

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA**  
**May 17, 2006**

- PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, at 7:34 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, 2006 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.
- ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Peter A. Ruth, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (9)
- Members absent: None (0)
- Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Robert Kern, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. John Fidelibus, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Ms. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Andrea Madochick, Ms. Jessica Fidler, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, and Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle
- Mrs. Ganser announced that the board was in an Executive Session prior to the meeting to handle personnel items and they would return to Executive Session following the regular meeting for negotiations discussions.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** Renee Evans – Washington Township – Reserved the right to comment on any agenda item.
- VISITORS** Approximately five visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Joel Kern, reporter for The Times News
- APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on May 1, 2006 be approved and ordered filed.
- YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)
- NAY: None (0)
- SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Mr. Dorshimer reported from the CLIU Board Briefs which were distributed to all board members. He explained that the CLIU Board was introduced to Cochlear Implants. This dealt with children who had no hearing and now through new technology they can hear. Several children in the CLIU had this procedure done to them. He explained that the IU board is in the process of reviewing their budgets. Mr. Dorshimer reported that the summer get-together at Knoebels Park for all CLIU employees is funded through soda machines throughout the classrooms controlled by the CLIU with the remainder being paid for by the CLIU Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director.
- Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams  
Mr. Williams reported on the Community Relations Committee meeting which was held on May 11 and was attended by House of Representatives member Julie Harhart. He also applauded everyone who was involved in the Ag Fair.
- Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.  
Mr. Green read a letter that the ballots of the trustee at large seat for the LCCC board of trustees would be opened at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 26 in the LCCC Boardroom. Every board member was invited to attend.
- Committee Reports and/or Meetings  
Mrs. Ganser announced that the May Finance Committee meeting would be held on May 31. The next Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting will be held on June 7.

**SPECIAL BOARD**  
**REPORTS**  
 (Con't.)

Student Representatives Report

Ms. Jessica Fidler and Mr. Nathan Hunsicker distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Moment Of  
Silence

Mrs. Ganser asked for a "*moment of silence*" in memory of Mallory Bomboy, as student from our district who died in a car accident.

Mr. Follweiler announced that the Palisades Girls Softball team wore black arm bands with #22 on them honoring Mallory Bomboy. After the game they all huddled in the middle of the field and the Palisades team presented each of our softball team members with an arm band.

Federal and Other Programs – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed her written Director of Curriculum and Instruction Report and verbally reported on its contents.

Mrs. Karen Nicholas reported on the Head Start NAEYC Accreditation.

Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a draft of the Student Wellness policy and asked that board members add their input before the June 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Committee meeting.

Mrs. Fedorcha announced that she will need a board member to participate in the grant writing for the Dual Enrollment Grant.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.

Dr. Sham read an announcement inviting all board members to the Annual Student Faculty Picnic on June 8 at 11:00 a.m. at the Slatington Skeet Club.

Dr. Sham reminded the board that there will be a PSEA/NEA Arbitration Hearing held at 10 AM Tuesday, June 6, 2006 in the Slatington Elementary Boardroom. He also announced that the Act 80 Day Grievance may also be tentatively held on the same afternoon.

He commended the participants in the Ag Fair and he shared his feelings about the fair from a presenter's point of view. He was a presenter with his horse, Tennessee.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Resignation/  
Retirement -  
Jane Distler

Accept the resignation of Jane Distler from her position as Clerk/Bookkeeper in the cafeteria, to become effective at the end of the last day of school on June 12, 2006 at which time she will initiate her formal retirement from public school service after 19 years of service.

Joanne Parry

Accept the resignation of Joanne Parry from her position as cook's helper in the Slatington Elementary School cafeteria, to become effective at the end of the day on June 8, 2006 at which time she will initiate her formal retirement from public school service after 27 years.

Donald Owens

Accept the resignation of Donald Owens from his position as part-time custodian in the senior high school, to become effective at the end of the day on May 10, 2006. Mr. Owens will be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after five years of service with the district.

Resignations -  
Phil Bertolino

Accept the resignation of Philip Bertolino from his position as High School Principal, effective the end of the day on July 31, 2006.

Tim  
Nickischer  
Boys Soccer

Accept the resignation of Timothy Nickischer from his co-curricular position as Head Boys Soccer Coach effective April 26, 2006.

Coach

**PERSONNEL**

(Con't.)

Leave Without Pay - James Bauer Approve the request of James Bauer, Slatington Elementary teacher, to take an unpaid leave of absence on May 25 and 26, 2006. He will be using these days in conjunction with personal days for a family trip. His request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Co-Curricular Appointment Change for 2005-2006

From: Senior High Spring Intramural (Weightlifting) Jim Tkach \$751.32  
To: Senior High Spring Intramural (Weightlifting) Joe Tout \$751.32

Unpaid Volunteers Approve the following individuals as unpaid volunteer coaches for the 2006-2007 school year:

Robert Hughes – Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach  
Peter Reese – Volunteer Boys Basketball Coach

Substitutes - Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher at the 2005-2006 substitute teacher rates of \$80.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; \$105.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days: Abby Bloss – All Subject Areas

Administrative Transfer Robert Kern  
From: Middle School/High School Assistant Principal  
To: High School Principal, replacing Philip Bertolino who resigned.  
Salary: \$86,690.00  
Effective Date: July 3, 2006

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)  
NAY: None (0)

Mr. Dorshimer requested permission to amend the main motion and separate the motion to remove from the table approval of the Bookkeeper II position in the business office. There were no objections to this action.

Bookkeeper II Position In Business Office Lori Henritz  
Assignment: Bookkeeper II, replacing Sherri Molitoris  
Salary: \$30,252 (Pro-Rated) (Level 1 on the 2005-2006 Clerical Salary and Benefit Agreement)  
Effective Date: May 23, 2006

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (4)  
NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth (5)  
Motion defeated.

**PERSONNEL**

(Con't.)

Mr. Ruth requested that the motion to approve the co-curricular appointments for the 2006-2007 school year be separated from the main motion. There were no objections to this action.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Renee Evans – Washington Township – Addressed the hiring procedure for a new girls' head basketball coach. She was concerned with the manner in which the hiring procedure was handled and asked that it never happen again since there was no interview process involved in the selection.

Table Appointment of Head Girls Basketball Coach For 2006-07

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the Board of Education agrees to table the following co-curricular appointment for 2006-07 and have the Superintendent bring some information to the board on the hiring practices and make sure that there is consistency.

Head Girls Basketball Coach	David Oertner	\$6414.28*
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YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)

NAY: None (0)

Table

Mr. Ruth made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to table the entire motion to appoint

Appointment Of Co-Curricular Positions For 2006-07

the following Co-Curricular appointments for 2006-2007 for further hiring practice clarification.

Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	Dennis Rehrig	\$4168.66*
Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	Richard Mantz	\$4168.66*
Middle School Boys Basketball Coach	TBA	
Assistant Girls Basketball Coach	TBA	
Middle School Girls Basketball Coach	Jason Reinhard	\$4086.00*
Head Wrestling Coach	Todd Herzog	\$6414.28*
Assistant Wrestling Coach	Brent Herzog	\$4168.66*
Assistant Wrestling Coach	Robert Marlatt	\$4168.66*
Cheerleading Advisor (Shared Stipend)	Lil Borger	One Half of \$2834.61*
	Kathy Neff	One Half of \$2834.61*
Eighth Grade Academic Challenge	Kristin Skinker	\$405.84*
Elementary Scholastic Scrimmage	Marlene Simock	\$405.84*
Scholastic Scrimmage (High School)	Denise Turoscy	\$751.32*
Debate Advisor	Scott DeLong	\$1286.19*
Senior High Winter Intramural (Weightlifting)	Joe Tout	\$751.32*
Senior High Winter Intramural (Weightlifting)	Steve Hluschak	\$751.32*
Senior High Winter Intramural (Winter Track)	Mike Lehtonen	\$751.32*

*\*Last year's rates will apply until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.*

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves the following conferences:

Eric Schmidt – New Teacher Conference – Sponsored by PaTTAN – June 21-23, 2006  
State College, PA – Registration: \$100.00 – Funding – Mentor Budget

Kristie Croll – Fluency – Tim Rasinski – Sponsored by Reading Matters – August 7, 2006 –  
Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$144.00 – Funding: 2005-2006 Curriculum and Instruction Budget

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Policy:

Board Policy  
Second  
Reading

Approve revisions to school board policy #204 – Pupils – Attendance, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #913 – Community – Relations With Special Interest Groups, as presented after second reading.

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 \$1000.00 for summer band program director Lora Krum.

Homebound  
Instruction

Grant homebound instruction to an eleventh grade student, student #101, for five hours per week, effective May 8, 2006 and continuing until the end of the 2005-2006 school year.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Mr. Dorshimer addressed the “Flight Team” that came to the district’s assistance during the recent death of one of our students.

Mr. Ruth addressed an article in a piece of mail he received which addressed concerns that the Northern Lehigh Youth Association might lose their playing field and storage because of many new activities at the school which are putting a strain on the school’s practice fields. Mr. Geiger informed Mr. Ruth that to date the youth association has not been denied any playing fields but that the district’s sporting events come first when scheduling.

**FINANCIAL  
Education**

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

Treasurer’s  
Report

Approve the reports of the Treasurer, Mr. Ruth, for the month of March 2006.

General Fund  
Bills

Approve payment of General Fund bills for the months of March, April and May 2006.

Reports  
(Info Only)

All board members received the March 2006 Revenue and Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General, and Capital Reserve Funds.

NLMS Student  
Activity Acct.  
Fund  
Statement

Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activities Account Fund Statement for the month of April 2006.

NLHS Student  
Activity Acct.  
Fund  
Statement

Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Account Fund Statement for the month of April 2006.

NLHS Student  
Scholarship  
Fund  
Statement

Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Scholarship Fund Statement for the month of April 2006.

NL Sports  
Accounts  
Financial  
Report

Approve the Northern Lehigh Sports Accounts Financial Report for month ended April 30, 2006.

NL Refresh-  
ment Stand

Approve the Northern Lehigh Refreshment Stand Financial Report for month ended April 30, 2006.

Financial  
Report**FINANCIAL**  
(Con't.)

- Pest Control Service Approve renewal of a service agreement with Ehrlich Pest Control for pest control service at all 4 buildings in the amount of \$3,360.00. This reflects a \$180.00 increase over last year's fee.
- Burglar Alarm Service Approve renewal of a service agreement with Altronics Security Systems for monitoring of burglar alarm system and recorded openings/closings for the 6 locations in the amount of \$2,639.5. This reflects a \$39.77 increase over last year's fee.
- Fire Alarm System Monitoring Approve renewal of a service agreement with SimplexGrinnell for monitoring of fire alarm systems at all 5 buildings in the amount of \$1,948.00. This reflects an increase of \$43.00 over last year's fee.
- Pager Service Agreement Approve renewal of a service agreement with Progressive Telecom for four (4) pagers. Annual service fee is \$75.00 per unit or a total cost of \$300.00. This reflects a \$0.00 increase over last year's fee.
- Athletic Trainer Agreement 2006-2011 Approve to authorize proper officials to execute an agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and Orthopedic Associates of Allentown for the purpose of providing the services of a qualified athletic trainer for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011 school years. Costs for said services would be \$25,750 for 2006-07, \$26,800 for 2007-08, \$27,600 for 2008-09, \$28,200 for 2009-10, and \$28,800 for 2010-11.
- Election of Treasurer Election of a Treasurer for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, as required by Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, as amended.
- RECOMMEND .... That the Board of Education elects Mr. Peter A. Ruth as Treasurer for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007.
- Budgetary Transfers Approve budgetary transfers for the 2005-2006 fiscal year.
- Information Only The 2006-2007 Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Budget was distributed and will be acted upon at the June 5 board meeting.
- Award Bids For Fuel Oil Approve the awarding of bids for #2 Grade Fuel Oil with a contract period from July1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.
- #2 GRADE FUEL OIL – TRANSPORT DELIVERY OF 6,800 OR MORE GALLONS.**
- Awarded to Farm & Home Oil Company of Telford, PA, at a firm base price of \$2.2310 per gallon.
- Approve the awarding of bids for #2 Grade Fuel Oil with a contract period from July1, 2006 to June 30, 2007.
- #2 GRADE FUEL OIL – TANKWAGON DELIVERY OF LESS THAN 6800 GALLONS.**
- Awarded to Petroleum Traders Corp. of Ft. Wayne, IN at a firm base price of \$2.3582 per gallon.
- Reject Fuel and Gasoline Bids Approve the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Education reject all bids received for Diesel Fuel, Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel, and Unleaded Gasoline.
- Brian Geiger explained the rationale behind rejecting these bids. Dr. Sham suggested that the board consider increasing the budget before adopting it for the 2006-2007 about one quarter of a mill to compensate for the excess that the district could incur with fuel costs next year.

**FINANCIAL**

(Con't.)

Amend Motion To Reject Fuel And Gasoline Bids  
 Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves to amended the motion to authorize proper administrative officials to re-advertise for bids for diesel fuel, ultra low sulfur diesel fuel, and unleaded gasoline. Also authorize the superintendent and or his designee to enter into a contract on behalf of the school board for diesel fuel, ultra low sulfur diesel fuel, and unleaded gasoline due to time restraints that may be within received.

Vote On Amendment  
 YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)  
 NAY: None (0)

Vote On Amended Motion  
 YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)  
 NAY: None (0)

**CORRESPONDENCE**

All members received an invitation to the Career Linking Academy Press Conference on Tuesday, May 23.

Mrs. Ganser read an invitation from the Slatington Lions Club inviting the all board, staff, and administration to attend their steak fry which will be held on September 5 at the Slatington Skeet Club. Tickets are \$11.00.

**INFORMATION**

Notification has been received from the PA Department of Education of their approval of PlanCon Part J: Northern Lehigh Middle School Additions/Alterations. A copy of this document and appended materials will be entered into the official minutes of this meeting. Final reimbursement rate will entitle us to approximately \$14,400 in retro-active reimbursement.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on April 6, 2006.

**RECESS**

Mrs. Ganser called for a five minute "courtesy break" at 9:17 p.m.  
 The board reconvened at 9:27 p.m.

Dr. Sham informed the board that a senior high school student had a BB pistol in his backpack and has been expelled from school. There was no intent to harm anyone. The gun was left in the backpack from the weekend and the student forgot to remove it from the backpack before going to school. A letter was sent home to all parents regarding the incident. Assistant Principal John Fidelibus read the letter for the board.

Brian Geiger informed the board that the Slatington Elementary School was broken into over the weekend. The State Police are handling the break-in.

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Business Manager, Christine Stafford distributed an updated budget cut list and gave an overview of the list.

Direction From The Board  
 Mr. Ruth offered the following direction to the administration for suggested budget cuts:

1. Examine Aide Positions – Requested a list of aides and where they are assigned.
2. Initiate a \$25.00 pay to participate fee
3. Cut 10% out of each individual budget in the district
4. Cut MESSENGER
5. Cut Middle School/High School Assistant Principal Position
6. Cut 1 Assistant Football Coach

7. Cut 1 Assistant Track Coach
8. Cut 1 Senior High Spring Intramural Coach

**BUDGET**  
**DISCUSSION**  
(Con't.)

9. Cut 1 Senior High Fall Intramural Coach
10. Cut 1 Senior High Winter Intramural Coach
11. Cut Middle School Intramural
12. Cut two aide positions (suggested library aide and cafeteria aide)

With regard to the pay to participate suggestion, Mr. Follweiler commented that student athletes are already fund raising to help purchase equipment and football shoes. The field hockey and softball teams purchased their own uniforms with some of that money.

Mr. Williams rephrased Mr. Ruth's request and asked the administration to examine the teacher aide list and come back to the board and give them a list of what the importance of those positions are to make a well informed decision.

Dr. Sham told the board that what the administration has already given them as suggested budget cuts are items that are not going to hurt the district. He told them he can give them a list of aides and the board can then sit back and "drop the bombs" without thinking about what the impact of "dropping that bomb" is going to be. Dr. Sham told them that a cut list was already given to them, they were told the importance of the items on the list, but the bottom line is it didn't matter, the board still thinks more should be cut from the budget leaving the administration to pick up the pieces after the board "drops the bombs".

Mr. Beers said that cuts can be made, but he cannot see cutting things that will hurt the students, just to save money. It is the board's job to put the students first.

Mr. Green asked if the administration would just give the board information when they request it instead of having to fight for it. If the board asks for a list of staff, please give it to them. Dr. Sham responded by saying that he has an obligation to bring information to the board and to also offer his opinion and he will continue to do that.

Chris Stafford said that she gave the board information on business office staffing for every district that is our size within the intermediate unit. The first question that was asked by the board tonight was "how much staff do you have"?

Mr. Green wanted to know if athletes are being asked to purchase their uniforms. Where is that money coming from?

Mr. Williams wanted to know if the administration was looking at further cuts, i.e., cutting the MESSENGER rather than a tutoring program.

Mrs. Ganser announced that the next time budget will be discussed will be at the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for May 31 at 6:30 p.m. in the boardroom. She urged all board members to attend that meeting.

Mr. Green announced that this was the last board meeting that Mrs. Merkle would be "sitting on this side of the board table". She will be retiring at the end of the month. He personally thanked her for all her years of service and for everything she has done for the board. Dr. Sham also stated that he has worked with a number of secretaries in the district, all of who have been excellent; however, he stated that working with Doneta has been exceptional. She has been a confidant, his right and left arm, and a good friend. She will really be missed.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,  
Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Lauren A. Ganser