

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 4, 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 7:08 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2023, in the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Room.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

Members absent: Mr. Chad Christman (1)

Non-members present: Dr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Ms. Victoria Hanna, Ms. Jalah Cook, Mr. Todd Breiner, Dr. Lori Bali, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Jones, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Christopher Mann, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. James Schnyderite, Mr. Michael Strohl, Atty. Elizabeth Kelly, and Mr. Terry Ahner (Press).

VISITORS Approximately 1 visitor attended the meeting and two hundred and forty-nine visitors viewed the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT Dr. Link commented there is no public comment this evening.

Mr. Green commented okay.

APPROVE MINUTES Mrs. Husack made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on November 13, 2023, be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack commented thank you. We did have our meeting in November. We are getting ready to introduce our second service dog, therapy dog, into the community. So, Bobby Ray Sunshine will be joining the team, Another golden lab coming out of the same breeder that our prior puppy has come from. He did make an appearance today for the first time at the IU offices and he is a ray of sunshine. His name is after a past president of the IU board and still active in the school district, Mr. Bob Bold, out of the Parkland School District. So it is in honor of him so we want to pass his thanks to all of his time at the IU and into education. So, I'm looking forward to have Bobby Ray Sunshine join our early intervention area. So, if you do get around to those areas you can meet Lacie out at our Lehigh Learning and then our newest coming here in a couple weeks. We do have a meeting again on December 18th. We're doing our Christmas meeting if anybody's interested. If you're down at the IU, they are doing a basket raffle going to the Children's Foundation again who also helps with some of the items such as our puppies that are joining our classrooms. So, if you're down at the IU, please stop into the offices. They would be graciously willing to provide some tickets to some really great baskets that are there. Thank you.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha commented LCTI did not hold a regular meeting. We always hold a Meeting of the Whole and it's usually this Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The purpose of that meeting is to receive the audit from the Auditors and then also to give out a preliminary budget for review which was done on that date. The next meeting will be the next Wednesday, the 13th, for our regular December Christmas meeting. That's it.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green commented still have got no money from the state. They're still playing games out there. We're still not sure what's going on. We hear lots of rumors, but no money so, fortunately, we have a few extra bucks left over, but we're losing lots of interest. Some colleges are starting to get into pretty bad shape at this point in time and it's just not fair. Also, and I don't know if I mentioned this to the board, but about 2 years ago we were offered the opportunity to trade our downtown Allentown building to move into a new building that was being built in Allentown and at the last minute fell through. Well, we've been reoffered another opportunity by another person so we're going to trade the building there on Hamilton Street so they can build another skyscraper and we're going to get the first 2 floors of a whole new building. A lot of advantages, obviously, it will be all new and fixed up, etc. And we won't have to keep dumping money into the old building because it's been there for a while. It's probably a good thing for the college and it looks like it should move on at this point in time. That's all I have.

Legislative Report - Mrs. Snyder commented I have no report tonight.

Student Representative's Report - Ms. Victoria Hanna commented good evening, everyone. It's nice to see you all after the break. I hope you all had a great break. Tonight, we have a few announcements to make. To start off, we have our PBIS day the last day before break and it was a great time where students enjoyed doing multiple activities like volleyball, baking, eSports, board games, cornhole, all that sorts of good stuff. We also had our powder puff and that was a hit. The juniors won again maintaining their three year winning streak. Maybe then, hopefully who knows, they'll get their four-year winning streak. We also had an eSports tournament this past Friday in Hamburg. It was an all day event. The team is actually third in the league which is great, but unfortunately, they didn't qualify in the tournament. Many clubs are doing lots of fundraisers and events. We have student council doing Elementary Aid Day on December 18th. This is where student council students go to Peters and they help out teachers from Kindergarten to 2nd grade. They get to spend time with the little dogs and the little dogs enjoy it because they get to see the bigger bulldogs in the district and the teachers love having our help. Student council is also hosting a 12 days of holiday spirit and that's starting tomorrow until the last day before break. So it's 12 days of spirit days and you can, like tomorrow is pajamas day which everyone loves. And it's a great way for students to participate in school spirit. They are also doing Toys for Tots and it's going pretty good and we hope to see more people donate toys. Student council is also doing a tree decorating contest between each grade and the winner will be given a prize award. National Honor Society this past Saturday did Breakfast with Santa at Peters and they helped out with face painting, doing lots of games and activities and the little dogs again enjoyed their time. The National Honor Society is also, this Saturday, helping out with the candy cane hunt at Victory Park from 9-11 a.m. This past Saturday at Victory Park, Caring Dam Hearts has been doing a kick-off for warm and cozy which is basically people donating winter accessories like hats, scarves and gloves and that's going to be going on until January 14th if anyone wants to donate. That's all I have for today and I'll pass it on to Jalah for the sports report. Thank you.

Ms. Jalah Cook commented hello everyone. I'm going to start it off with winter sports. They began this Friday. Girls basketball won their very first game against Panther Valley. They're starting off their season 1 and 0. Boys basketball had a tournament at Hamburg on Friday, December 1st and Saturday, December 2nd. Girls basketball has a tournament in Lehigh on December 28th and 29th. Boys basketball will be having their rotary club tournament on December 27th to the 28th. National Honor Society members will be participating during this time as well. Wrestling has their first match on

Wednesday, December 6th. Their first tournament is at Brandywine on December 29th. Indoor track is also starting for kids who want to participate during the Spring season. We wish all the winter teams good luck and that's all I have for tonight. Thank you.

Mr. Green commented I noticed in Mr. Geist's report that there are a lot more students who have been signing up for some of the sporting events and I'm glad to see that, so that's a good thing. It looks like we might actually put a whole wrestling team on the mat this year and things like that. So, that's kind of promising. Glad to see that. Thank you. Any questions for the ladies? Anyone?

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Kelly commented I have no report. I just wanted to make a quick mention that Attorney Kristine Roddick, who's the school regular solicitor, couldn't be here this evening due to a family emergency. So, I am serving in her place.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS
(cont.)

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Stoker commented thank you Mr. Green. Just a reminder and an announcement that the Future Ready PA Index is now live. Also, the PVAS site went live right before the Thanksgiving break. The administrative team will be doing the annual data presentation at the board meeting on January 8th. That's all I have. Thank you.

Business Manager's Report - Mrs. Molitoris commented thank you, Mr. Green. We had, on November 30th, the annual financial report had to be submitted - that was submitted. The management notes for our financial report was submitted to the auditors at the end of last week along with the financial tables that also go along with that which means we should be receiving our actual final financial report from the auditors probably about the next two weeks. I will distribute that out to all board members once it's received. Last week we did have our single audit with our ESSER and federal monies completed by the local auditor as well and there were nothing that was brought to our attention of any findings during that time. That's all I have.

Mr. Green commented so how many years have you had a clean audit now?

Mrs. Molitoris commented many.

Mr. Green commented thank you for doing a great job, we appreciate it.

Mrs. Molitoris commented thank you.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link commented very briefly, tonight the report is that I'm very, very happy and appreciative that Lehigh Valley Educators Credit Union has notified us that they will be giving us another very generous donation in the amount of \$10,000. That money will go directly towards supporting our food pantry throughout the winter months for our students here that participate in the food pantry - students and families. Next month, at the meeting, we'll have a formal presentation publicly thanking them for their generosity to the school district for another year in a row. That concludes my report this evening, sir.

Executive Session Executive session was held this evening at 6:25 p.m. this evening in the administration board conference room.

PERSONNEL Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items A through K:

Appointment - Instructional

- 1. Brian Skrapits Temporary Professional Employee
 - Assignment: Secondary Math Teacher
 - Salary: \$62, 975 (Step 1 Masters on the 2023-2024 CBA Salary Schedule)
 - Effective: December 11, 2023

PERSONNEL

(cont.)

Appointment

Non - Instructional

1. Robert Long, Jr.* **

Assignment: Skilled Maintenance
 Salary: \$32.70/hour (+ additional \$1.06/hour for skilled maintenance)
 Effective: January 9, 2024
 *60 Working Day Probationary Period
 **Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items

2. Heidi Eckhart*

Assignment: Special Education Paraprofessional
 Salary: \$16.39/hour
 Effective: November 21, 2023
 *60 Working Day Probationary Period

3. Janelle Taylor*

Assignment: Life Skills Paraprofessional
 Salary: \$16.39/hour
 Effective: November 29, 2023
 *60 Working Day Probationary Period

Child-rearing
 Leave of
 Absence
 #7473

Approve a child-rearing leave for employee #7473, in accordance with Appendix D in the Northern Lehigh Education Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year. Employee intends to return at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

Family Medical
 Leave of
 Absence
 #7478

Approve the request of employee #7478 to take a family medical leave of absence, effective on November 9, 2023. The employee is requesting to use 12.5 paid sick days and 3 vacation days then requesting a family medical leave of absence and will return on a date not to exceed twelve weeks after the exhaustion of available paid time off.

Substitutes -
 Non-Instructional

Motion to appointment the following individuals as substitute custodian workers for the 2023-2024 school year at the 2023-2024 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Jennifer Wentz

Co-Curricular
 Resignation
 K. Farber

Accept the resignation of Katherine Farber from her position as Head Softball Coach approved on the October 9, 2023 board agenda, effective November 21, 2023.

Z. Williams

Accept the resignation of Zachary Williams from his position as Fall Intramurals Net Sports approved on the August 14, 2023 board agenda, effective August 17, 2023.

T. Stubits

Accept the resignation of Tamara Stubits from her position as Girls on the Run Advisor approved on the August 14, 2023 board agenda, effective November 30, 2023.

Co-Curricular
 Appointments
 2023-2024

Matt Durich	Assistant Baseball Coach - Shared Stipend	\$1,717.50
Bobby Fahler	Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	\$5,136
Robert Fahler, Jr.	Senior High Fall Intramurals	\$1,000
Robert Fahler, Jr.	Senior High Spring Intramurals	\$1,000

Co-Curricular
 Volunteers
 2023-2024

Cadence Peters Assistant Girls Basketball Coach

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Game Workers 2023-2024 Motion to appoint the following individuals as a Game Worker for the 2023-2024 school year. Game workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges and scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2023-2024 Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Shannon Jones

Krise Transportation, Inc. Bus Drivers and Aides Motion to approve the following bus drivers and aides from Brandywine Transportation to transport Northern Lehigh School District students for the 2023-2024 school year:

Stephanie Gaffney

Appoint Personnel Approve the Superintendent to appoint qualified personnel to vacant positions during the period of time from December 5, 2023 through the next regularly scheduled board meeting.

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

Dr. Link commented sir, if I may. I'd like to recognize one of our guests this evening. With us this evening we have Mr. Brian Skrapits, who has just been approved as our new Secondary Math Teacher. Congratulations and welcome to Northern Lehigh, Mr. Skrapits.

Mr. Green commented where is he going to be teaching?

Dr. Link commented middle school and high school. Mr. Skrapits is already familiar with Northern Lehigh School District because he has served as a guest teacher through the CLIU in our school buildings. So, we are very excited to have him officially join our team next week.

POLICY

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

Board Policy Second

Approve school board policy #819 - Suicide Awareness, Prevention and Response - Operations, as presented after the second Reading reading.

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

CONFERENCE

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

B. Dunham Blasia Dunham - PETE&C - February 5-6, 2024 - Hershey Lodge - Hershey, PA - Registration: \$210 - Lodging: \$160 - Travel: \$98.25 - Meals: \$70 - Total Approximate Cost: \$538.25 - Funding: Assistant Superintendent's Professional Development Budget.

N. Fink Nichole Fink - PASBO Food Service Bootcamp - December 12, 2023 - Harrisburg, PA - Registration: \$130 - Lodging: \$0 - Travel: \$106.11 - Meals: \$0 - Total Approximate Cost: \$236.11 - Funding: Food Services Budget.

**CONFER-
ENCES**
(cont.)

Mark Nicosia - Municipal Police Officer Firearm Instructor - January 8-12, 2024 - Pennsylvania State Police Troop P Headquarters - Wilkes Barre, PA - Registration:\$ 500 - Lodging: \$0 - Travel: \$548.23 - Meals: \$125 - Other: \$294.37- Total Approximate Cost: \$1467.60 - Funding: School Police Budget.

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

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

Induction Program

Approve the following teachers as helping teachers in the Northern Lehigh School District Induction Program for the 2023-2024 school year:

<u>Helping Teacher</u>	<u>Inductee</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Amanda Barianna	Brian Skrapits	\$800.00
Gabryella Wilder	Brian Skrapits	\$200.00

Mentor for
Administrative
Support Staff

Approve the following support staff assistants as mentors in accordance with the Northern Lehigh School District Administrative Support Staff Agreement:

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>New Employee</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Mark Nicosia	Mark Thomas	\$100.00
Scott Prebosnyak	Mark Thomas	\$100.00
Karen Beltz	Monica Stoeckel	\$200.00
Tricia Waylen	Tina Yocum	\$200.00

Affiliation
Agreement
DeSales Univ.

Approve to authorize proper officials to execute an Affiliation Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and DeSales University for a teacher preparation program. This program allows students at DeSales University to student teach in our district in order for them to complete their practicum hours needed for graduation. The agreement will cover the period of November 20, 2023 through November 19, 2028.

Mrs. Kulp commented I'd just like to say I'm thrilled that we are able to host the DeSales University students as part of teacher preparation. We all know how difficult it is to get folks into education these days and I think it's great that we are part of that process.

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Kern made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Snyder, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item:

Slatington Boro.
Police Dept.
MOU

Per the recommendation of administration, approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the Slatington Borough Police Department for additional monitoring of school district buildings and grounds for safety and security purposes.

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

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

Financial Reports Approve the Following Financial Reports:
 1. NLS D Investments for the month of November, 2023
 2. General Fund Account audited reports for the months of July - November, 2023
 3. Cafeteria Fund Account audited reports for the months of July -November, 2023
 4. NLHS Student Activities Account month of November, 2023
 5. NLMS Student Activities/Clubs Accounts month of November, 2023

List of Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:
 1. General Fund months of November & December, 2023
 2. Cafeteria Fund months of November & December, 2023
 3. Capital Construction month of November, 2023

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

Wireless Microphones As per the recommendation of the administration and the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve the purchase of wireless microphones for the Northern Lehigh High School auditorium per the attached.

Act 80 As per the recommendation of the administration, approve a contract with berkone for Act 80 reporting at a cost of \$860.00 for the 2024 submission.

Accident Insurance Approve to pay for PSBA twenty-four hour accident insurance for administrators at a cost of \$26.50 per administrator for 2024, to be paid from the Superintendent’s budget.

Portnoff Law Law Assoc. As per the recommendation of administration, 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 2023 tax year.

Act 1 Tax Levy Resolution Approve the Act 1 Tax Levy Resolution indicating the district will not increase real estate taxes above the adjusted index for the 2024-2025 fiscal year which is 7.1%.

Fund Balance Approve to designate Fund Balance ending June 30, 2023 as follows:

1.	Committed Fund Balance:	
	Health Insurance	\$ 509,128.00
	PSERS Increases	\$ 1,854,115.00
	Total Committed:	\$ 2,363,243.00
2.	Assigned Fund Balance:	
	Assigned Current Yr Usage	\$ 850,619.00
	Technology	\$ 1,500,311.00
	1:1 Computer Laptop Ins	\$ 75,000.00
	Replacement Equipment	\$ 3,250,100.00
	Long Range Maintenance	\$ 2,786,468.76
	Future Debt Service Payments	\$ 2,600,000.00
	Slatington Elementary SA	\$ 9,501.25
	Peters Elementary SA	\$ 30,470.38
	Refreshment Stand:	\$ 53,731.58
	Total Assigned:	\$ 11,156,201.97

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

3.	Unassigned Fund Balance:	\$ 2,295,624.91
4.	Restricted Fund Balances:	
	High School Scholarship:	\$ 168,655.88
	Slatington Elementary Student Actv:	\$
	Total Restricted Fund Balances:	\$ 140,390.43
5.	Nonspendable:	\$ 63,815.91
6.	Total Fund Balance:	\$16,047,541.67

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Green commented I have nothing under correspondence.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 16, 2023.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on October 5, 2023.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on September 27, 2023.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Green commented there's not a new name on there for guests that want to be recognized, correct?

Dr. Link commented no. Only Mrs. Williams signed in this evening. Thank you for being consistent and always attending. We appreciate it.

Mr. Green commented okay again, a couple of things. The January meetings will be on Tuesday, January 2nd. Monday is January 1st, I don't think you would. But, again, we have that special meeting coming up on December 11th. Dr. Link and I will be having a Zoom session tomorrow to go over the board self assessment to make sure that we're all on the same page when he makes that presentation at 6:00 p.m. on December 11th. Is there any other business that needs to be attended to?

ADJOURNMENT

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

YEA: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mrs. Natalie Snyder (7)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

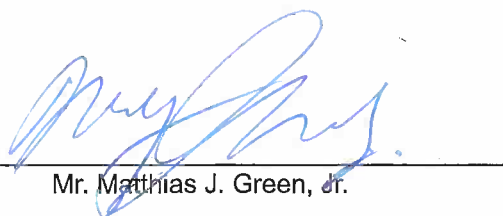


Gale Husack
Secretary

BOARD APPROVED

JAN 08 2024

ATTEST:



President

Mr. Matthias J. Green, Jr.