

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 4, 2017

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2017, in the Administration Office Board Room.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mrs. Debra L. Bower, Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Kristie D. Wilk and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (7)

Members absent: Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., (2)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. John Corby, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Paul Leonzi, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mrs. Tanya Simms, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

VISITORS Approximately twelve visitors attended the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES Mrs. Wilk made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on November 13, 2017, and special school board meeting held on November 20, 2017, be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Fedorcha reported that LCTI had an outstanding audit and things are looking good to increase Northern Lehigh's enrollment at LCTI.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Bower reported that the latest senate tax bill includes incentives for private school parents, while eliminating the deduction for state and local taxes that fund public schools. The bill could also have massive implications for universities, students and parents. The proposed senate bill would require students to pass a civics test identical to the examination produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration services.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Corby reported that upon approval by the sponsoring school districts, LCCC will be acquiring the vacant Morning Call building. There is more space, dedicated parking, and a public transportation stop. The currently occupied Donley building in Allentown will be vacated and it will be an even exchange of buildings, with no capital outlay for the districts. Mr. Corby recommended that the resolution be placed on the January agenda for formal approval.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Committee Meeting Calendar 2018 Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Bower, that the Board of Education approves the School Board Committee Meeting Calendar for 2018, as presented.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Frantz reported that this past Saturday she attended the Breakfast with Santa, which is sponsored by the Education Foundation. Student Council and National Honor Society students, as well as the Leo Club, assisted and did an excellent job.

Mrs. Molitoris reported that on the agenda for approval is the Act 1 tax resolution which states that we will not raise taxes over the adjusted index, which is 3.2%.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas briefly spoke about Maker Space that originated in Slatington Elementary School last year. The students who moved to the Middle School wanted to continue the program. Mrs. Nicholas introduced teachers, Mary Frank and Krystle Tiedeman who, along with the students involved, showed a video which will be entered into a competition for \$25,000 worth of technology. Mr. Corby asked the students to introduce themselves. The board wished the team good luck.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Corby recognized that this is the last board meeting for Mrs. Karen Nicholas and she asked that her retirement donation be split equally between the Slatington Public Library and the Education Foundation. Mr. Corby stated that in the six months he has spent with her, he saw what she meant to the district and in the lives of the students of the district. On behalf of the board, he thanked her for her service. Mr. Fedorcha thanked Mrs. Nicholas and asked her to enjoy her retirement.

Mrs. Nicholas expressed that the past nineteen (19) years have been wonderful and Northern Lehigh is a great place to end her career. She stated that she will miss all of the people she worked with, as well as the creativity of the teachers and students, and thanked everyone for the happy memories.

Mrs. Kulp shared that she has had the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Nicholas since her son was in kindergarten and she has had the pleasure of interacting with her every year since.

Mr. Corby announced that there will be no committee meetings in January.

Mr. Corby introduced union president, Tim Weaber. Mr. Weaber announced that an invitation has been given to all board members to attend the Senior Citizen program on December 12, 2017 at Slatington Elementary School. This is the 37th year for the program. Three senior citizens attended the very first program, and this year 151 senior citizens signed up. Parents make cookies to give as gifts to the seniors, the students sing songs, create artwork and crafts, and help to serve lunch, along with the entire teachers union and administration. The custodial staff helps set up and the cafeteria workers take time out of their schedule to cook extra meals. The busing company donates buses and drivers to pick up senior citizens.

Mr. Corby concluded that this is his last board meeting and Mr. Matthew Link, who was in attendance, will be the new superintendent moving forward. Mr. Corby stated that Mrs. Nicholas' farewell speech, the kids program tonight, and the upcoming holiday dinner, makes this a great community school with great people. He stated that he happily retired a year ago but couldn't think of a better way to interrupt that retirement than coming to work at Northern Lehigh. Everybody is here for the right reason, to make a difference in a child's life. He thanked everyone for the last six months and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Mr. Fedorcha reported that an executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

PERSONNEL Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education table Item B, co-curricular appointments for further discussion.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

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

Detention Supervisor Approve to appoint the following person as Detention Monitor for the Middle School for the 2017-2018 school year. Work will be on an as needed basis and compensation will be at a salary of \$20.00 per hour worked.

Shelly Pender

PERSONNEL

Game Workers 2017-2018 Approve the following list of people as Game Workers for the 2017-2018 school year. Game workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges, scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2017-2018 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule.

Kevin Hoffman Joseph Krempasky
Randall Utsch Play/Musical Lighting and Sound

Co-Curricular Volunteers 2017-2018

Co-Curricular Volunteers 2018-2019 Cody Bowman Assistant Football Coach
Patricia Jones Assistant Girls' Soccer Coach
Shawn Wanamaker Assistant Field Hockey Coach
Amy Zeiser Assistant Cross Country Coach

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)
NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education Approves the following policy items:

Board Policy Second Reading

Approve school board policy #150 – Programs – Title I Comparability of Services, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #845 – Operations – Identification Badge, as presented after second reading.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)
NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

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

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:
General Fund months of November & December, 2017
Cafeteria Fund month of December, 2017
Refreshment Stand month of November, 2017
Capital Projects month of October, 2017

Donation Slatington Public Library

Approve a donation to the Slatington Public Library for the 2017-2018 school year, in the amount of \$5,000.00. This amount is budgeted for the 2017-2018 school year.

Act 1 Tax Levy Resolution 2018-2019

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESOLUTION**

Special **WHEREAS**, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1");

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a

resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming

FINANCIAL
fiscal
(cont.)

year;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District index for the 2018-2019 fiscal year is 3.2%;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Northern Lehigh District for the 2018-2019 fiscal year by more than its index.

School

AND NOW, on this 4th day of December, 2017, it is hereby **RESOLVED** by the Northern Lehigh School District (hereinafter "District") Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board") the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2018-2019 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
 - (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
 - (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
 - (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Bower, that the Board of Education approves the following legal item:

Steckel &
Stopp
Retainer &
Hourly Rates
2018

Approve to appoint the law firm of Steckel & Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh School District for 2018. The hourly rate will be \$129.00 per hour for general services, litigation related services will be \$147.00 per hour, and the hourly rate for staff will be \$100.00 per hour. All rates represent a \$2.00 per hour increase over last year's rates. Further approve the retainer fee for 2018 at \$2,050.00. There is no increase over last year's rate.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 16, 2017 were distributed.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

YEA: Mrs. Bower, Mr. Distler, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Wilk, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Fedorcha wished everyone a Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Kristie D. Wilk
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha