

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA
February 14, 2005**

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 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 14, 2005 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Susan H. Fullas, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. William H. Hazzard, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (6)

Members absent: Mr. Robert J. Cox (arrived at 7:33 p.m.), Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (arrived at 7:39 p.m.) (3)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynn Fedorcha, Mr. Robert Kern, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Ms. Andrea Madochick, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS In addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for the Times News, Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle, approximately 4 visitors attended the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the minutes of the regular **school** board meeting held on January 3, 2005, and the regular school board meeting held on January 10, 2005 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (6)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer announced that the CLIU board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17 because the CLIU will be closed on February 21.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos discussed Act 71 and lawsuits associated with it.

Federal and Other Programs – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Director of Curriculum Report and reported on its contents.

She announced that high school guidance counselor, Mrs. Sheila Lanshe, received the Lehigh Carbon School Counselor's Association Counselor of the Year Award.

Mr. Green announced that the Northern Lehigh Wrestling Team became State Champions. He stated that this has never happened before in the history of the district. Mr. Green publicly thanked Mr. Bryan Geist for arranging the parade and festivities for the team when they returned. He also thanked Mr. Kern, Mr. Geiger, Mr. Papay and whoever else he missed for helping with the festivities.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
Dr. Sham called on Dr. Linda Marcincin, principal of Slatington to discuss the distance learning program that she initiated this year that is being conducted between Slatington Elementary and the middle school.

He reminded everyone that the March 7 board meeting will be held in the Peters Elementary School.

He reported that he checked with Mrs. Jodi Nestor who is our district representative from the Parks and Recreation Commission regarding the rims and nets. She stated that there was some talks

about a group wanting to replace those rims and baskets but she indicated that they feel that it really should be the responsibility of the school district.

He gave Mr. Green, Mr. Dorshimer and Mrs. Fullas information regarding something Lower Merrian School District sent to their constituency with regard to Act 72.

He also reported that he received an email on full day kindergarten which addressed Uniontown Area Kindergarten teachers talking about the difference the full day session has made in their students' progress. He also stated that they are using the Accountability Grant their district received to fund full day kindergarten.

He also reported that there is some concern about the planning that needs to take place in regard to full day kindergarten that cannot wait until June 2005. He reported that he is planning on sending out a memo to all staff to form a Task Force to begin looking at setting up schedules, look at items that will need to be purchased, etc. This Task Force will include teachers, administration, parents and a board member or two.

PERSONNEL A motion was made by Mrs. Fullas, with a second made by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

Substitutes Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2004-2005 school year at the Instructional 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:

Donald Rehrig – Middle School Mathematics

Resignation Accept the resignation of Jessica Jones from her position as special education aide in the middle school, effective at the end of the day on February 18, 2005.

Leave Without Pay Approve the request of Barbara Mantz, first grade teacher, to take an unpaid day of absence on March 11, 2005. She will be using this day in conjunction with four personal days on March 7, 8, 9 and 10, 2005. Her request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Substitutes Instructional Add the following substitute teacher for the 2004-2005 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: Jenna Michalik -- Elementary

Leave of Absence Approve the request of Carleen Binder, sixth grade teacher, to take a leave of absence using her sick days beginning on or about April 8, 2005.

FMLA /Unpaid Child Rearing Leave of Absence Upon exhaustion of her sick days, Carleen Binder has submitted a request to take a 12-week Family Medical Leave of Absence with an unpaid child rearing leave. She plans to return to work for the 2005-2006 school year.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (8)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Curriculum and Instruction:

CLIU 2005-Facilities Plan Committee Report Approve the following resolution to adopt the 2005-2006 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Facilities Plan Committee report that was unanimously adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on February 1, 2005.

RESOLVED: It is recommended that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors approve the 2005-2006 Facilities Plan Committee Report as unanimously adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on February 1, 2005. In addition, the Board reaffirms its commitment to the original construct of the Facilities Planning, approved November 1, 1989,

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

(Con't.)

which consists of a series of prioritized inquiries to be considered in determining future locations of the CLIU and school district special education classes.

Conferences Approve the request of Dawn Wadsworth, School Psychologist, to attend the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania Spring Conference from March 2-4, 2005. Expenses for this conference include \$260.00 for registration, \$75.00 for meals, \$60.00 for travel, \$180.00 for lodging for an approximate total cost of \$575.00 and will be funded through IDEA.

Approve the request of Philip Bertolino to attend a PA Association of Elementary & Secondary Principals conference at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit. Expenses for this conference include \$100.00 for registration and will be funded through the 2004-2005 senior high budget.

Approve the request of Maria Pinnata, school psychologist, to attend attend the Association of School Psychologists of Pennsylvania Spring Conference on March 3, 2005. Expenses for this conference include \$130.00 for registration, \$29.00 for travel for a total approximate cost of \$179.00 and will be funded through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Linda Thompson, Peters Elementary guidance counselor, to attend the Pennsylvania School Counselors Association conference in State College, PA on April 21 and 22, 2005. Expenses for this conference include \$270.00 for registration, \$100.00 for travel, \$117.00 for lodging for an approximate total cost of \$487.00 and will be funded through the Peters Elementary 2004-2005 budget.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (8)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Financial:

Treasurer's Report Approve the report of the Treasurer, Mr. Cox, as presented for the month of January 2005.

Reports Only) All board members received the December 2004 and January 2005 Expenditure Reports for (Info the Cafeteria, General and Capital Reserve Funds.

General Fund Bills Approve payment of General Fund bills for the months of January and February 2005.

NLMS Student Activity Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activity Fund Account statement for the month of January 2005.

NLHS Student Activity Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activity Fund statement for the month of January 2005.

Contract With Telcove Approve a one-year contract for local and long-distance telephone service with Telcove. Telcove was approximately \$300/month less than the nearest competitor.

FINANCIAL
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Eastern Telephone Upgrade Approve the purchase of equipment, software, and labor from Eastern Telephone and Telecommunications, Inc. for \$15,581.00 (Pennsylvania ITQ) to upgrade the telephone Telecommunications system in the Peters Elementary School to support VOIP (Voice Over IP) as presented to the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee at the January 12, 2005. This upgrade will allow us to integrate our telephone service, between Peters Elementary and Slatington Elementary, over our existing data telecommunications line between the two schools. This upgrade will allow us to discontinue the T1 line between Peters and Slatington which will save the district \$400.00 per month on telecommunications charges. In thirty-nine months (3 years and 3 months) the savings will pay for the telephone upgrade.

CLIU Budget For 2005-06 Operational and Program Services budget Approve a resolution regarding the 2005-06 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit budget. Total expenditures equal \$1,808,877, an increase of \$93,536, (5.5%) over the 2004-05 budget. Northern Lehigh's share is proposed to be \$17,947, a decrease of \$330 from the 2004-05 budget.

Solicit Bids For General & Art Supplies Authorize district officials to solicit bids for general and art supplies for the 2005-06 school year if adequate materials cannot be obtained through the U.S. Communities program.

Approve Single Audit Approve the Single Audit, Earned Income Tax and OPT Audits for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2004 as prepared by Hutchinson, Gorman & Freeh.

JMSI Environmental Agreement Approve the agreement for the Indoor Air Quality Study and Environmental Evaluation with JMSI Environmental Corp. of Swoyersville, PA. Cost for this project is not to exceed Corp. \$15,250.00. Funds for this are to come from the General Fund.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: None (0)

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Dorshimer asked the board members to complete and return their State Ethics forms and PSBA Travel Insurance forms and return them to Mrs. Merkle.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (8)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.