

Northwestern Lehigh School District
6493 Rte. 309, New Tripoli PA 18066
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
District Board Room
Thursday, September 30, 2010, 7:30 p.m.



MINUTES

A. Agenda

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President Snyder.

Opening Exercises Opening exercises and roll call as listed below followed.

Roll Call

8 members present

Roll Call	Pr	Camille Bartlett	Pr	Todd Hernandez	Pr	Sally Schoffstall
Pr/Ab	Pr	Willard Dellicker	Pr	Donald Link	Pr	William Towne
			Pr	Darryl Schafer	Pr	Gregory Snyder

Also present: J. Overstrom, G. Sanders, L. Sorensen, B. Dietrich, R. Peters, R. Lenhart, D. Snyder, A. Gilgoff, D. Graves (Northwestern Press), P. Fisher, T. Brinley, L. Frisbie, L. Seier, A. Hoderewski, M. Scott, L. Matika, M. Wright, N. Zellner, Candidates—Robert N. Castellano, Edward R. Eidelman, Christopher J. Ford, Julie E. Lubinsky, Michael S. Marich, Joseph W. Mitlyng, Barbara A. Moyer, Joseph J. Reiter, Randy M. Smargiassi, Phillip F. Toll, and William J. Tritt, Jr.

Approval of Agenda

Moved: W. Dellicker

Seconded: D. Schafer

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

President welcomed guests and provided for comments—no comments

Dr. Wright reviewed the interview process and asked for brief, but succinct answers. The board will discuss the candidates at the October 6th meeting. C. Bartlett shared some comments on the commitment to two or more meetings per month and to the candidate's role on the School Board. President Snyder asked Board members to introduce themselves. He noted Board members find Board service to be fulfilling and sometimes challenging. The financial piece makes it difficult for us to do all the things that we would like to do for the students at Northwestern. He reinforced the commitment of time.

Interview of perspective Board candidates

Candidates were seated in alphabetic order and names were drawn for the first one to answer a question, with the remaining candidates to follow in order. Mark Marushak did not attend the meeting. Candidates were asked the following questions:

- 1) Please share your perspective regarding your role as a board member as a policy maker for the District.
- 2) Share a strength or strengths you will bring to the Board.
- 3) Share any issues that you believe to be significant that are facing the District.
- 4) When asked to vote on a proposal presented by the administration at a public meeting, what variables would you consider prior to registering your vote.
- 5) Please define any goals you would like to see accomplished during your tenure as Board Member. Please explain.

After completion of the questions, Board members commented on the quality of the candidates and their interest in the Northwestern Lehigh School District. He reminded them of the election process that starts in January or February for the five Board seats that are up for re-election in 2011 and urged them to make a commitment beyond tonight's meeting. The candidates were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Board. Mr. Toll asked what the specific goals of the Board were for the next couple of years.

Sally Schoffstall stated that we are a Board of Education and her personal goal was to provide a great education to our kids. Darryl Schafer stated he wears the hat of a school board member and as a parent and tries to keep that separate to do what is best for the kids. Camille Bartlett commented defining a superior educational environment to make students successful. Don Link said navigating down that path of educating students is a daily goal based on what's on both sides of the path. It is a challenging position. Will Towne stated he is an educator at a higher level and the education the students get here makes a big difference. That's why he is here. Sally Schoffstall commented on the respect that Board members have for each other and the value of what each person contributes. The time commitment averages around 10 hours per month for meeting time. That does not include prep time to read documents before meetings and doing research on issues. Greg Snyder commented on the need to be available for input from the community to be an effective board member and the need to take advantage of the input of the Administrative Team.

Barbara Moyer asked if the Board felt they were lacking in any particular skill they are looking for that a new Board member would have to bring to the table. Don Link commented that everyone would bring a skill. Camille Bartlett stated she believes the Board has a good mix of diverse backgrounds that she values. She believes everyone is

here for the same mission to have an excellent academic mission in the school system and that it is important to be able to compromise. Willard Dellicker stated that one of the most important elements that school boards have brought to public education in this state is the idea of local control. Local control encompasses everything we talked about and localizing that input into our District. External forces from State and Federal legislation on how to run schools affect how we make our decisions.

Camille Bartlett and Greg Snyder noted the successes of students are demonstrated when students come to board meetings and show the excitement about what they are learning. The meetings are not always fun meetings. The Board is trying to do what is best for students and it is a true testimony when the students are in the room sharing what they have learned.

Joe Reiter commented on how the votes have changed over the past, and that we do have a split board does not mean that Board members are in disagreement with the overall goal and that the overall goal is still a good education. Most of it is due to the finances that are involved. He also stated that going forward he would like to see the District be #1 and be an innovator and not just a follower.

Chris Ford commented his interest in the District and the tight-knit community. He said it was such a special community, he would not want to be part of a board anywhere else.

Julie Lubinsky asked where she could get a Tiger window cling to show her pride in the District.

Dr. Wright noted the pink matrix sheet in the Board member packets to be used as a tool to score candidates. She will meet with President Snyder to determine how the appointment will be handled and asked Board members to bring their scoring sheets to the next meeting.

B. Other Reports

Old Business—none

New Business—none

President offered courtesy of the floor for public comment

Leroy Sorensen, Weisenberg Township stated he as really impressed with everyone who applied to be on the Board. It reflects a big change. He heard a lot of good things as a resident and is really appreciative in the large turnout.

Jean Overstrom also thanked the candidates and hoped the focus of the Board will remain on giving students the best education. She feels there is parent interest in the District and that "Tiger Pride" needs to be marketed. She asked everyone to keep tiger pride in mind when considering the decisions on busing, and custodial services.

Anna Gilgoff commented on the overwhelming number of people and the quality of the candidates and thanked everyone for their interest in the District.

G. Adjournment

Upon motion by w. Dellicker, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17PM.

Moved: W. Dellicker

Seconded: D. Link

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

Respectfully submitted,

Donald J. Link, Secretary
By N. Zellner, Recording Secretary