

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA**  
**April 14, 2020**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order virtually, via Google Meet, by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:13 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Mr. Fedorcha announced that the meeting was being recorded and would be posted on the NLSmedia YouTube Channel. All votes this evening will be roll call votes and board members were reminded to state their name before making first and second motions.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mr. Robert J. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Michele L. Martineau, and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: (0)

Non-members present: Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Ms. Madison Hoffman (Sr. Rep), Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. Matthew Link, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. James Schnyderite, Dr. Tania Stoker, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mr. Robert Vlasaty and Mr. Aidan Williams (Jr. Rep).

**VISITORS** Approximately twenty-one (21) visitors viewed the meeting.

**SUSPEND POLICY 006.1** Mrs. Martineau made a motion, which was seconded by Mr Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following:

Motion to suspend Policy 006.1 which limits no more than two (2) board members be permitted to teleconference at any one (1) meeting. This suspension will remain in effect throughout the Pennsylvania emergency disaster declaration.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on March 9, 2020, be approved and ordered filed.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that the May meeting was held virtually via Zoom and the April meeting will be held via Zoom as well. Mrs Husack stated that on the agenda this evening for approval is the CLIU Facilities plan report.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Fedorcha reported that LCTI has also met virtually and has a continuity of education plan for its students.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green reported that the last meeting was cancelled but the May committee and board meetings will be held virtually. The college is shut down and hopefully, it will reopen in the fall. It's too early to tell if there will be any financial ramifications.

**Committee Reports and/or Meetings**

Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on April 6, 2020, were distributed.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Minutes of the Community Relations Committee Meeting held on April 6, 2020 were distributed.

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting held on April 8, 2020 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on April 8, 2020 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Mr. Williams and Ms. Hoffman verbally reported on the contents of the student representative report.

Business Managers' Report - Mrs. Frantz reported that on the agenda this evening is the resolution for Charter School funding reform. This resolution, if approved, will be sent to the state and local legislators, and the governor.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Stoker updated the board on the grants that are currently on-going and the ramifications the shutdown has on each of them. Dr. Stoker reported that the Continuity of Education Equity Grant (CEEG), opened on April 6th and was due on April 10th. This grant is to be used to help any of our students who are not able to participate in the online learning due to connectivity issues. We qualified to apply for \$5,850 and the money will be used to purchase Kajeets to help with students who do not have access to the internet.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education has given graduation guidance. Students will be able to graduate if they pass their required classes and earn enough credits. Students with IEPs can graduate on IEP goals. The NOCTI and NIMS exams have been waived for the CTC students. Class rank and GPA are essentially local decisions. The guidance counselors and administration have been working on a plan and it will be communicated out shortly. High school graduation is permitted to be held virtually or after the ban is lifted. This is also being discussed administratively. This guidance applies to all home education students, bulldog academy students and any outplaced students.

Dr. Stoker reported that COVID-19 has forced us to change the way we operate which in turn has changed laws and policies. In order for the state to waive the PSSAs, PASA, and Keystone testings this year, they had to apply for a waiver from the federal government. At the local level, we are reviewing our policies to see if they fit the current times. If they don't, we have the option to suspend the policy through board motion, or we can revise the policy. Policies are being reviewed with guidance from PDE and PSBA and any policies affected will be discussed at the next Education/Policy committee meeting.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link announced that the governor has mandated the closing of school for the remainder of this academic year. Northern Lehigh was prepared for that scenario, and we have implemented our Continuity of Education plan. Monday, April 6th was the first day of mandated participation. Participation rates for all of our schools was at 95% or higher for the first week. Congratulations to our students and staff for making that possible.

Mr. Link thanked Kmart, Weis and Giant for donating plastic bags to hold our grab-n-go lunches. Lehigh Engineering donated the stakes for our signs down the Middle school driveway for our grab-no-go program. The grab-n-go meals are being funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Northern Lehigh Education Foundation has made a donation of \$1,000 to our Backpack Buddy program. This program, which was started before the school closure, is to increase meal security for some of our neediest families in the district. This program offers more meals for the weekend or longer school breaks. Mr. Link also thanked Mr. Joseph Franzone for a very generous donation of \$1,000 to the Backpack Buddy program. He was so thankful for what the school district was doing to support the community, that he made a donation. A big thank you for all of these donations. Mr. Fedorcha thanked everyone involved. Mr. Green asked if a letter could be drafted to thank these donors. Mr. Link replied that, as customary, letters will be sent to all of the donors.

Mr. Fedorcha reported that an emergency executive session was held virtually on March 18, 2020, to discuss personnel issues.

Mr. Fedorcha reported that an executive session was held virtually prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**PERSONNEL** Mrs. Heckman made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

Resignation/  
Retirement  
J. Hofelich With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Janet Hofelich from her position as Peters Elementary Second Grade Teacher, effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year.. Mrs. Hofelich will be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after 27 years of service.

P. Jones With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Patricia Jones from her position as High School Health & Physical Education Teacher, effective the end of the 2019-2020 school year. Mrs. Jones will be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after 33 years of service.

Substitute  
Non-Instruct-  
ional  
Cafeteria Motion to approve the appointment of the following individual as a substitute cafeteria worker for the 2019-2020 school year at the 2019-2020 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary schedule:

Kirk Henritz\*

**\*Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Mr. Link thanked and congratulated Mrs. Hofelich and Mrs. Jones for their service to the students of Northern Lehigh. They will be deeply missed and we wish them well in their future endeavors. Mr. Fedorcha agreed and hoped that we would be able to see them in person soon to wish them well.

**POLICY** Mrs. Martineau made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:

Board Policy  
First  
Reading Approve school board policy #201 – Pupils - Admission of Students, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #204 – Pupils - Attendance, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #208 – Pupils - Withdrawal from School, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #346 – Employees - Workers' Compensation, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #347 – Employees - Workers' Compensation Transitional Return-to-Work Program, as presented after first reading.

Board Policy  
Second  
Reading Approve school board policy #623 – Finance – Credit Cards, as presented after second reading.

Board Policy  
Annual  
Review Per the recommendation of the Education/Policy Committee and Administration, approve and accept the mandated annual review of policy #918 - Community - Title I Parent and Family Engagement, with no changes.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**CURRIC-  
ULUM AND  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

Facilities  
Plan  
Committee  
Report  
2020-2021

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Heckman, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction item:

Approve the following resolution to adopt the 2020-2021 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Facilities Plan Committee Report.

**RESOLVED:** It is recommended that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors approve the 2020-2021 Facilities Plan Committee Report that was approved by the CLIU#21 Facilities Plan Committee on March 4, 2020, and the CLIU #21 Board of Directors on March 16, 2020. In addition, the Board reaffirms its commitment to the original construct of the Facilities Planning, approved November 1, 1989, which consists of a series of prioritized inquiries to be considered in determining future locations of the CLIU and school district special education classes.

Middle School  
Curriculum  
Guide 20-21

Approve the Middle School Program of Studies Book for the 2019-2020 school year as presented and recommended by Administration.

Grand Canyon  
University  
Agreement  
2020-2022

Approve to authorize proper officials to execute an Affiliation Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and Grand Canyon University for a teacher preparation program. This program allows students at Grand Canyon University to student teach in our district for them to complete their practicum hours needed for graduation. This agreement will terminate June 30, 2022.

MOU MIND  
Research  
ST Math

Motion to approve the MOU between the Northern Lehigh School District and MIND Research Institute to provide ST Math licenses to Peters Elementary School as per the attached.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following New Business Item:

Resolution  
Charter School  
Funding reform

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Resolution Supporting Charter School Funding reform.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial  
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:  
General Fund Account month of March, 2020  
Cafeteria Fund month of March, 2020

List of  
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund months of March & April, 2020  
Cafeteria Fund months of March & April, 2020

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**LEGAL**

Expulsion  
Waivers

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Martineau, that the Board of Education approves the following legal item:

The Board agrees to expulsion hearing waiver for Student #2290204. Student and guardian have agreed to waive their right to a formal expulsion hearing in front of the School Board and have also agreed to disciplinary action outlined in the waiver.

Roll call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

**INFOR-  
MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Board of Directors meeting held on January 29, 2020, were distributed.

Mr. Fedorcha thanked the staff for doing a wonderful job. Stay safe, stay well and stay home!

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Gary S. Fedorcha