

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 4, 2000

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2000, in the boardroom of the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, Mr. Gary Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Dr. Brian Gessner, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger (arrived at 7:40 p.m.), Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Lisa Vaughan (arrived at 7:50 p.m.), Ms. Pamela Grammes (arrived at 7:52 p.m.), Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS Approximately five visitors attended the meeting in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News and Elizabeth Bartolai reporter for The Morning Call.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer gave his report for the month.

Committee Reports &/or Meetings All Board Members received a copy of the minutes of the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee meeting which was held on November 6, 2000.

Mr. Cox urged all Board Members to attend the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting scheduled for December 6.

Approve Board Committee Meeting Calendar Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education approve the "Second Suggestion" School Board Committee Meeting Calendar for 2001. This suggestion has additional finance committee meetings scheduled throughout the year. The Wednesday evening committee meetings should be moved to Monday evening due to the fact that the school board meetings will be held on the first and second Wednesday of the month.

Amend Board Committee Meeting Calendar Motion made by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education amend the committee meeting schedule so that from the "Second Suggestion" schedule the first committee meeting would be held on the night of the first board meeting and the next committee that was listed to meet at the same time would meet before the second board meeting. All board meetings would then begin at 8:00 PM.
Motion died for lack of a second.

Amend Board Committee Meeting Calendar Motion made by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education amend the committee meeting schedule so the committee meetings would be held the first Wednesday and third Wednesday of each month. Motion died for lack of a second.

Amend Board Committee Meeting Calendar Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education amend the committee schedule to have the Policy/Education Committee meet the first Wednesday of the month before the board meeting, and then allow the other committees to select a particular night (same night each month) for the entire year to hold their meetings.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Community Rel. Volunteerism Committee Meeting Motion made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education approve to have the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee meet on the second Wednesday of each month before the board meeting.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler (3)
NAY: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Fedorcha (6)
Motion failed.

Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve to have the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee meet on the third Wednesday of each month beginning at 6:30 PM.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: Mrs. Sechler (1)
Motion carried.

Finance Committee Meeting Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approve to have the Finance Committee meet on the first Monday of the month. In the ensuing discussion, it was decided to table action on school board committee meetings, thus there was no vote on the motion.

Table Committee Meeting Schedule Motion made by Mr. Newhard, with a second by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education table the school board committee meeting schedule until the next meeting.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos

Mrs. Geronikos gave her report for the month and apprised the board of some items of interest she learned at the county legislative meeting she attended.

Federal and Other Programs Update -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham

Dr. Sham's report included the following:

1. The district did submit the grant application for the Digital Grass Roots Grant and also the Students Achieving Standards Grant.
2. He informed the board that material selection for math and language arts will begin in January 2001.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Sham presented the Superintendent's Report in Dr. Koberlein's absence and it consisted of the following:

1. The artwork displayed in the boardroom was from Mrs. Millen's sixth grade art classes.
2. The budget process timeline for the 2001-2002 budget was distributed to all board members.

PERSONNEL Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Change of Classification Non-Instructional Tamra Yesik	Tamra Yesik	
	From:	Substitute Aide/Secretary
	To:	Temporary Support Staff – Business Office
		To process Walnutport Tax Refunds.
	Salary:	\$8.38 Per Hour/6 ½ Hrs. Per Day/5 Days Per Week
	Effective Date:	November 28, 2000
	Termination Date:	On or about March 1, 2001

Substitutes Employ the following substitute teacher for the 2000-2001 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Cathy M. Minnich – Mathematics -- Homebound Only

Unpaid Volunteer Swim Coaches Approve Mike Davis and Jere Schneck as unpaid volunteer swim coaches for the 2000-2001 school year, effective immediately and continuing until the completion of the State Swimming Tournament, or until Ian Vernon, Eric Vernon, Amanda Schneck, and Megan Schaeffer are no longer eligible to compete in the 2001 State Tournament. These students will be participating in the District XI Swimming Tournament and must have a coach or district official accompany them. It is understood that there is no cost to the district.

Co-Curricular Appointment For 2000-2001 Senior High Musical – Nicholas J. Simons -- \$2425.00

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

POLICY Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Conference Approve the request of Susan Mendes to attend a Bureau of Education & Research conference in King of Prussia on January 8, 2001. Expenses for this conference entitled “Practical Strategies to Help Special Education Teachers Objectively Assess IEP Progress”, include \$169.00 for registration, \$39.00 for travel, \$1.45 miscellaneous for a total cost of \$209.45 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for the day and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Close High School Awards Account Grant permission to the senior high to close the “High School Awards” account in the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Fund. The money remaining in this account should be turned over to the Northern Lehigh School District General Fund (High School Vending Machines).

Homebound Instruction Grant homebound instruction to a 9th grade student, Student No. 04-04750, for five hours per week effective December 4, 2000 and continuing until January 12, 2001.

Marching Band Trip Grant permission to the Northern Lehigh High School Marching Band to conduct their annual Spring trip. This year’s trip to Washington, D.C. will be scheduled for Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31, 2001. There is no cost to the district for this trip.

POLICY (Con’t.)

Homebound Instruction Approve to enter into an agreement with Renewal Centers Teach Me Tutoring School in Quakertown, PA to provide educational services for a student, who resides in our district, for two hours and forty-five minutes per

day, five days a week, at a rate of \$30.00 per day, effective on or about December 5, 2000 and ending on or about March 4, 2001.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Remove From Table To Discuss NLHS Ski Club Account
Motion made by Mr. Green, with a second by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve to remove from the table and open for discussion the request to close the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Fund "Ski Club" account.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Maintain And Keep Active NLHS Ski Club Account
Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Giles that the Board of Education approve to maintain and keep active the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Fund "Ski Club" account.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS
Reconsider School Board Meeting Night
Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education reconsider the meeting night established for school board meetings for 2001 and move the meetings from the first and second Wednesday of each month back to the first and second Monday of each month.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Fedorcha,
Mrs. Escott (7)

NAY: Mr. Newhard, Mr. Dorshimer (2)

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS
LCTI Representative One-Year Term
Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos to nominate Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler to serve as the Northern Lehigh School District Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee representative for a one-year term beginning January 2001.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

LCTI Alternate Representative One-Year Term
Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education appoint Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles as the Alternate Representative to the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee for a one-year term beginning January 2001.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL
Motion made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

PC Abatements
Approve to consider abatement of per capita taxes for the resident(s) that fall within the guidelines as listed.

Portfolio Summary Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of October 2000.

Construction Bills Approve payment of construction bills for the senior high school, as presented.

Refund of Real Estate Tax Approve the refund of the following 2000-2001 real estate tax as presented. The assessment was reduced due to a decrease in lot size.

Harold Christman \$128.04
843 Washington Street, Walnutport, PA 18088
For
Property located at 216 Cherry St., Slatington, PA

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

LEGAL Motion made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve the following legal items:

Appointment Solicitor Appoint the firm of Steckel and Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh School District for 2001 at a retainer fee of \$1750.00.

Adjust Municipal Rate For Legal Services Approve to adjust the municipal rate for legal services conducted above and beyond the retainer fee through Steckel & Stopp Law Offices from \$80.00 per hour to \$88.00 per hour, effective January 2001.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

**INFORM-
ATION** All board members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on October 16, 2000.

**RECOG-
NITION
OF GUESTS** Sharon Minnich – asked if the board realized they approved committee meetings on Wednesday evening prior to the board meeting and also approved a Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting on the third Wednesday of the month.

Janet Kern – As the NLEA President representing the teachers in the district, she expressed concern about some of the statements made about the teaching staff and their lack of volunteer effort with regard to the director of the school musical position.

Rod Snyder – Asked if the board could update him with regard to Act 50.

**ADJOURN-
MENT** Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green
Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha