

**Northwestern Lehigh School District
6493 RT 309, New Tripoli PA 18066
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
District Board Room
Wednesday, April 6, 2016, 7:15 PM**



MINUTES

1. Opening Procedures

1.01 Call to Order

The April 6, 2016 Special Board Meeting of the Northwestern Lehigh School District Board of Directors was called to order at 7:25 PM by President Willard Dellicker.

1.02 Opening exercises included the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

1.03 Roll Call

PR/AB

PR	John Casciano	PR	Paul Fisher	PR	Charlene D. Rauscher, Esq.
PR	Willard Dellicker	PR	Todd Hernandez	PR	Darryl Schafer
PR	Joseph Fatzinger	PR	Todd Leiser	PR	Phil Toll

Also Present:

Kim Conahan, Elizabeth Harwick, Linda Paist, Michael Kistler, Wendy White, Carol Bettler, Shannon Kistler, Tara Reigle, Shelley Moyer, Steve Haddad, Bonnie Millward, Erin Williams, Eric Taddei, Kimberly Trexler, Regina Mohr, Mollie Laubach-Haydt, Debra Aardewijn, Jen Horner, Kevin Sunday, Jeremy Smoyer, Patty Mengel, Nicole Mizak, Angie Rimm, Nannette Lingenfelter, Ann Towne, Tim Lebrecht, Julie Wehr, Michelle Slack, Laura George, Tracy Smoyer, Chris Klein, Michael Sikora, Kristin Lobach, Brianne Slane, Lissa Opolsky, Shay Wagner, Ray Nemeth, Ron Morrison, Aileen Yadush, Andrea Madochick, Andrea Edmonds, Arthur Oakes, Jason Zimmerman, Luann Matika, Leslie Frisbie, Jennifer Holman, Mary Anne Wright and Janine Partenio

1.04 Approval of Agenda

Moved: P. Fisher

Seconded: J. Fatzinger

Vote: 9 Aye, 0 Nay

1.05 President welcomed guests

1.06 President offered courtesy of the floor for public comment

Ann Towne said she is a 4th Grade Teacher at Northwestern Elementary and urged the Board Members to vote "yes" on the Fact Finders Report. She explained the teachers have been working without a contract for 282 days and would like to settle the contract and be able to move forward focusing on the District's common goal, providing the best education to the students. She said a qualified and neutral third party created a negotiable Fact Finders Report and the Northwestern Lehigh Education Association (NWLEA) voted Monday afternoon to accept the report. She asked the Board Members to settle on a fair and equitable contract and voting in favor of the fact findings would be the right decision.

1.07 Purpose of Special Meeting

W. Dellicker said the purpose of the special meeting is to vote on accepting the recommendation of the Fact Finder, in the matter of Fact Finding between the Northwestern Lehigh School District and the NWLEA. He explained that negotiations between the District and NWLEA began in January of 2015 and after 12 months of the negotiation process, both sides agreed to fact finding as the next step. He said the PA Labor and Industry's Board appointed Attorney John Skonier as the Fact Finder to help resolve the impasse between the Association and the Board. He stated the Fact Finding hearing was held on March 14, 2016 and the report was given to both the Board and the Association on March 28, 2016. He said both sides are required to vote on the findings within 10 days of receipt and on Monday, April 4, 2016, the NWLEA voted to accept the Fact Finding Report. He said it is now time for the Board to move forward with their vote on the Fact Finding Report.

2. Fact Finding

2.01 Accept the Recommendation of Fact Finder John M. Skonier, Esquire, in the matter of Fact Finding between the Northwestern Lehigh School District and the Northwestern Lehigh Education Association, PLRB Case No. Act 88-16-4-E.

Moved: P. Fisher

Seconded: D. Schafer

Roll Call Vote:

Aye	John Casciano	Aye	Paul Fisher	Aye	Charlene D. Rauscher, Esq.
Aye	Willard Dellicker	Aye	Todd Hernandez	Aye	Darryl Schafer
Aye	Joseph Fatzinger	Aye	Todd Leiser	Aye	Phil Toll

W. Dellicker explained the Fact Finders Report will be posted on the District's website after the meeting. He said he is happy to accept the recommendation of the Fact Finder, on behalf of the Board, and is glad to settle a fair and equitable contract with the NWLEA. He thanked Dr. Wright for all of the additional time and information she had put into the process of data gathering for the Fact Finder. He thanked the Association for their patience and courtesy during the stressful process of negotiations. He thanked the classroom teachers, noting that despite the contract uncertainties during the past year, they continued to educate and nurture the children that our community places under their care. He asked that everyone leave the meeting tonight in a confident spirit built on trust and cooperation and continue the District's calling of the education of the children in the Northwestern Lehigh School District.

3. Communications

3.01 President offered courtesy of the floor for public comment

Jeremy Smoyer and Kevin Sunday said they are Co-Presidents of the NWLEA. J. Smoyer spoke on behalf of the Association and extended their appreciation to the Board for working with the Education Association and putting the extra time and effort towards negotiations. He said it was a long process and thanked the administration for giving their time to work with the NWLEA. He also thanked the community for coming out to the Board meetings and speaking on sharing their positive thoughts. He said they are very happy and are looking forward to moving onward and focusing on the education of the students in the District.

4. Adjournment

Upon motion by P. Fisher, seconded by D. Schafer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Hernandez, Secretary
By J. Partenio, Recording Secretary