

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
May 5, 2003

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, May 5, 2003, in the middle school auditorium.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Mr. Philip Bertolino, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Laurie Newman, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS Approximately 12 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Jason M. Newhard
Mr. Newhard reported that LCTI passed a budget at their last meeting.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer highlighted items on the CLIU Board Brief which was distributed at the meeting along with a copy of the CLIU21 Update. He also announced that the CLIU voting ballots were distributed at the meeting. Mr. Dorshimer requested that they be returned to the secretary before leaving the meeting.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.
Mr. Green reported that all sponsoring districts in the CLIU have approved the LCCC budget. He also reported that the nursing program is extremely competitive at the college.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings
The minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on April 28, 2003 were distributed.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp
Attorney Stopp made the board aware of some tax changes.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos attended a PSBA Region 8 meeting where much discussion was conducted with regard to what is going to happen with our 2003-2004 funding in Harrisburg. She also reported on several other legislative issues.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
Dr. Sham's report included the following:

1. Recognition of the Sixth Sense Team and their advisor Ms. Simock.
2. He read a letter from Rep. Harhart about modifications to the Prevailing Wage Act.
3. He reminded everyone about the May 6 Town Meeting
4. He informed board members that the Finance Committee has asked the administration to develop a "cafeteria list" of items that will essentially lay out a prioritized list of items that would bring the district down to a 0 mill increase.

An Executive Session was held for personnel issues beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel issues:

- Appointment Non-Instructional Ellen Kiss
 Assignment: Special Education Aide
 Senior High School – replacing Karen Haas, who resigned.
 Salary: \$8.64 Per Hour/6 ½ Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
 Effective Date: April 22, 2003
**She will serve a 60-Day Probationary Period*
- Child Rearing Leave Approve the request of Tammy Fristick to take a child rearing leave of absence. She is expecting the birth of her second child on or about June 6, 2003. Barring any unforeseen complications, she is requesting permission to begin using her 14 ½ remaining sick days and one personal day on June 6, 2003 (1/2 day) which would take her to the end of the 2002-2003 school year. She is requesting a 12-week family medical leave for the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year. At the conclusion of the family medical leave; she is requesting an unpaid childrearing leave of absence for the remainder of the 2003-2004 school year. She plans to return to teaching for the 2004-2005 school year.
- Substitutes Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher(s) at the 2002-2003 substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days, \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days, \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Nicole Gottlieb -- Elementary
- Request for Inclusion In 2002-2003 Early Retirement Incentive Plan Approve the inclusion of Francis Carazo, high school English teacher, in the Northern Lehigh School District's 2002-2003 Early Retirement Incentive Plan adopted by the Board of Education on November 4, 2002.
- Resignations Instruction Accept the resignation of Francis Carazo from the Northern Lehigh School District, provided that the Board of Education approves his inclusion in the 2002-2003 Early Retirement Incentive Plan, effective as of the 191st day of the 2002-2003 school year. Mr. Carazo has been employed in education for thirty-two years.

Edith Moore, certified school nurse at the middle and senior high schools, has submitted her letter of resignation, effective June 27, 2003 and begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after completing twenty-seven years of service in education, fifteen of which were in the Northern Lehigh School District.

Regina Freeburn, certified school nurse at Slatington and Peters Elementary Schools, has submitted her letter of resignation, effective June 26, 2003 and begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after completing twenty-two years of service in education, thirteen of which were in the Northern Lehigh School District.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
 NAY: None (0)

POLICY

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

- Conferences Approve the request of Phil Bertolino and Karen Nicholas to attend a Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit conference on May 2, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$100.00 each for registration and will be funded through building level budgets.
- Approve the request of Sandra Michalik to attend an Applebaum Training Institute conference in Allentown on May 14, 2003. Expenses for this conference include \$140.00 for registration and have been approved by the district's Continuing Professional Development Committee.
- Non-Resident Student Attendance Approve the request of an 11th grade student attending Northern Lehigh High School to remain in attendance for the remainder of the 2002-2003 school year. This student is an adjudicated dependent child with Carbon County Children and Youth Services and has been released into her mother's custody on April 23, 2003. Her mother resides in another school district.
- NLSD Emergency Operations Plan Revised Approve to authorize proper officials to sign a resolution to promulgate a revised Northern Lehigh School District Emergency Operations Plan for all emergencies and disasters occurring within the school district. This plan, initially adopted on June 2, 1997, is designed to comply with all applicable Federal and State regulations and provides the policies and procedures to be followed in dealing with emergency conditions. This plan supersedes all previously developed emergency plans of the Northern Lehigh School District and meets the two-year compliance rule. Additions include reciprocal agreements secured with Lehigh Carbon Community College, Northampton Area School District, Lehigh Career and Technical Institute and Palmerton Area School District.
- Summer Band Camp Approve a tuition fee of \$25.00 per student for a six-week elementary summer band program and also approve a stipend of \$900 for summer band program director Lora Krum for the summer of 2003.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
- NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

- CPA Auditing Firm for 2002-03 Audit Year Approve the local Certified Public Accountant auditing proposal provided by Hutchinson, Gorman & Freeh, P.C. for the 2002-2003 school year audit. The base fee is \$13,000 and the Federal Single Audit will cost an additional \$2,250. The base fee for last year was \$11,900 and the single audit cost was \$2,150. This is a total increase of \$1200 or 8.5%. Reasons cited for the increase include GASB 34, two new bond issues and new construction accounts that were added in 2001-2002.
- CPA Auditing Firm Earned Income Tax Office 2002-03 Approve the local Certified Public Accountant auditing proposal provided by Hutchinson, Gorman & Freeh, P.C. for the 2002-2003 Earned Income Tax Office yearly audit. The base fee is \$1,250. The base fee for last year was for \$1,200. This is an increase of \$50 or 4.1%.
- Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account, as presented.
- Extended Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented.

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

Portfolio Cash Management Report March 2003 Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the month of March 2003.

PC Abatements For Military Approve abatement of per capita taxes for all active military personnel as presented. This exception to the December 31st filing deadline will be for the 2002-2003 tax year only.

2003-04 LCTI Budget The 2003-2004 Lehigh Career and Technical Institute School Budget was distributed.

(Info Only) YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9) NAY: None (0)

INFORMATION The minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on March 17, 2003 were distributed.

The minutes of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating committee meeting held on April 3, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9) NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott Secretary

ATTEST: _____ (President) Gary S. Fedorcha