search. We did receive notification that our executive director, Dr. Eib, will be retiring at the end of August of 2023 so the executive team and some board members and some superintendents are beginning that executive director search, so more to come on that. That's all I have this evening.

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha commented we also had a dinner, unfortunately, it was not as great as that. Since COVID, our students don't prepare dinners for the board anymore, so we did order sandwiches and salads from the Red Tomato. Any way, we also had our budget prepared, I believe I said that at the last meeting. It was presented to the school districts, the superintendents and the business managers. That is basically all we have for the meeting tonight.

Mr. Fedorcha commented I will now need a motion to approve to reappoint me as the delegate to the LCTI board. Do I have a motion to do so? Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, to approve Mr. Fedorcha as the delegate to the LCTI board.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Legislative Report - Mr. Fedorcha commented there is no report as Mrs. Heckman is not here.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Fedorcha commented and neither is Mr. Green, so I don't know if anybody has anything on the community college? Okay.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

- > Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on January 3, 2023, were distributed.
- > Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on January 3, 2023, were distributed.
- > Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on January 3, 2023, were distributed.
- > Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on January 3, 2023, were distributed.
- > Minutes of the Extra and Co-Curricular Committee Meeting held on January 3, 2023, were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Ms. Danielle Dougherty commented hello everybody, I hope everyone had a nice holiday break. I'll start with some stuff that we did before the break. So, student council, on December 19th, we did our elementary aid day. We do one in the winter and we get to see Santa while he's at Peters with everyone, and then we also do one in the Spring. So for our winter one we got to help out with classes and spend time with the students. I really like it. I'm sad that I only get to do one more because I'm a senior, but it's been a nice experience over the years to see them. Student council also hosted some holiday festivities before winter break. Throughout December we sold candy canes that students could send to other students kind of like little candy grams. Then we also held spirit days, the 12 days of Christmas, this was the first year we did it. A new member had brought this idea to us for 12 spirits days that everyone could dress up and just get excited for winter break and kind of push through to the end. So we had a bunch of students that participated and there was a contest for an ugly sweater, so someone won that. I'm not sure off the

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(cont.)**

top of my head who it was, but I do know that they got a gift card so that was exciting. Also, student council held the Toys for Tots drive throughout December and we ended up getting a nice amount of toys to donate to them so it's really nice to see other students who want to bring in and help other people. For now in January, student council we don't have much planned, but we're getting ready for our spring events. So on March 11th, we'll have our spring dance, kind of like we had last year. We're hoping to host a pep rally to get people excited. Then, we're also doing Mr. Northern Lehigh in May as well as a food drive related thing with that. The high school students also had quarter two rewards on December 21st before break and we got to do events like volleyball, cornhole, and family fued which were all a big hit. I personally love to watch volleyball before break. It's really nice just to see people being a team for volleyball and talking to your friends and stuff, it's very nice. Now, Keystone's just finished up so that's a nice two-hour delay schedule that we had from January 4th until today, but tomorrow we go back to normal schedule. Then, the first semester will end on January 23rd with finals on Friday the 20th and Monday the 23rd. On these days, we'll run on an early dismissal schedule and then second semester begins on January 24th. That's all I have. I'll give it to Victoria now.

Ms. Victoria Hanna commented hello everyone. So tonight I have a variety of little bits of information and to start off the class of 2022-2023 is looking for juniors and seniors to help join the prom committees to help set up their decorations or selling tickets and we're hoping that a lot of people join and help because the more the merrier will probably be better for this year. We also have some LCTI news. On January 25th, the SkillsUSA competition will be held at Allentown Fairgrounds from 10 to 3. We're not sure who's going yet, but good luck to anyone from Northern Lehigh who's going. Now, we're going to go talk about sports which we were going to state all the football stuff, but obviously that was done already, so I'll just talk about our winter season. Right now, we have basketball season and wrestling. As of Thursday, the record for the boy's basketball team is 0 to 10. The overall for the girl's basketball team is 6 to 4. For the wrestling team, it's 0 to 6. I have some important dates to keep in mind. The girl's basketball senior night which is January 19th, the wrestling senior night on January 25th and the boy's basketball senior night on February 23rd. That's all I have tonight, thank you.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Roddick commented I just wanted to bring the board's attention to a recent Court of Common Pleas of Lehigh County decision involving the most recent amendments to the Sunshine Law. There were two lawsuits filed by a board member of this entity alleging the Sunshine Law violations in 2021. The first complaint alleged the violation of the Sunshine Law because the collective bargaining agreement was added to the board agenda that evening, it was not put on the agenda at least 24 hours in advance based upon the new amendments. The plaintiff had argued that the business arising within 24 hours exception didn't apply because it was dealing with a contract which was not de minimis in nature. The collective bargaining agreement brings a pretty high price tag as we all know. The district argued that there is a section of the Sunshine Law that allows board members to add anything to the agenda provided they follow the procedure the night of the meeting and the court agreed with the district. The second lawsuit involved the next meeting in November at which the board voted to cure the Sunshine Law violation so if you don't follow the Sunshine Law, if you cure it and vote in public or discuss something in public that maybe had been inadvertently discussed it in an executive session, it in essence cures any violation. So the board, that evening in November, voted to ratify and confirm the approval of the collective bargaining agreement. Then, some board members who had originally voted felt they should have abstained because there were some relatives who may have been benefiting from the collective bargaining agreement, so they did a motion to reconsider the vote. There was no public comment permitted on the motion to reconsider the vote, although public comment was permitted on the original vote that evening. That was the second alleged violation, that public comment should have been permitted on the motion to reconsider the vote. The court didn't have to reach that issue. The lawsuit was withdrawn after we received the December decision. So, FYI, that was the first decision that came down locally on the Sunshine Law, that particular amendment. They came down in the district's favor.

Business Manager's Report - Mrs. Molitoris commented at your board seat is our single audit from our fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. There were no significant findings within that audit. There was one, I believe one, control deficiency listed and it has to do with a negative check balance at the end of the month. We tend to pay checks at the end of the month and then we keep all of our money in

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(cont.)**

our savings account to earn more interest and then we swipe money over into our general fund account when we write checks. The checks were being written and then the next day she was doing the deposit over to transfer, so that created a negative in our for one day. We have never bounced any checks, so that's not an issue. The auditors just said you need to be aware of that and make sure you transfer the money into your account the same day that we're doing checks. So I have talked to them about that and that is now happening moving forward. The next thing on there is a post issuance compliance so we have municipal bonds, so every year we are required report on the EMA board on the website that we have municipal bonds we have to put up our budget. Our AFR, our financial statement and also other data information like our highest taxpayers in the district, 10 highest taxpayers, student enrollment, just general information about the school district that has to be up by December 27th of every year. Then I report to the board if that has been done. That has been done and it did meet the timeline of December 27th again this year. The last thing is, the act one resolution is on the board agenda for approval this evening. That is setting our threshold that the most we could raise taxes to is 5.5 percent increase. We are not even talking or recommending that at this point in time, but this just allows us that we do not have to do an early budget. It just says we are near going to raise taxes over the limit that we're allowed to raise it to, so that is on the board agenda for approval this evening just to set our timeline that we don't need to have a budget approved until May. And that is all, is anybody has any questions?

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Stoker commented thank you, Mr. Fedorcha. January is school board appreciation month. On behalf of the stakeholders in the Northern Lehigh School District, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our board members for their dedication to our district. We recognize and appreciate the time and effort you put into governance of our school district everyday. We also acknowledge that the past few years have been difficult and unique and appreciate your continued leadership and support in navigating education during these times. As a token of our appreciation, at each of the board member's places this evening is a library book being donated on your behalf to one of the school libraries. There's also a really nice cupcake. So, thank you again. Mrs. Tiedeman would like to speak on behalf of our librarians this evening as well.

Mrs. Tiedeman commented thank you, on behalf of the District Library Staff. All of those books will be processed by our library assistants here in the district. I will be photographing some of that and documenting it and posting it on social media so that you can see the process of what happens to these books after you have gifted them to us and I think you all have your names inside there already. I invite you to visit our school libraries, find your book on the shelf after it's been processed, stop in and see the fun things that we're doing in the libraries throughout the district, and see what other cool books we have available as well. The one that Mrs. Husack is holding, I actually wrote a few chapters in that one, so that's a pretty cool one. You are welcome to check out the books that we have as well to read them with any children that you may have at home or check them out things like that. So, definitely stop by visit and thank you so much for supporting the libraries.

Dr. Stoker commented thank you, Mrs. Tiedeman and thank you to each and every one of our board members for all you do. The next item on the agenda is our annual data presentation, so I direct you to our presentation this evening. So, welcome to the Northern Lehigh School District's Administrative.

Mr. Link commented Dr. Stoker, I am sorry to interrupt you. It may be appropriate to excuse our student representatives if they have school work to attend to this evening. Thank you so much for coming, you both always do a thorough job reporting and keeping the school board and our community updated. So again, thank you for joining us for the first time in 2023.

Dr. Stoker presented Northern Lehigh District 2021-2022 Assessment Data and 2022-2023 Mid-Year Progress Presentation.

Dr. Stoker commented this concludes our presentation for this evening. We'll take questions at this time. If your questions are something that we can respond to quickly, we'll certainly do that. If it's something that we may need to dive into the data a little bit faster, we may need to get back in touch with you to give you that information or bring it back to a future meeting. So, thank you everyone for your patience this evening and we'll open it up to questions.

**SPECIAL
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(cont.)**

Mrs. Kulp commented could you go back a couple of slides.

Dr. Stoker commented sure.

Mrs. Kulp commented yeah what is 19.5 in red?

Dr. Stoker commented these are percentiles, so these are not percentages of students who score in a particular area. These are percentiles, they're compared across the nation. So those areas, if you're looking at 11th and 12th grade the ones that are kind of in that orangish reddish color, that's number one which is feelings about school and it's number six which is general work ethic, and those are self-reportable factors from students on this assessment. So those are things that we're working on. Obviously, there are some students that feel connected, feel a positive sense of school, climate, and culture and that's something we're looking to improve upon. As students get older, sometimes they have more dissatisfaction with school than younger students who love to be here in elementary school, but we're diving down deeper into that data at an individual level and also at cohort level to see what the reasons for that are.

Mrs. Kulp commented yeah, I didn't know how the trifold was on that.

Dr. Stoker commented sure.

Mrs. Kulp commented thank you.

Mr. Fedorcha commented anyone else? Thank you. Thank you all for an excellent presentation and it was really inclusive. Thank you so much. Is there anything else?

Dr. Stoker commented that's my report for this evening.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link commented thank you, Mr. Fedrocha. I'd also like to thank the administrative team, under the leadership of Dr. Stoker and Mr. Pyne, for putting all that together. That was a long time in the works and it's a lot of information that we shared with all of you this evening. There's no way to sugarcoat it, we have a lot of work to do at each building level, in achievement in particular. We're acutely aware of that and this evening we kind of gave you a high level view of the work that we need to do moving forward. Please feel free to reach out with questions either directly to me, to Dr. Stoker, or to Mr. Pyne about any of the data in particular. Again, thank you again for all the work that you put into that. Next, I'd like to kind of turn my report over to Mr. Fedorcha and Mrs. Molitoris in their role as board members of the Lehigh Valley Educators Credit Union. So sir, I'll turn it over to you. I'm going to ask Mrs. Fink to come down as well to the front of the table.

Mr. Fedorcha commented I, as Vice-President of the Teacher's Credit Union, and Sherri as a member of our board, are very pleased to present tonight to the school district, on behalf of our board, our staff, and our members, a check for \$10,000 to go to your food program.

Mrs. Nichole Fink commented thank you very much.

Mr. Fedorcha commented thank you.

Mr. Link commented again, thank you Mr. Fedorcha and Mrs. Molitoris. The Lehigh Valley Educators Credit Union is always very supportive of our school district, our members, the services that they offer to our employees, but what they did this evening they really went above and beyond. That's \$10,000 which will go to our school pantry to support student and families that may be struggling with meal security, so again thank you and please share our gratitude with the rest of the board of the credit union.

Mr. Fedorcha commented our pleasure, thank you.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

Mr. Link commented as a general reminder, I would like to remind all school board members, administrators, and our school solicitor, Attorney Roddick, that please complete and return the ethics form which all of you either receive tonight or you will receive in your employee mailbox tomorrow. That concludes my report for this evening, sir.

Executive Session Executive sessions was held at 6:30 p.m. this evening at the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Room for personnel items that we discussed.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Frantz made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education approves a motion to approve personnel items A through E:

Resignation
/Retirement
T. Karpowich

With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Tracy Karpowich from her position as Special Education Teacher, effective at the end of the day on December 22, 2022. Ms. Karpowich will be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after 6 years of service.

J. Eckroth

Accept the resignation of Jessica Eckroth from her position as Cafeteria/Hall Monitor at Slatington Elementary, effective December 22, 2022.

L. Hunt

Accept the resignation of Lisa Hunt from her position as Cafeteria/Hall Monitor at Slatington Elementary, effective December 22, 2022.

K. Micklos

Accept the resignation of Kayla Micklos from her position as Computer Technician - Districtwide, effective January 18, 2023

Appointment

Non-Instructional

1. Linsey Hassay*

Assignment: Cook's Helper
Salary: \$13.75/hour/5.5 hours
Effective: January 9, 2023
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**

Family Medical
Leave

1. Approve the request of employee #135 to take a family medical leave of absence beginning on January 9, 2023, to care for a family member. Employee plans to return to their position following the end of the family medical leave.

Substitutes

Instructional

Motion to approve the appointment of the following substitute teachers for the 2022-2023 school year at the 2022-2023 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Martin Koeller - Guest Teacher
Jennifer Leshner - Guest Teacher
Jan Llewellyn - Guest Teacher
Samuel Lux - Guest Teacher
Madeline Ziegenfus - Guest Teacher

Lexi Meckes

Co-Curricular
Appointments
2022-2023

Jake Waylen	Asst. Track Coach	\$3,335
Dylan Hofmann	Asst. Track Coach	\$3,335

Co-Curricular
Volunteer
2022-2023

Joseph Fiorito Asst. Girls Basketball Coach

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

POLICY

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Christman, that the Board of Education approves the following policy item A:

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy #011 - Principles for Governance and Leadership - Local Board Procedures, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #718.1 - Therapy Dogs/Therapy Animals in Schools - Property, as presented after the first reading.

Approve school board policy #808 - Food Services - Operations, as presented after the first reading.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

CONFERENCE

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

K. Tiedeman Krystle Tiedeman - Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) Annual Conference - March 30 to April 1, 2023 - Harrisburg, PA - Registration: \$200.00; Lodging: \$375.18; Travel: \$109.25; Meals:\$90.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$774.43 - Funding: High School Budget.

S. Green Shawn Green - Pennsylvania School Librarians Association (PSLA) Annual Conference - March 30 to April 1, 2023 - Harrisburg, PA - Registration \$250.00; Lodging: \$375.18; Travel: \$115.94; Meals: \$100.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$841.12 - Funding: Peters/Slatington Elementary Budget.

M. Dotta Michele Dotta - Pennsylvania Department of Education Conference - March 1-3, 2023 - Hershey, PA - Registration \$235.00; Lodging: \$358.00; Travel: \$101.92; Meals: \$100.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$794.92 - Funding: Special Education Budget.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

(a) NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item (b):

Resolution for School Board Director Recognition Month **WHEREAS**, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this non-paid, volunteer public service commitment; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women who serve on the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors:

Chad Christman
Robin T. Distler
Gary S. Fedorcha
Rhonda L. Frantz
Mathias J. Green, Jr.

(a) NEW
BUSINESS
(cont.)

Michelle M. Heckman
 Gale N. Husack
 Robert L. Kern, Jr.
 Donna M. Kulp

should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

(b) NEW
BUSINESS

Mrs. Husack made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Frantz, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item (b):

Early Retirement Incentive Plan

Approve to develop an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2022-2023 school year.

YEA: None (0)

NAY: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

Motion defeated.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Frantz made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Christman that the Board of Education approves the following financial items A through J, removing item D:

Financial Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. NLSD Investments for the month of December, 2022
2. General Fund Account months of December 2022
3. Cafeteria Fund Account months of July through December 2022 (Audited)
4. NLHS Student Scholarship Account month of December 2022
5. NLHS Student Activities/Clubs Account month of December 2022
6. NLMS Student Activities/Clubs Accounts months of November and December, 2022

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of December 2022 and January 2023
2. Cafeteria Fund months of December 2022 and January 2023
3. Capital Construction month of January 2023

Abatement/Exoneration

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

California First National Bank

As per the recommendation from the administration and Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve a lease from California First National Bank, 28 Executive Park, Suite 200, Irvine, CA 92612 for \$138,811.31 per year with a lease term of 48 months and a one (\$1) dollar buyout option at the end of the lease agreement. The lease will be used to purchase chromebooks, laptops, and accessories. Approve the 2022-2023 Northern Lehigh School District Salary Schedule as presented.

FINANCIAL

(cont.)
Shanthi
Project

As per the recommendation of the administration, approve to enter into a contract with Shanthi Project for the 2023 calendar year at a cost of \$31,200, funded through ESSER 3.

IXL

As per the recommendation of the administration and the Education Committee, approve the attached amended agreement with IXL to include subscriptions for the high school, from September 2023, through September 2025 as an instructional and assessment tool, at a cost of \$21,420 funded through the middle school and high school budgets equitably.

Berkheimer

As per the recommendation of administration and the Finance Committee, approve the attached resolution appointing Sherri Molitoris as liaison between Northern Lehigh School District and Berkheimer for the express purpose of sharing confidential tax information with the district for official purposes.

Portnoff Law
Associates,
Ltd.

As per the recommendation of administration and the Finance Committee, the Board of Education approves the addendum to the agreement with Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. to be the delinquent real estate tax collector for the 2022 tax year.

Act 1 Tax
Tax Levy
Resolution

Act 1 Tax Levy Resolution

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1");

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District index for the 2023-2024 fiscal year is 5.5%;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2023-2024 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 9th day of January 2023, it is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Northern Lehigh School District (hereinafter "District") Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board") the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2023-2024 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2023-2024 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
 - (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
 - (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
 - (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

LEGAL

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Fedorcha commented is there any correspondence?

Mrs. Husack commented no there is not.

Mr. Fedorcha commented okay, thank you very much.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meetings held on October 17, 2022 and November 21, 2022 .

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on November 3, 2022.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on October 26, 2022.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Fedorcha commented I believe our guest left?

Mr. Link commented yes, Mr. Williams left. I don't know if there's any other?

Mr. Fedorcha commented was there any one else would like to address the board for any reasons? It is that time that we'll accept anybody's comments or questions.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Christman that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (7)

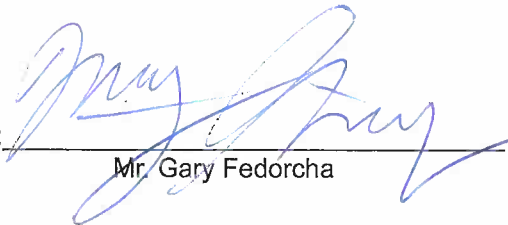
NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST:  Vice-President
Mr. Gary Fedorcha