

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 4, 2006

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter A. Ruth, at 7:38 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2006 in the gymnasium of 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. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (9)

Members absent: (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Rachel Parisi, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Attny. Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS

Approximately one hundred visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sarah Fulton, reporter for The Morning Call and Terry Ahner, 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 November 15, 2006 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer reported that everyone has moved into the new building. Mr. Dorshimer reported that although the building looks large from the outside, they did not overspend. The IU has used all the furniture from the old building and there is room for growth which they expect they will need in the future. He stated that if anyone wants a tour they can contact the IU or attend the next board meeting with him and he will give them the tour. He also stated that they are preparing the budget to disburse to school districts in the near future because they also are under the guidelines of Act I.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles reported that LCTI is having their annual dinner meeting on December 13, 2006. She is unable to attend due to a conflict in schedule. She stated that it has already been paid for and asked if any other board member can attend in her place. Cocktails and dinner is from 5:30 – 7:30 and the meeting starts at 7:30.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that there is nothing to report because they have adjourned for the year.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the board adopts the School Board Committee Meeting Calendar and School Board Committee Meeting List for 2007.

Mr. Dorshimer suggested that if anyone wanted to change the committee they are assigned to, they should contact the committee chairperson and also Mr. Ruth.

Dr. Sham stated that at the President of the board is exofficio on all board committees and stated that he is unsure whether the President of the board can also hold the office of chair-person on a committee.

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

Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

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

Dr. Sham turned the floor over to Mr. Williams who was the liaison for the Act I Tax Study Commission.

Act I Tax
Study
Commission
Recommen-
dation

the

Mr. Williams reported that the Act I Tax Study Commission was comprised of 7 people from the community. These people were asked to look at our local tax structure. These people needed to decide what would be best for this community and district. They needed to decide if it would be better raising its income tax level and lowering its property tax level and if so, by how much. Mr. Williams said the commission was charged with forming a ballot question that they will recommend to the school district. Every member of this community will have a chance to vote on that question. He then turned floor over to Mrs. Carrie Beleno, chairperson of the Act I Tax Study Commission for the commission's recommendation. He stated that the board then has the opportunity to accept the recommendation by March 2007 or adjust it, but the community will have the final vote at the May primaries.

Mrs. Carrie Beleno said that the question was based on the three options they were given by Ferris, Baker, Watts. Mrs. Beleno read the Act I Tax Study Commissions recommendation for the ballot questions to the board:

The current earned income tax rate is 1%. Do you favor imposing an additional 1% earned income tax? The revenue generated from the increase tax rate will be used to reduce taxes on qualified residential properties (homestead/farmstead) by an estimated amount of \$342.00.

Mrs. Beleno followed up with a statement to the board from the Act I Tax Study Commission, which read:

In the process of creating the referendum question, the tax commission has analyzed and deliberated over the possible options with guidance from Ferris, Baker, Watts. Although we have unanimously agreed that the 1% EIT increase is the most viable option for tax payers, the commission wants the school board to note that we do not endorse an affirmative vote for this May ballot question.

Mr. Dorshimer asked if this statement was the feelings of the entire commission.

Mrs. Beleno stated that during their discussions the commission decided that this was a lose lose situation in many forms. She stated the commission didn't feel that it was a necessary question for the ballot, but that they are being forced to make this question. She said that the commission really wanted to let it alone but they didn't want the school board to be faced with creating this question after they deliberated and studied and analyzed the information. They formed the question because they had to, but they do not feel the state is going in a positive direction with the question.

Mr. Ruth asked when the school board has to make a decision on this.

Mrs. Beleno stated that she believes it is March 14, 2007.

Mr. Williams stated the school board has to have a public hearing in March before they make their final decision.

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

Mrs. Ganser said that although the commission does not support this, the board is not legally permitted to either endorse or not endorse the question. They are only here to make the recommendation for the ballot question. It is up to the voting public to decide what happens.

Mr. Dorshimer asked to have copies of all the paperwork the Tax Study Commission received during their meetings.

Mr. Williams read a resolution for the Act I Tax Study Commission. **(see attachment)**

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, to accept the Act I Tax Study Commission resolution as read.

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

NAY: None (0)

Dr. Sham informed the board that the feasibility study review committee has been meeting and they have been reviewing the enrollment projections and how that might impact any renovations or building projects. One of the concerns is that enrollment projections from PDE show a declining enrollment for Northern Lehigh School District as time goes on. The concern of the group is that those projections may not be accurate. In order to get PDE to accept anything other than their own enrollment projections, districts must create their own enrollment projections and that is done through a growth study. At the next finance committee meeting he will be requesting that the board approve to have an enrollment growth projection study completed. The Pennsylvania Economic League is the group that will perform a growth projections study but it comes at a cost of \$15,000.00. Administration has been trying to get proposals from other organizations but they have not yet been successful in getting that information. The problem is that the decisions that are being made are based on information that may or may not be accurate, which is a big concern of the feasibility study committee.

Dr. Sham informed the board that they are holding interviews for the Food Service Director's position on Thursday December 7, 2006 beginning at 6:00 p.m. and that if any board member is interested in attending they should let Mrs. Molitoris know.

Dr. Sham thanked the students and director, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, for the wonderful job they did with the play.

At 8:10 p.m. the board recessed for an executive session to discuss personnel items.

At 9:05 p.m. Mr. Ruth reconvened the school board meeting after executive session which was held to discuss personnel items and negotiation issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Nomination for Appointment - Aides	Patricia Ingles* **	
	Assignment:	Middle School Personal Care Assistant, replacing Amy Unger who resigned.
	Salary:	\$9.59 Per Hour/6 ½ Hrs Per Day/5 Days Per Week (2006-2007 ESSA Agreement)
	Effective Date:	December 5, 2006

Tricia Seiler* **
 Assignment: High School Learning Support Aide, replacing Dawne Beidelman who resigned.
 Salary: \$9.59 Per Hour/6 ½ Hrs Per Day/5 Days Per Week (2006-2007 ESSA Agreement)
 Effective: December 5, 2006

* **Pending Verification of Clearances.**

** **60 Day Probationary Period**

Co-curricular Appointments for 2006-2007	Senior High Musical Director	Jill Chamberlain	\$2,574.45*
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**Last year's rates will apply until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.*

Substitute – Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute teacher rates of \$80.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$105.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Ms. Sharon Colline

Non-Instructional - Aides Approve the following individuals as substitute secretaries/aides for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Margaret Blose
 Donna Lobach-Berger*
 Mary Spalding
**Pending Verification of Clearances*

Cafeteria Approve the following individuals as substitute cafeteria worker for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Mary Spalding

Custodians Approve the following individual as substitute custodian for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Gavin Oplinger

Salary Adjustments Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the 2006-2007 school year:

Amanda Lychak
 From: Step 5B
 To: Step 5B + 24*

** This salary adjustment represents a lateral move from Bachelors to Bachelors + 24 on the 2005-2006 Collective Bargaining pay schedule. They will not move to the next step until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.*

Resignation Accept the resignation of Lisa Martinez from her position as Substitute Detention Monitor effective November 28, 2006.

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

**CONFER-
ENCES****POLICY**

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

Board
Policies -
Second
Reading

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #122 – Programs: Extra-Curricular Activities, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #123 – Programs: Interscholastic Athletics, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy #137.1 – Programs: Extracurricular Participation By Home Education Students, as presented after second reading.

Approve new school board policy #140.1 – Programs: Extracurricular Participation By Charter/Cyber Charter Students, as presented after second reading.

Homebound
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for an 11th Grade Student, Student No.843780, for five hours per week, effective November 15, 2006 and continuing until March 2007.

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

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION****OLD
BUSINESS**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves the following Old Business items:

Administrative
Individual
Goals

Approve the Individual Administrative Goals for 2006-2007 as presented at the November 15, 2006 school board meeting.

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS****FINANCIAL**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approves the following Financial items:

Abatement/
Exonerations
Per Capita

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

Cash
Management
Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the month of October 2006.

Exoneration
Real Estate
Taxes -
Bill Stein

Approve to exonerate William Stein, tax collector for Slatington Borough from collection of school real estate property tax from NIS Properties, 450 Fairview Avenue, Slatington. This property is an approved KOZ property per notification from Lehigh County.

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

NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education accept the fact finders report as written.

in Mr. Dorshimer stated that the board is bound legally and can not discuss at this point what is the fact finders report. Only after it is voted on and accepted or rejected can it be discussed.

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Green (2)

NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams,
Mrs. Ganser (7)

Motion defeated.

Mr. Ruth made a comment that we are very close with fact finding. He said that they feel there is still room to talk about things.

**CORRE-
SPOND-
ENCE**

Mrs. Ganser reported that she received a thank you letter from Mrs. Jennifer Schlegel on her gift for years of service.

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 16, 2006 were distributed.

**RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS**

Mr. Williams stated that under the fact finding process the board has a period of 5-10 days to reconsider the fact finding. He wanted to know since they will not reconvene as a group in that amount of time if they can talk about the possibility of the necessity of that meeting and, if so, when in the world they could plan on doing that.

can Mr. Dorshimer said that if the committee can approach NLEA in the next day or so and make an approach that the fact finders report is very close to what possibly the board might accept, could we just sit down and go over the troubling spot. If the committee can come back to the board and say the NLEA and committee has agreed to change this in the fact finders report maybe we can come back to agree to something in an amended portion. It would not be accepting it as a whole but can we come back and say we want to make a change.

stated Mr. Williams stated that the reconsider option would be the fact finders report as a whole. He that if the two parties came to an agreement then maybe we just need to wait for that window of to be time over and then pass the contract outside of the fact finders agreement.

Mr. Dorshimer said that maybe the committee needs to meet with the NLEA group and come back to the board as a whole and say this is as good as it is going to get. He said that he is leaving it up to the committee's judgment to say do we need to meet in 5-10 days or not. If the committee says we should meet again, then contact the board and bring it back again.

time. Mr. Green said that the board committee and NLEA committee can reach an agreement at any time. If our committee meets with their committee tomorrow and they come up with a tentative agreement he thinks we can proceed with a tentative agreement. We are not locked into any of the fact finders report at this time. There is nothing that says you can not meet and come up with a tentative agreement and move on from there.

Mr. Ruth said the committee's first priority will be to get in contact with NLEA's representatives and see about meeting and discussing the issues.

Mr. Dorshimer strongly suggested that the committee contact the education association within the next 36-48 hours to come up with a day and time to sit down and meet.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Sincerely,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Peter A. Ruth