

**Northwestern Lehigh School District
6493 Rte. 309, New Tripoli PA 18066
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
District Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, May 13, 2009, 7:30 p.m.**



MINUTES

A. Agenda

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by President Greg Snyder.

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

Roll Call

Roll Call	Pr	Camille Bartlett	Ab	*Donald Link	Pr	Sally Schoffstall
Pr/Ab	Ab	Willard Dellicker	Pr	Michael Ondra	Pr	Gregory Snyder
*arrived late	Pr	Paul Fisher, Jr.	Pr	Darryl Schafer	Pr	Kenneth Zellner

Also Present: T. Brinley, J. & T. Smoyer, NWE art students & parents, T. Carnahan, J. Reiter, J. Brockman (PFM), A. McGill (Morning Call), C. Venusto, L. Hoppes, R. Cartier, D. Nemes, M. Scott, L. Stitzel, L. Frisbie, B. Uplinger, C. Linde, L. Matika, S. Meixsell, D. Sbrocchi, Esq., N. Zellner

Approval of Agenda S. Meixsell noted additions to the agenda and requested item #1 under Facilities be held. The agenda was approved as amended.

Moved: P. Fisher

Seconded: M. Ondra

Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay

President welcomed guests and provided for comments

Northwestern Elementary art students were introduced by their art teacher, Mrs. Smoyer. The students talked about how they created their artwork. Students were presented certificates of appreciation.

Personnel action, as attached

- Appointment of Kenneth Schneider, 8140 Route 309, New Tripoli, PA 18066, to the position of Class F Substitute Van Driver, effective April 28, 2009, at a rate of \$14.64/hour pending receipt of all necessary paperwork.
- Recommendation to add the following to the District Substitute Teacher list pending receipt of all necessary paperwork:
 - Krista Sell, 5125 Cider Press Road, Schnecksville, PA 18078, effective May 1, 2009, Elementary Certification
 - Rebecca Hamm, 428 Mill Creek Road, Kutztown, PA 19530, effective May 4, 2009, Elementary/Special Education Certification
 - Kyle Zehner, 309 N. Lehigh Street, Tamaqua, PA 18252, effective May 11, 2009, Math Certification
 - Catherine Banas, 6690 Hauser Road, Apt. B-205, Macungie, PA 18062, effective May 8, 2009, Elementary Certification
- Recommendation to remove the following from the District Substitute Teacher list effective May 1, 2009: Jan Pavelco
- Recommendation to add the following to the Substitute Teacher Assistant list effective May 15, 2009 pending receipt of all necessary paperwork: Maureen McCullion, 3537 E. Grant Street, Slatington, PA 18080
- Approval for the request for unpaid leave of absence for medical reasons for Ann Schnur, Bus Driver through May 31, 2009.
- Request for approval for unpaid days for the following individuals:
 - Gail Phillips: Food Service, 2.5 unpaid days: May 6(p.m.), 7 and 8, 2009
 - BonnieLee Sechler, Weisenberg Elementary Teacher Assistant 2 unpaid days, June 10 and 11, 2009
 - David Susko, Custodian, 3 unpaid sick days: April 15, 16, and 17, 2009
 - Lucille Gressley, Transportation, 2 unpaid days: May 5 and 6, 2009
- Recommendation to add the following as seasonal employees effective June 1, 2009 pending receipt of all necessary paperwork at a rate of \$8.00/hour:
 - Carla Dolbow: 4908 Irvin Road, Slatington PA 18080
 - Elizabeth Dolbow: 4908 Irvin Road, Slatington, PA 18080
 - Christopher Horn: 6576 Ohl Court, New Tripoli, PA 18066
 - Brittany Kistler: 513 W. Washington Street, Slatington, PA 18080
 - Lauren Petri: 2805 New Smithville Road, Kutztown, PA 19530
 - Barbara Ziegler: 9426 Red Road, Kempton, PA 19529
 - Lori Lenhart: 7270 Decatur Street, New Tripoli PA 18066

Moved: M. Ondra

Seconded: K. Zellner

Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay

Approval of overnight trip to Costa Rico in place of the previously Board approved trip to Mexico

In light of the current state of affairs in Mexico, T. Carnahan researched other options for a nine-day trip for students to experience Spanish culture. A meeting was held with parents and students to address concerns. The trip will occur during the same time frame as previously planned.

Moved: P. Fisher

Seconded: D. Schafer

Vote: 7 Aye, 0 Nay

***D. Link entered the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**

Update from Buildings & Grounds Committee including discussion on new building projects and corresponding financing

S. Meixsell reviewed three options recommended by the Buildings & Grounds Committee and the estimated costs for each option. M. Ondra commented the first option will complete a bulk of the FMP projects that are needed in the District. Taking advantage of the financial climate at this time would give the District the best value of construction dollars. Board members noted the construction plans are "barebones", are not extravagant, and will make best use of available space. If finances can support it, it is in the District's best interest to do the projects and take advantage of the cost savings.

Jason Brockman of PFM identified additional borrowing and the additional millage associated with the borrowing. The Municipal Bond market is good. He anticipated August-September for the borrowing.

B. Curriculum/Building Issues

Approval of 8th Grade curricula for Pre-Algebra, Algebra IB, and Algebra II

These are the last three Middle School math curriculums to be updated. All have been available for public review for the required 30 days.

Moved: M. Ondra

Seconded: K. Zellner

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

First reading of Calculus II curriculum

Math curriculum changes at the Middle School level impacted the High School in that students requested to take Calculus II next year. The curriculum was developed by Jeremy Smoyer to meet these students' needs.

Approval of to re-apply for the following annual Federal Grant opportunities

- Title I
- Supplemental Title I
- Title II A
- Title IV
- Accountability Block Grant

B. Uplinger noted the amounts were similar to last year's grants.

Moved: M. Ondra

Seconded: K. Zellner

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

Approval of Tutorial Agreement with KidsPeace National Hospital Centers for tutorial services for student #10207 at a rate of \$27.50 per hour for 5 hours per week

Moved: K. Zellner

Seconded: D. Schafer

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

Approval of Act 80 days for 2008-2009

Days for kindergarten and seniors are needed to comply with the 180 day requirement.

Moved: D. Link

Seconded: K. Zellner

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

Presentation of 2009-2010 Proposed Athletic & Extracurricular Activity Offerings per Board Policy 122

J. Zimmerman shared plans for next year's programs. He recommended Psychology Club be added. Intramural programs would be eliminated, saving the District \$2100. Corresponding personnel recommendations will be presented to the Board in June for approval at the July meeting.

C. Policies

Approval of Policies 204, 207, 208, 209, 209.1, 216, and 249

These policies deal with students and have been reviewed by Administration, the Board Policy Committee, and the District Solicitor.

Moved: M. Ondra

Seconded: P. Fisher

Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

First reading of Policies 109, 109.2, 109.3, 109.4, and 123

Policies 109-109.4 deal with resource materials.

D. Facilities

~~Approval of agreement with Lehigh County Emergency Services for use of school facilities as mass care centers and/or points of distribution during disasters or pandemic incidents~~ Hold until next meeting

E. District Finances

Approval of proposed final 2009-2010 General Fund budget and supporting tax levies for Northwestern Lehigh School District as follows:

a. Budget Expenditures	\$35,591,337
b. Local tax levies	
Real Estate Tax	49.68 mills (2.27 mill increase)
Earned Income Tax	1% (net .5%)
Real Estate Transfer Tax, Act 511	½% for each of 4 townships
Local Services Tax	\$10
Amusement Tax	10%/not to exceed 40%

C. Linde reviewed budget documents. The budget was developed with all known revenue and expenditure data that is available at this time. The proposed final budget will be available for public review and will be posted on the District website. C. Linde answered questions regarding designated fund balance, anticipated revenues, major changes in expenditures and gaming revenues. Federal Stimulus dollars are not reflected in the budget. Due to the uncertainty of the upcoming deregulation of electricity prices, increased fuel costs and distribution of stimulus money, it is the Board's desire to see updated information for discussion before the final adoption.

Moved: M. Ondra Seconded: D. Schafer Vote: 5 Aye, 3 Nay

Roll Call	Aye	Camille Bartlett	Nay	Donald Link	Aye	Sally Schoffstall
	Absent	Willard Dellicker	Aye	Michael Ondra	Nay	Gregory Snyder
	Nay	Paul Fisher, Jr.	Aye	Darryl Schafer	Aye	Kenneth Zellner

F. Other Reports

Old Business

Update on State of the District Address –Tuesday, May 19th @6:30pm in High School Auditorium. This meeting was planned to inform the public on the budget process and development and to review the proposed building plans.

New Business

Discussion on PSBA Legislative Platform issue for 2009-2010—Board members discussed items for submission to PSBA.

Discussion on PA Senate Bill 850—S. Meixsell shared information proposed changes to basic education subsidies noting reductions in specific categories and the elimination of some grants.

President will offer courtesy of the floor for public comment—Joseph Reiter commented on the three Nay votes for the budget, asked about District plans for budget cuts, and will encourage the public to attend the State of the District Meeting.

Communications/Notes for the Board from Michael Ondra, Secretary—none

Report from Superintendent Meixsell

- a. Administrative/Building Sharing—S. Meixsell received results from the safety and security study and will share with the Board at a future meeting. The Administrative Team will attend Covey training in June. Principals shared current events in their buildings.
- b. Board Member Sharing—C. Bartlett gave kudos for the Covey training.
- c. Committee Meetings—Policy, 5/4/09 @7am, Sm Conf Rm
 Buildings & Grounds, 5/6/09 @4pm, Brd Rm
 Public Relations, 5/13/09 @5pm, Sm Conf Rm—CANCELLED
 Personnel, 5/13/09 @5:30-6:30pm, Sm Conf Rm
 Finance, 5/20/09 @6pm, Sm Conf Rm

G. Adjournment

Upon motion by P. Fisher, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Moved: P. Fisher Seconded: K. Zellner Vote: 8 Aye, 0 Nay

Respectfully submitted,

 Michael Ondra, Secretary
 By N. Zellner, Recording Secretary