

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**February 13, 2017**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, February 13, 2017, in the Administration Office Board Room.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mr. Gregory S. Williams and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (6)

Members absent: Mrs. Debra L. Bower, Mr. Edward E. Hartman and Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (3)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Ms. Tori Csanadi (Jr. Rep.), Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. John Hrizuk, Ms. Karlyna Kemery (Sr. Rep.), Mr. Paul Leonzi, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mrs. Tanya Simms, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

**VISITORS** Approximately seven visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News.

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Keegan, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on January 9, 2017 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that the budget is on the agenda tonight for approval with a \$7 increase over last year's budget.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Fedorcha reported that the budget is on the agenda tonight for approval. Mr. Fedorcha added that they also had a clean audit. The bond issues are still being discussed and will be sent to the districts at a later date.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Green reported that the LCCC budget is on the agenda tonight for approval. Mr. Green stated that our district's portion is \$8,488 less than last year. Other districts have suggested that any reduction in the budget be set aside in their district's budget and offer scholarships to high school students to take dual enrollment classes at the college. Mr. Green also reported that 63% of graduates from LCCC have no financial debt. Mr. Fedorcha stated that he knows that we do reimburse for dual enrollment. Mr. Green stated that it would be a separate amount to set aside and he would like to discuss it further at a Finance Committee meeting.

Student Representatives to the Board Report –Ms. Karlyna Kemery and Ms. Tori Csanadi distributed the written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Strohl reported on a recent case where the Third Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the rights of students as it relates to providing English language services for those students that have a language barrier in order to provide equal educational opportunities.

Mr. Fedorcha announced that at the last Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Gorman reviewed the districts last audit, and he stated that we had a very clean audit and that we have two outstanding business managers. Mr. Fedorcha thanked them and the rest of the business office involved in making that transpire.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Molitoris stated that the governor's budget proposal is showing a \$59,000 increase in basic education funding, and an almost \$33,000 increase in special education reimbursement for Northern Lehigh. However, there is a cut to transportation reimbursement and a new formula is being crafted so we are not sure how much of a decrease we will experience. Mr. Michaels stated that until the budget is approved, we cannot count on any increases. Mrs. Molitoris reported that a proposed elimination of property taxes, and increasing the personal income tax from 3.07 percent to 4.95 percent and the sales and use tax from 6 to 7 percent could have a negative impact on school

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)**

districts. Districts would receive an amount equal to their current collection rate that may be adjusted yearly at a rate equal to the cost of living increase. Mrs. Molitoris added that districts would be allowed to produce tax bills if they have debt service. Northern Lehigh still has debt service that will continue until 2023-2024 and we would be generating tax bills equal to about 21% of a resident's current tax bill. Of the 500 school districts in Pennsylvania, only 2% of the districts will not have a tax bill. Mrs. Molitoris went on to say that businesses will no longer have to pay property taxes, making them the real winners. Over \$2 billion will have to be funded through personal income tax and sales and use tax. Further complicating the issue, all future construction projects will have to go out for referendum. If the public refuses, we could be looking at inferior structures for our students to be educated. Mrs. Frantz encouraged everyone to contact your legislators and let them know this is not good for education. Mr. Fedorcha added that even senior citizens will feel the increase in sales tax, since everything, including medications would be taxed. Mrs. Molitoris added that on top of all of that, the money would go directly to the state who would have to disperse it to the districts. Mr. Fedorcha added that usually the bigger districts in the state get taken care of first.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Nicholas gave a mid-year report on the K-6 pilot study for English/language arts. The two elementary principals updated the Education/Policy committee by presenting the teachers' surveys and assessment data. At this point, there is no conclusive data supporting one series over another. Both programs are very rigorous and include a great deal of problem solving and critical thinking. The study will continue until the end of the year and Mrs. Nicholas will report the results.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Michaels announced that last week was National School Counselors week. The school counselors district-wide are hard-working and do a great job with our students.

Mr. Michaels announced that he is recommending June 9, 2017 as graduation.

Mr. Fedorcha stated that Mr. Michaels did an excellent job with the recent snow calls by letting parents know ahead of time. Mr. Williams added, that as a parent, he will never complain about making the call the night before.

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

**PERSONNEL**

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

Retirement Resignation R. Kroboth Accept the retirement resignation of Robert Kroboth from his position as High School Middle Shift Custodian, effective the end of the work day, January 31, 2018. Contract language states that custodial/maintenance employees who have worked for the district more than 20 years and give notice to the district 12 ½ months prior to retirement date shall receive an additional \$500.00 upon retirement. Mr. Kroboth will retire in January, 2018 after 27 years of service at the Northern Lehigh School District.

K. Ahner Accept the resignation of Kris Ahner from her position as High School Transitional Learning Support Teacher effective the end of the contractual work day of the 2016- 2017 school year.

Appointment Instructional	Sarah Fink Assignment:	Temporary Vacancy Replacement Slatington Elementary School 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher replacing an employee on family medical leave.
	Salary:	Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30; Day 31 and beyond \$46,875.00 prorated (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2016-2017 CBA Salary Schedule)
	Effective:	On or about February 21, 2017
	Termination Date	On or about May 12, 2017

- PERSONNEL** (cont.)  
 District Wide TVR Permanent Substitutes
- Approve the following individuals as District Wide Temporary Vacancy Replacement Permanent Substitute Teachers for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year, replacing permanent substitute teachers in full time teaching positions until the end of the year. They will be paid a daily per diem rate of \$120 and will receive district health benefits according to the Affordable Health Care Act regulations with co-payment amounts equivalent to that of district personnel:
- Dakota Miller  
 Scott Valentine
- Game Workers 2016-2017
- Motion to appoint the following people as Game Workers for the 2016-2017 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 2016-2017 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule.
- Matthew Davis  
 Robyn Pristash
- Substitute Non-Instructional
- Approve the following individual as substitute secretary/aide for the 2016-2017 school year at the 2016-2017 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:
- Kelsey Follweiler\*  
 \*Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items
- YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
 NAY: None (0)
- POLICY**
- Mr. Greg Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:
- Field Trips
- Spanish Club – High School – New York City, NY – March 30, 2017 – This trip is fully funded by Spanish Club Students.
- Senior Class Trip – High School - Six Flags Great Adventure – Jackson, NJ – May 26, 2017 – This trip is fully funded by Class of 2017 Students.
- National Honor Society – Ellis Island – New York City, NY – June 2, 2017 – This trip is fully funded by National Honor Society Students.
- Board Policy First Reading
- Approve school board policy #103 – Programs – Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices, as presented after first reading.
- Approve school board policy #248 – Pupils – Unlawful Harassment, as presented after first reading.
- Approve school board policy #251 – Pupils - Homeless Students, as presented after first reading.
- Approve school board policy #255 – Pupils – Educational Stability for Children in Foster Care, as presented after first reading.
- Approve school board policy #348 – Employees – Unlawful Harassment, as presented after first reading.
- YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
 NAY: None (0)
- CONFER-ENCES**
- Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves the following conference:
- Michele Dotta – PDE Conference 2017 Making a Difference: Educational Practices that Work! –

March 9-10, 2017 – Hershey Lodge & Convention Center – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$139.00; Lodging: \$143.19; Meals: \$33.00, Travel: \$83.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$398.19 – Funding: Special Education Budget

**CONFERENCE**  
(cont.)

Lynn Haab –PSEA 2017 Special Education Conference - March 3-4, 2017 – Omni Bedford, Springs Resorts – Bedford, PA - Registration: \$30.00; Travel: \$196.88 – Total Approximate Cost: \$226.88 – Funding Curriculum & Instruction Budget.

Sherri Molitoris – 31<sup>st</sup> Annual PASPA Conference: War Stories II, The Battle Continues – March 1-3, 2017 – Harrisburg-Hershey Sheraton Hotel – Harrisburg, PA – Registration: \$645.00; Lodging: \$197.58; Travel: \$90.52 – Total Approximate Cost: \$933.10 – Funding: Business Office Budget

Krystle-Dawn Tiedeman – Pennsylvania Excellence in eLearning Forum – March 16-17, 2017 - Sands Resort – Bethlehem, PA. There is no cost for this conference.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
NAY: None (0)

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Keegan, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction item:

Mr. Williams added that at the next Education/Policy committee meeting in April they will be discussing the possibility of adjusting graduation requirements.

High School Program of Studies 2017-2018

Approve the High School Program of Studies Book for 2017-2018 school year as presented and recommended by Administration.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial Reports

Approve the following financial reports:  
General Fund Account month of December, 2016  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of December, 2016  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Account month of December, 2016

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund months of January & February, 2017  
Cafeteria Fund months of January & February, 2017  
Refreshment Stand month of January, 2017

Lehigh Carbon Community College 2017-2018

Approve a resolution regarding the 2017-2018 Lehigh Carbon Community College Sponsor contribution Budget. Total expenditures equal \$6,186,337.00 which represents no change over the 2016-2017 budget. Northern Lehigh's share of the total budget is \$197,196.00, a decrease of \$8,488.00 or (-4.1%). A copy of the budget was distributed electronically January 5, 2017.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2017-2018 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2017-2018 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Operational and Program Services budget. Total expenditures equal \$3,212,643.00 an increase of \$78,510.00 over the 2016-2017 budget. Northern Lehigh's share is proposed to be \$19,785.00 an increase of \$7.00 from the 2016-2017 budget. A copy of the budget was distributed electronically on February 1, 2017.

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute 2017-2018 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute general fund budget and Academic Center expenditures for the 2017-2018 school year. The general fund budget total is \$26,259,100.00, an increase of \$651,800. Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2017-2018 general fund budget is \$904,889.00, a decrease of \$8,188.00. The expenditures for the Academic Center budget for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 total \$1,746,300.00, an increase of \$88,800.00. There is no cost to Northern Lehigh School for the Academic Center budget. A copy of the budget was distributed to board members electronically February 7, 2017.

Single Audit 2015-2016 Accept the 2015-2016 audit and management report for the single audit ending June 30, 2016. A copy of the audit was distributed at the January 9, 2017 school board meeting.

**FINANCIAL**  
**(cont.)**

K-12 Services Agreement Authorize Administration to enter into a three year agreement with K-12 Services, Inc. for third party procurement specialist services for the procurement of school food service commercial and commodity foods and supplies in accordance with the Le-Nor-Co Purchasing Cooperative Request for Proposals.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**  
**(cont.)**

KCBA

Building Entrances

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

Authorize Administration to enter into a contract with KCBA Architects to design, engineer and assist with the bidding of upgrades to secure front building entrances at a cost not to exceed \$50,000.00.

Snyder Hoffman Waste Water Lift Station

Authorize Administration to enter into a contract with Snyder Hoffman and Associates to design, engineer and assist with the bidding of the waste water lift station replacement at the High School at a cost not to exceed \$5,610.00.

Snyder Hoffman Oil Tank Re-Placement HS & MS

Authorize Administration to enter into a contract with Snyder Hoffman and Associates to design, engineer and assist with the bidding of the oil tank replacement at the Middle School and High School at a cost not to exceed \$16,320.00.

Center Stage HS Stage

Authorize Administration to enter into a contract with Center Stage Lighting & Rigging, Inc., to design, engineer and assist with the High School stage upgrade and replacement of the curtains, lighting and rigging at a cost not to exceed \$8,000.00.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
NAY: None (0)

**INFOR-**  
**MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Board of Directors meeting held on December 19, 2016 was distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 1, 2016, and January 5, 2017, were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on December 14, 2016, were distributed.

**ADJOURN-**  
**MENT**

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Williams and Mr. Fedorcha (6)  
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

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