

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
March 10, 2008

- PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, March 10, 2008 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.
- TEMPORARY SECRETARY** Hearing no objections, Mr. Edward E. Hartman announced that Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. would serve as temporary secretary for this evening meeting in the absence of Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer.
- ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (7:40), Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)
- Members absent: Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer (1)
- Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Rachel Parisi (Student Rep), Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.
- VISITORS** Approximately nine visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Mr. Richard Klocek – Washington Township stated that he would like to comment on an agenda item under personnel.
- SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported on HB1841 which would create a state-wide healthcare system for school employees is in the House of Appropriations Committee and is expected to come to the house floor for a vote within the next two weeks.
- The State Board of Education's push to implement Graduation Competency Assessments has continued with mailings to school districts to try to get their support for this plan. Representative Stanley Saylor will be introducing legislation that would prohibit the State Board from being able to implement their plan without first getting the approval of the legislature.
- Mr. Williams informed the board that PSBA has updated their website. All Board members were instructed to login again and that their old password will not work. They must sign in with their member number and the password is their first initial and last name.
- Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. informed the board that he did not attend the meeting. Instead, he was a presenter at the PSBA Training Session for New Board Members. He further stated that the 08/09 LCCC budget has been approved by 6 or 7 school districts at this time.
- Committee Reports and/or Meetings
- Minutes of the Technology/Building and Grounds Meeting held on March 5, 2008 were distributed.
- Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on March 5, 2008 were distributed.
- Mr. Derr stated that the minutes from the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting should reflect that the district will be disposing of the white box truck.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Ms. Rachael Parisi and Mr. Michael Showak distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Federal and Other Programs – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha introduced Mr. Timothy Weaber, Technology Teacher/Mentor, who gave a presentation on the Mimio purchased with funds from the Accountability Block Grant.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Lisa Blank stated that at the last board meeting she was asked to have Mr. Les Bear from Ferris, Baker, Watts the district's financial advisor, attend the board meeting to discuss the financial implications involved if the district would want to take a \$1,000,000 bond to complete the science lab project or if there were other ways of financing this project.

Mr. Bear addressed the board on current market conditions, current district outstanding debt service and the 2004 incurred \$24,000,000 additional debt for future capital projects.

Mr. Hartman stated that Mrs. Blank has tenured her resignation to the Board and that he is sorry to see her go. Other Board members echoed Mr. Hartman's sentiment.

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.

Dr. Sham informed the Board that they should have received in their agenda packet a list of priority items as possible items to be purchased with the extra subsidy money if that extra subsidy money becomes a reality.

Dr. Sham reminded the Board that the April 7, 2008 board meeting will be held in the middle school.

Dr. Sham stated that he saw the musical "The Apple Tree" this weekend and it was incredible. He encouraged everyone to make an effort to see the show.

Dr. Sham reported that Mr. Derr had investigated the request for a bus stop location change that was brought to the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. After review administration is recommending that there be no change to the bus stop location.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Mr. Robert Cox – Washington Township asked if the Board voted to rescind the in place financing, what kind of fees and expenses would there be to get out of that contract. What would it cost if a year or so down the road the Board decided that there is a project that needs to be done and the Board must incur debt, how much would it cost?

more

Mr. Bear stated that there would be no cost to get out of the current incurred debt. It didn't cost anything to get in, will cost nothing to get out. However, if the Board rescinded the contract and decided at a later date that there is a capital project the Board has lost the opportunity to have that debt incurred and grandfathered. As soon as the Board rescinds the contract it goes away and anything that is done going forward counts against the index. The rating companies will look at it differently and charge you more money for the rating and bond insurance companies will charge you a lot more money for the bond insurance. It will be expensive. Interest rates will be higher because debt is no longer grandfathered.

**Executive
Session**

Mr. Hartman stated that the Board held an executive session on March 5, 2008 to discuss personnel issues. The Board was also in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel items.

PERSONNEL

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

**9th Grade
Transitions
Team**

Approve Donald Allen as the 9th Grade Transitions Team Coordinator for the 2007-2008 school year at a rate of \$20.00 per hour as funded through the Project 720 Grant.

Coordinator
PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Substitute Instructional Approve the following as a substitute teacher for the 2007-2008 school year at the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule substitute rates:

Lisa Goad – Special Education and English

Resignation Lisa Blank Accept the resignation of Lisa Blank from her position as Business Manger effective March 5, 2008. She will be released from her position at the end of the work day on May 2, 2008 or as soon as a replacement can be found.

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of employee #215, district clerical employee, to take a Family Medical Leave of Absence, effective March 24, 2008 and continuing for approximately 8 weeks with an anticipated return date of May 26, 2008.

PUBLIC COMMENT Richard Klocek – Washington Township stated that in the short time he has worked with Mrs. Blank her professional level has been an absolute pleasure to work with. He wishes her the best and most success in future endeavors.

Board members again echoed Mr. Klocek’s sentiment.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approves the following conference items:

High Schools That Works Conference Approve to send six teachers and two administrators to the High Schools That Works Conference in Nashville, TN from July 9-12, 2008 at a cost not to exceed \$7,168.50. Expenses for one district administrator will be paid for by a grant through Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

Linda Marcincin – PASA Women’s Caucus Conference 2008 – April 30 – May 2, 2008 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$295.00, Lodging: \$392.00, Travel: \$74.17 – Total Approximate Cost: \$761.17 – Funding: Slatington Elementary Principal Budget

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #113 – Programs – Special Education, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #707 – Property – Use of School Facilities and Equipment, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #707.1 – Property – Use of Storage Space, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy #808.1– Operations – Point of Sale, as presented after second reading.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

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

2008-2009
District
Calendar

Approve the 2008-2009 Northern Lehigh School District Calendar as presented.

LCCC
2008-2009
Dual
Enrollment
Agreement

Approve administration to enter into a partnership agreement with Lehigh Carbon Community College in order to provide our students with greater options to earn concurrent high school/college credit. The term of the Dual Enrollment Partnership Proposal between Northern Lehigh School District and Lehigh Carbon Community College will be from August 15, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

NWLSD
2008-2009
Dual
Enrollment
Agreement

Approve administration to enter into a partnership agreement with Northwestern Lehigh School District in order to provide our students with greater options to earn concurrent high school/college credit. The term of the Dual Enrollment Partnership Proposal between Northern Lehigh School District and Northwestern Lehigh School District will be from July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Geronikos asked where the district stands with the science lab funds and staying within the EITC laws.

wise to

Mrs. Blank stated that the Board has the funds and the funds need to be spent on the initial program which was integrated science, forensics and genetics moving towards that direction. It was recommended by the woman at DCED that the way to move in that direction would be to purchase equipment that could be used in a lab when we are ready curricular teach those classes.

Mrs. Yadush asked how much does the board want her to move forward with the purchasing of science lab equipment.

Mrs. Blank stated that she guesses the big picture question is are they going to move forward with this lab as it was originally discussed, the Herman P. Snyder Science Lab and all its parts, and to do that it would require getting the architect working on the Plan Con process and discussing how the Board is going to finance the project. Short of doing all that, she recommends going ahead with the purchasing of equipment with the full knowledge that the equipment can be moved into a lab and used to teach those classes.

Mr.

Mr. Green asked if we should be discussing at the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting if it is time for the district to invest in a feasibility study. The feasibility study will help develop a plan and move the district forward. He does not want to make a decision on this tonight but would like this to be a serious discussion item at the next Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting. Mr. Williams concurred with Green.

Mrs. Geronikos asked Mrs. Blank when the money has to be spent by.

Mrs. Blank said that it should have been spent by this point in time. When she talked to the woman at DCED, she said they are not looking to make trouble, they just want us to spend the money. She did not give a date on when the money had to be spent by.

Mr. Hartman asked if most of the board members can make the next Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting to discuss this issue then.

**OLD
BUSINESS
(cont.)**

Dr. Sham stated that the science department should move ahead and create a prioritized list spending the amount of money that needs to be spent and present it at the next Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting because at the point they can say yes lets move ahead and purchase this stuff.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Mr. Robert Cox – Washington Township has done this for many school districts and stated that he would be willing to come to the next Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting and talk with new board members and explain the difference between a Plan Con A feasibility study and a real feasibility study.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Hartman read an invitation from Mr. Richard Oertner, head basketball coach, inviting three Board Members to attend the Boys Basketball Banquet on April 12, 2008 at 3:00 PM at the Terrace Restaurant. Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Follweiler and Mr. Green will be attending.

Mrs. Geronikos asked if the district would be writing a proclamation for the Boy's Basketball Team.

Dr. Sham stated that a proclamation will be done for the team.

FINANCIAL

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

**Financial
Reports**

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund month of February
2. NLMS Student Activities Account month of February

**Bill
Payment**

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of February and March
2. Cafeteria Fund month of February
3. Athletic Fund month of February
4. Refreshment Stand Fund month of February
5. Capital Projects Fund month of February

**Maintenance
Truck
Purchase
for**

Authorize administration to purchase through state contract a 2008 Fleet/Non-Retail GMC Sierra 2500HD 4WD Reg Cab 133" Work Truck from Penske GMC Commercial Trucks in Shillington, PA. Price quote for the truck is \$29,813 plus an additional \$2,500 for a lift gate a total cost of \$32,313. Funding for this truck will come from the General Fund Long Term Equipment Replacement Budget.

**Slatington
Lions Club
Use of
Facilities Bill**

Authorize administration to recalculate the previous Use of Facilities invoice issued to the Slatington Lions Club for their annual Car Show held Labor Day Weekend 2007. The invoice will be recalculated based on the approved revisions to school board policy #707. This will result in a reduction of \$76.82 to the original invoice.

**NLYAA
Use of
Facilities Bill
a**

Authorize administration to recalculate the previous Use of Facilities invoice issued to the Northern Lehigh Athletic Association for the fall 2007 Football season. The invoice will be recalculated based on the approved revisions to school board policy #707. This will result in reduction of \$56.85 to the original invoice.

**Calculate
Use of
Facilities Bill**

Authorize administration to calculate and issue Use of Facilities invoices to the following organizations based on the approved revisions to school board policy #707.

1. Cub Scouts for Pine Wood Derby held on February 9, 2008 at Slatington Elementary
2. NLYAA for Basketball Games held November thru February at the Middle School
3. NLYAA for Wrestling Matches held November thru January at the High School
4. Northern Lehigh Education Foundation for Breakfast with Santa held December 1, 2007 at Slatington Elementary

Exonerate NLYAA Use Of Facilities Bill Approve the request of the Northern Lehigh Youth Athletic Association to exonerate their organization from the Use of Facilities invoice for the fall of 2007 Football season.

Amended Motion Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the motion for the exoneration of the NLYAA use of facilities invoice is amended to read: Approve the request, without precedent, of the Northern Lehigh Youth Athletic Association to exonerate their organization from the Use of Facilities invoice for the fall of 2007 Football Season.

Vote on Amended Motion YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8) NAY: None (0)

Vote on Motion YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8) NAY: None (0)

INFORMATION Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees Meeting held on February 7, 2008 were distributed.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS Mrs. Ganser stated that she would like to echo the sentiments Dr. Sham stated about the high school musical "The Apple Tree". Mrs. Ganser said it is very funny and the music is wonderful.

Ted Young – Washington Township wanted to thank the Board for the exoneration of the NLYAA Fall 2007 Football Invoice.

Mr. Hartman stated that the Board will go back into executive session in the superintendent's office immediately following the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

ADJOURNMENT Mrs. Ganser 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 9:04 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8) NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Mathias J. Green, Jr. Temporary Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President Edward E. Hartman