

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
January 7, 2002

- PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:34 p.m., on Monday, January 7, 2002 in the boardroom of the Slatington Elementary School. Mrs. Lori Geronikos acted as temporary secretary in the absence of Mrs. Escott.
- ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)
- Members absent: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Giles (2)
- Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mrs. Doneta Merkle
- VISITORS** Approximately 12 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.
- SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer gave his report for the month of December.
- Committee Meetings And/ Or Reports All board members received copies of the minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting held on December 5, 2001, the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on December 10, 2001, the Finance Committee meeting held on December 18, 2001, and the minutes of the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee meeting held on December 19, 2001.
- Solicitor's Report -- Attorney Charles Stopp
Attorney Stopp reported on the Cyber Charter School issue presently before the board. Attorney Stopp supplied the superintendent with a memorandum outlining the situation to date.
- Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos gave her report for the month of December.
- Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
1. Dr. Sham read a Pennsylvania School Boards Association Resolution honoring our school board. The month of January is School Board Member Recognition Month
 2. Dr. Sham read a list of names of dedicated people who helped with the renovations to the floor in the weight room. These individuals donated time, labor and supplies which helped the district financially.
 3. Middle School Steering Committee gave a presentation to the board supplying them with the information they need to make the middle school concept work.
 4. Mr. Rockovich, business manager, gave a financial report to the board.
- EXECUTIVE SESSION** An Executive Session was held before and after the meeting for personnel reasons.
- Recess President Fedorcha called for a short recess at 9:13 p.m. The board reconvened at 9:17 p.m.
- PERSONNEL** A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos that the Board of

Education approve the following personnel items:

- Appointments Tara Balliet Temporary Vacancy Replacement
Assignment: Grade 6 – Slatington Elementary School – Continue her assignment replacing the position of Jacqueline Sham who was granted an unpaid leave for the second semester of the 2001-2002 school year.
Salary: \$35,200 (Appendix A – Step 1 Bachelors)
Effective Date: January 25, 2002
Termination Date: June 14, 2002
- Appoint Dean Of Students Approve to appoint Robert Kern as Dean of Students for the middle school and high school, effective January 2, 2002 and continuing until June 30, 2002. Mr. Kern will keep his current salary and receive an additional stipend in the amount of \$2500 for duties required beyond the regular school day.
- Substitutes - Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2001-2002 school year at the 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:

Megan Owens – School Nurse
Angela Scolaro – Health and Physical Education
Margaret Boyle – Early Childhood
- Non-Instructional Approve the following substitute aide for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:

Patricia Ingles
- Substitute Secondary Saturday Detention Monitor Appoint Tamra Yesik, as a substitute Secondary Saturday Detention Monitor for the middle and senior high schools for the 2001-2002 school year, working alternative Saturdays, for three hours from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. every Saturday throughout the 2001-2002 school year that warrants detention coverage. Salary will be \$50.00 for each Saturday worked.
- Induction Program Approve the following teacher as a helping teacher in the Northern Lehigh School District Induction Program for the 2001-2002 school year:
- | <u>Helping Teacher</u> | <u>Inductee</u> | <u>Stipend</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Janet Kern | Kathy Walters | \$750.00 |
- Professional Contract According to Article 11;1108, subsection (b) of the School Code: “A temporary professional employee, initially employed by a school district on or after June 30, 1996, whose work has been certified by the district superintendent to the secretary of the school district, during the last four(4) months of the third year of such service, as being satisfactory, shall thereafter be a “professional employee” within the meaning of this article.” Therefore, it is recommended to approve “professional employee” status as per the school code for the following teacher, who has satisfactorily completed three years of service to Northern Lehigh School District:

Michele D. Dotta

PERSONNEL ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Fedorcha (5)
(Con't.) NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser (2)
Motion carried.

POLICY

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

Conferences

Approve the request of Lori Geronikos to attend the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Legislative Leadership Conference in Hershey, PA on January 25 and 26, 2002. Expenses include \$150.00 for registration, \$20.00 for meals, \$48.00 for travel, \$97.85 for lodging for a total cost of \$315.85.

Approve the request of Dr. Nicholas Sham to attend the PASA New Superintendent's Academy – Part 3 – Evaluation conference in Harrisburg on January 30 and 31, 2002. Expenses include \$165.00 for registration, \$32.40 for travel, \$56.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$253.40.

Approve the request of Karen Nicholas to attend an Individuals With Disabilities Act In Pennsylvania conference in Allentown on January 30, 2002. Expenses include \$239.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals for a total cost of \$249.00.

Approve the request of Regina Freeburn to attend the Pennsylvania Student Assistance Program conference on March 17, 18 and 19, 2002. Expenses include \$310.00 for registration, \$36.00 for travel for a total cost of \$346.00 and will be paid for through Safe Schools Drug Free Monies.

Approve the request of Sandra Hopkins to attend an Applebaum Training Institute conference in Allentown on January 22, 2002. Expenses include \$175.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$3.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$188.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Michele Dotta to attend an Applebaum Training Institute conference in Allentown on January 22, 2002. Expenses include \$175.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$9.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$194.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Jennifer Hilbert to attend a Bureau of Education and Research conference in Allentown on February 19, 2002. Expenses include \$145.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher and has been approved by the district Continuing Professional Education Committee.

Approve the following individuals to attend the “Basic Life Support – CPR Healthcare Provider Course” offered by LCCC. Brian Geiger, Earl Snyder, and Michelle Raber will need this course to enable them to be certified to train others in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Course dates will be January 16 & January 30, 2002 from 6:00 to 10:00 PM at a cost of \$60 each which also includes the text for the course.

Approve the request of Lynne Fedorcha to attend a Curriculum Management Audit Training Program in Philadelphia from March 4-7, 2002. Expenses include \$795.00 for registration, \$100.00 for meals, \$36.00 for travel, \$338.58 for lodging, for a total cost of \$1269.58.

Approve the request of Tracy Ettinger to attend a Title I Funds conference in Philadelphia on January 30, 2002. Expenses include \$165.00 for registration, \$48.00 for travel, \$15.00 for miscellaneous, for a total cost of \$228.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day and will be paid for through Title I funds.

POLICY

(Con't.)
NLMS Student
Activity Acct.
Fund Statement

Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activities Account Fund Statement for the month of November 2001.

Board Policy #433 1st Reading Approve revisions to school board policy #433 – Professional Employees, as presented after first reading.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education appoint Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. as the Northern Lehigh School District representative to the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Fedorcha publicly thanked Mr. B. Urbane Byler for his many years of service as the Northern Lehigh School District representative to the community college.

FINANCIAL

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

PC Abatements Approve abatement of per capita taxes for the residents that fall within the guidelines as presented.

Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account, as presented.

Extended Const. Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented.

Capital Reserve #1 Bills Approve payment of bills from the Capital Reserve #1 Account, as presented.

Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrangle Cash Management Portfolio for the month of November 2001.

Exempt Diamond Fire Company From Paying Real Estate Taxes Approve the request of the Diamond Fire Company in Walnutport to exempt them from paying real estate transfer taxes. This request is a result of an agreement between the Fire Company and the Borough of Walnutport to transfer the deed and change ownership of their property located at the corner of Carbon and Main Streets in the Borough of Walnutport from the Borough back to the Fire Company. The property in question originally belonged to the Diamond Fire Company but was deeded to the Borough of Walnutport for tax purposes.

Contract With Portnoff Law Associates Approve the contract, which our solicitor's office has reviewed, with Portnoff Law Associates to collect delinquent real estate taxes for the Northern Lehigh School District. The 3-year contract will contain a yearly renewal provision. The delinquent taxpayer will pay all collection fees and expenses, including a 10 percent (10%) penalty for late payment and 10 percent (10%) interest per year.

Refund Real Estate Taxes Approve a \$321.17 refund to William and Joyce Kemmerer, 4348 Clover Hollow Road, Slatington, PA for their 2001 school real estate taxes. They are due a refund because their assessed value was reduced from \$67,200 to \$59,550.

FINANCIAL

(Con't.) Refund Of Per Capita Taxes Approve a \$10 refund to William O'Brian of 3506 Ridge Lane, Slatington, PA due to an overpayment of per capita tax. Per capita tax was incorrectly paid twice with the real estate bill and an individual per capita bill.

Approve a \$10 refund to Marsha O'Brian of 3506 Ridge Lane, Slatington, PA due to an overpayment of per capita tax. Per capita tax was incorrectly paid twice with the real estate bill and an individual per capita bill.

Approve a \$10 refund to Timothy O'Brian of 3506 Ridge Lane, Slatington, PA due to an overpayment of per capita tax. Per capita tax was incorrectly paid twice with the real estate bill and an individual per capita bill.

EIT Office To Collect Wal. OPT Taxes Approve to permit the Northern Lehigh School District Earned Income Tax Office to collect Occupational Privilege Tax (OPT) for Walnutport Borough. The yearly fee charged to Walnutport Borough will be \$480. The \$10 OPT tax will be split equally between the school district and the municipality instead of each sending a separate \$5 tax bill.

Purchase Trailer Approve to place the proceeds from the sale of district-owned maintenance vehicles in the amount of \$2600.00 into the CR-1 Account to enable the Director of Support Services to look into the purchase of a trailer to haul the skid loader from the main campus to the Peters Elementary School. This special request is being done in accordance with NLSO Policy #706.1, Miscellaneous 5. These proceeds came from a negotiated sale price for a 1978 Chevrolet Dump Truck, a 1980 Chevrolet Crew Cap Truck, and a 1981 John Deere 146 Farm Loader Tractor.

Distribution Of Audit (Info Only) The Single Audit Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2001 was distributed to all board members.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Fedorcha (6)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Fedorcha announced that former board member, Mrs. Lynn Sechler, sent a thank you card to the board thanking them for the gift she received for her years of service on the board.

Mr. Fedorcha announced that the Slatington Public Library also sent some correspondence to the board. He will give this correspondence to Board Secretary, Mrs. Escott.

INFORMATION

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on November 19, 2001.

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 6, 2001.

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on November 13, 2001.

Middle School Change Order #6 (Info Only)

Work under this change order is being done to reinforce eight (8) existing bar joists. The work involved the removal of acoustical spray insulation at sixteen (16) locations and plaster wall removal at four (4) locations, as well as supply and install three (3) angles welded to the joist at sixteen (16) locations. The cost for this change order is \$7,698.00.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Christina Gaffney – Disputed the middle school concept. She also expressed concerns with regard to the implementation of school policies and the lack of communication to parents.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (7)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos
Temporary Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha