

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**March 12, 2007**

**PURPOSE**

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Peter A. Ruth, at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2007 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: 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 (8)

Members absent: Mr. Franklin D. Beers (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker (Student Rep.), Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

**VISITORS**

Approximately nine visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News.

Mr. Ruth reported that the board was in executive session prior to the board meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS**

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Sheryl Giles reported that the construction project and renovation that is going on at LCTI is going along nicely. They recently finished a complete school safety update in which they formed two committees to complete a study on school safety and what a school has to do to maintain a safety level in compliance with state laws. Lastly, she reported that Dr. Clyde Hornberger recently had an article published in the Wall Street Journal about vocational technical schools.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported and distributed paperwork received from the National School Board Association on a proposed resolution supporting the passage of the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007. He stated that he would like this resolution to be voted on at the next regular school board meeting and that he would be willing to discuss this resolution with anyone who might have questions.

Mr. Dorshimer asked Mr. Williams if he could look into legislation that he recently was made aware of that anyone who works so many days or hours a year and the rest of the year they are off, they could possibly be entitled to unemployment.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha reported that the Head Start Longitudinal Performance Data shows that of the 2005-2006 Head Start students who are currently enrolled in Kindergarten, 11 are considered established and 6 students received Title I services. Of the twelve 2004-2005 Head Start students who are currently enrolled in first grade, 6 are receiving Title I services.

She reported that the money for the Dual Enrollment Grant has been received and they will be reimbursing students for their college courses next month. Students who participate in the free or reduced lunch program will receive total reimbursement in accordance with the grant guidelines and other students will be reimbursed a percentage of their tuition and textbook costs.

**SPECIAL BOARD****Solution REPORTS**  
fluency (cont.)

Mrs. Fedorcha introduced Ms. Julie Fehnel, 4<sup>th</sup> grade Slatington Elementary School Teacher, who handed out paperwork and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Six-Minute – A Fluency Intervention. This program is a classroom intervention to increase reading in just six minutes a day.

Lastly, Mrs. Fedorcha reported to the board on original conference budget amounts, amounts spent to date on conferences and amounts still left to spend. She informed the board of general guidelines used in determining whether to send a staff member to a conference or not. She will mail home this information for the board.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Lisa Blank distributed a memo with additional requested information on the 2007-2008 school district budget for review by the board. She stated that budget discussion will take place at the next regular school board meeting held on April 2, 2007.

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

Dr. Sham referenced the last three pages of Mrs. Blank's document and stated that if there are any suggestions or changes they should let Mrs. Blank or himself know. He said that when you talk about non-mandated items the Board should keep in mind that there are some things that can be labeled as non-mandated but does not necessarily mean that in reality administration would ever recommend not having those items. He stated that Mrs. Blank wanted to give the Board the most accurate list of non-mandated programs, even though she would never recommend not having some of the programs on the list.

He reminded the board that the April 2, 2007 board meeting is at the Middle School.

He stated that the CLIU #21 School Board Conference on March 29, 2007 will be recognizing Mr. Dorshimer and Mr. Green for their years of service on the Northern Lehigh School Board. Please let Sherri know if you would like to attend, by March 21, 2007.

Dr. Sham reminded the board that the Head Start program we have at Northern Lehigh is the first in the state and has become a model for other districts across the state. His initiative that all students prior to graduation from Northern Lehigh will learn to read, and read well, is a collaborative effort of many different people within this school district. He is thrilled with where the district is now, knowing that the job is not done and probably never will be, but everyone will continue to get better and they are making an impact.

He reported that Dawn Wadsworth and he made a presentation at the Catasauqua Area School District on RTI and the impact it is having on reading. Catasauqua is also looking at full day Kindergarten.

Lastly, Mr. Dorshimer's term as the representative on the CLIU Board of Directors ends June 30, 2007 and we need nominations for a representative on the CLIU Board of Directors from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

Motion CLIU Board Appointment Bryan Dorshimer

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green that the Board of Education approve Mr. Dorshimer as representative on the CLIU #21 Board of Directors from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

**PERSONNEL**

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

**PERSONNEL**

(cont.)

Nomination for Aptmnt. – Professional	Lori Middaugh Assignment:  Effective: Termination: Salary:	Temporary Vacancy Replacement Slatington Elementary School, Grade 5 replacing employee #240 who was granted a family medical leave for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year March 5, 2007 On or about June 14, 2007 \$38,500.00 (Prorated for the 2006/2007 School Year) (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2006-2007 CBA Salary Schedule)
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Co-Curricular Volunteers 2006-2007	Gary Andrew* Dan Wanamaker* <b>*Pending Clearances</b>	Assistant Baseball Coach Assistant Baseball Coach
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Resignation/  
Retirement of Janet Kern     Accept the resignation of Janet Kern from her position as English teacher in the Northern Lehigh Middle school, effective the last teacher day of the 2006/2007 school year, at which time she will begin her retirement from Northern Lehigh School District after 35 years of service.

Leave Without Pay     Approve the request of Timothy Weaber, Slatington Elementary teacher, to take an unpaid leave of absence on April 23, 2007. He will be using this day in conjunction with 2 personal days on April 24 & 25 to attend a church conference. His request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)  
NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Education approve the following conference items:

Rhonda Frantz – A/CAPA Spring Conference – March 22, 2007 – Hershey, PA –  
Registration: \$165.00, Travel: \$72.75, Meals: \$8.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$245.75  
– Funding: Business Office Budget

Laurie Newman-Mankos – 35<sup>th</sup> Special Education Law Conference – May 11, 2007 –  
Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA – Registration: \$145.00 - Total Approximate Cost:  
\$145.00 – Funding: IDEA

Jill Chamberlain – 35<sup>th</sup> Special Education Law Conference – May 11, 2007 – Lehigh  
University Bethlehem, PA – Registration: \$145.00, Travel: \$24.00 - Total Approximate  
Cost: \$169.00 – Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget

Suzanne Mengel – Depression & Anxiety in Childhood in Pennsylvania – March 30, 2007 –  
Allentown, PA – Registration: \$279.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$279.00 – Funding:  
Curriculum and Instruction Budget

Megan Wentz – PMEA 2007 State Conference – April 19-21, 2007 – Hershey, PA –  
Registration: \$115.00, Travel: \$40.00, Meals: \$25.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$180.00 –  
Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget

Lora Krum – PMEA 2007 State Conference – April 19-21, 2007 – Hershey, PA –  
Registration: \$95.00, Travel: \$45.00, Lodging: \$298.00 - Total Approximate Cost:  
\$438.00 – Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget

Karen Nicholas – PASA Women's Caucus Conference – May 2-4, 2007 – Hershey, PA –  
Registration: \$350.00, Travel: \$33.00, Lodging: \$389.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$772.00 –  
Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget

**CONFERENCE**  
(cont.)

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)  
NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer that the Board of Education approve the following policy item:

Resolution  
for Act 4

**RESOLUTION-EXEMPTING CERTAIN OPEN SPACE REAL  
PROPERTY FROM FURTHER MILLAGE INCREASES  
IMPOSE ON REAL PROPERTY**

**WHEREAS**, Northern Lehigh School District (hereinafter the "School District") recognized the importance of preserving open space and conserving natural resources located within the boundaries of the School District, including farmland and forests, and allowing more dense future development to occur in other areas; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 19, 1968, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, enacted Act No. 442, P.L. 992 of 1967, as amended by Act No. 153 of 1996, as amended by Act No. 4 of 2006 (hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Act"), for purposes of acquiring and preserving open space property within the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, under the provisions of the Act, the governing bodies, including a school district, of each taxing district that imposes a tax on certain categories of real property being used for open space purposes may provide for exemption from further millage increases on such property by ordinance or resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District desires to encourage the acquisition and preservation of open space and agricultural real property located within the boundaries of the School District by adoption of a resolution providing exemption from further millage increases imposed on such real property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The following real property is hereby exempt from further millage increase imposed on such real property:

- (1) Real property in which the open space property interests have been acquired by a local government unit in accordance with the Act;
- (2) Real property that is subject to an easement acquired in accordance with the Act of June 30, 1981 (P.L. 128, No. 43) 3 P.S. Section 901 et seq., known as the "Agricultural Area Security Law"; and
- (3) Real property from which "transferable development rights" (TDR's) have been transferred and retired by a local government unit without their development potential having occurred on other lands:

And provided that the exemption from further millage increases for real property as provided for in clauses (1), (2) or (3) of Section 1 of the Resolution shall be authorized only for real property qualifying for such exemption under the provisions of Section 2(b)(1) of Article VIII of the Constitution of Pennsylvania.

Section 2. The millage freeze authorized by the Resolution shall apply to all eligible real property, whether the real property met the criteria of this Resolution prior to or subsequent to the effective date hereof. For prior acquisitions, the date on which the millage rate shall be frozen shall be the effective date of this Resolution. For subsequent acquisitions, the date on which the millage rate shall be frozen shall be the date the local government unit completes the acquisition under clauses (1), (2) or (3) of Section 1

**POLICY**  
(cont.)

Deed,

hereinabove. The Lehigh County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (hereinafter the "Board") and the Borough of Slatington and the Township of Washington (hereinafter collectively the "Local Municipalities") shall give the School District prompt written notice of any real properties that have been acquired and are eligible for the freeze or which become eligible for the freeze by submitting to the School District a true and correct copy of the recorded at the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Lehigh County, reflecting the open space interest acquisition. Failure of the Board and the Local Municipalities to properly include real property otherwise eligible for the freeze will case loss of exemption for that real property for the next succeeding school year. Upon receipt of such notice, the School District shall in turn give prompt notice to the appropriate tax collection agent of the exact amount of the millage, the date it was frozen, and each parcel to which the freeze applies. The exemptions granted under this Resolution shall not be considered by the State Tax Equalization Board in deriving the market value of School District real property so as to reduce the subsidy to the School District or to increase the subsidy to any other school district.

Section 3. Any real property otherwise eligible for exemption hereunder may be released from exemption upon written request of the owner delivered to the School District and the other governing bodies of each taxing district authorizing exemption on or before the real estate tax levy in any school year.

Section 4. The School District may repeal this Resolution at any time; provided, however, that any real property which is subject to the freeze when the Resolution is repealed shall thereafter continue to be frozen, but only for so long as the properties otherwise continue to be eligible for exemption under the Act.

Section 5. This Resolution shall become effective only if the governing body of each taxing district, i.e., Lehigh County and either the Borough of Slatington or Washington Township, that imposes a tax on the real property approves the exemption by adoption of an ordinance authorizing such exemption and, if so, on the date the last of the required ordinances becomes effective.

Mr. Green commented that he feels this is a good thing for the district but he would rather see someone taking the initiative and instead of keeping things in farmland, because eventually we don't have money to pay bills now and if things stay status quo this act actually means we're not going to collect any more money on farm land. This means that the tax burden again is falling back on the home owner. Everybody needs to realize that this is good for the farmer not great for the home owner. It could be worse if it is developed. Ultimately what he would like to see is someone get some kind of industrial base or commercial base something that we get dollars in without any strings attached because that is what we need for Northern Lehigh to take some of the tax burden off the home owner.

Mr. Dorshimer commented that this act only covers farms that have gone into conservation. The development rights have been sold and they no longer can be developed. There is only four farms that he knows of within our district that have been accepted into conservation and there are some more farms that have applied for conservation.

Mr. Ruth questioned a statement within the act that he understands it to mean that the farmer will get years of tax breaks being in conservation but, many years later, they can decide to sell their property?

Mr. Dorshimer stated that they can sell the property but that it stays in conservation. The only way the property can come out of conservation is if the person who purchases the property buys the conservation rights back and also pays all property taxes from that point back to the initial date the property was granted conservation rights.

Mr. Green said that he understood that to be correct for other Acts, but thought once farmland is in conservation it is in forever.

**POLICY**  
(cont.)

Mr. Dorshimer stated that as he was looking into Act 4 and asking questions he was told that the land can come out of conservation but only after they pay all the taxes on the property from the time it was in conservation.

More discussion ensued and Mr. Dorshimer stated that he would be willing to get a written statement clarifying this issue.

Motion  
Table Act 4  
Resolution

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education approve to table the Act 4 Resolution until further information is received.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)  
NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-  
ULUM  
AND  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

Mr. Dorshimer stated that he is hearing great things from the high school about going after the kids as early as 9<sup>th</sup> grade and trying to steer them down the road of opportunity. He thanked the administrators at the High School as well as the guidance department for steering these students into opportunities that are needed.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles that the Board of Education approve the following new business item:

School Board  
Resignation  
Franklin Beers

Resignation School Board Member – Franklin Beers

Emergency  
Operations  
Plan

Approve changes to the Northern Lehigh School District Emergency Operations Plan as presented. (Separate Attachment to Agenda For Board Members Only)

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)  
NAY: None (0)

Name  
Plate  
Franklin  
Beers

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser that the Board of Education approve to give Mr. Beers his board member name plate in honor of his years of service.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)  
NAY: None (0)

School Board  
Appointment  
Donna Kulp

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler that the Board of Education appoint Mrs. Donna Kulp as new school board member replacing Mr. Beers who resigned.

Edward  
Hartman

Mr. Green made a motion that the Board of Education appoint Edward Hartman as new school board member replacing Mr. Beers who resigned.

Close  
Nominations

Mrs. Ganser made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Dengler that nominations for vacant school board seat be closed.

Vote on  
Donna Kulp

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (7)  
NAY: Mr. Green (1)

Motion carried.

**NEW  
BUSINESS**  
(cont.)

Mrs. Ganser stated that Mrs. Kulp is a frequent attendee of Northern Lehigh School Board Meetings and keeps herself well informed on issues going on in the school district. Mrs. Ganser feels she will do an excellent job.

Mrs. Kulp accepted the position and said that she would be honored to have the opportunity to serve on the board.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that she can go down to the district magistrate's office to be sworn in and if the board permits she may be invited to attend executive session after tonight's regular school board meeting.

Mr. Ruth asked how fellow board members felt about her attending tonight's executive session and there was agreement to allow her to attend.

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial  
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund month of February
2. Athletic Fund month of February
3. Capital Reserve month of February
4. Cafeteria Fund month of February
5. NLHS Student Activities Account month of February
6. NLHS Scholarship Account month of February
7. NLMS Student Activities Account month of February

Payment of  
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of February and March
2. Athletic Fund month of February
3. Cafeteria Fund month of February and March

Real Estate  
Tax Bill  
Installment  
Payments

Authorize the Business Manager to proceed with real estate tax bill arrangements that will include provisions for the installment payment of real estate taxes for qualified homestead/farmstead properties with the number of installment payments set at three (3) and payment due dates set at August 10, October 10, and December 10.

Donation  
Desk to NLEF

Authorize administration to donate 20 unused school desks, currently in storage, to the Educational Foundation to be used as a Foundation fundraiser.

Contract for  
Emergency  
Lighting HS

Authorize administration to contract with Eastern Consultants to perform a study and prepare an report on the emergency lighting system at the high school at a cost of \$2,000.00.

Lease Buyout  
Calfirst

Authorize administration to proceed with the buyout of the Calfirst 2004 lease in the amount of \$15,750.00.

LCCC  
2007-2008  
Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2007-2008 Lehigh Carbon Community College Sponsor contribution Budget. Total expenditures equal \$5,603,934, an increase of \$335,644 (6.4%) over the 2006-2007 budget. Northern Lehigh's enrollment is 144 FTE, an increase of 10%. Northern Lehigh's share of the total budget is \$216,228, an increase of \$15,233 or 7.6%.

Solicit Bids  
Art Supplies

Authorize proper officials to solicit bids for art supplies for the 2007-2008 school year.

Act I  
Calculating  
Farmstead  
Exclusion

As per Act 1 2006 to establish the method for calculating the farmstead exclusion as the ratio of the median farmstead assessment to the median homestead assessment applied to the homestead exclusion amount. (Based on currently available information for Northern Lehigh School District, the median homestead assessment is \$41,800 and the median farmstead

**FINANCIAL** assessment is \$1400. The ratio is 3.35%. When applied to the estimated \$342 homestead  
(cont.) exclusion, the estimated farmstead exclusion is \$11.45)

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Donna Kulp – Washington Township asked to explain the way we are allowing installment payments for real estate taxes. Does that mean the discount amount will not apply to those folks if they take the installment payment option?

Mrs. Blank stated that yes it does mean that they will not be allowed to pay discount. The installment payment would be three payments based on the face amount of the taxes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Donna Kulp – Washington Township asked if that installment amount would be specified on the bills.

Mrs. Blank stated that the installment payments will only be offered to people who are qualified homestead/farmstead. The bill will offer them the option of installment payment and the bill will show the installment amount and the due dates.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that when we had an outside person as the substitute teacher caller he did not remember ever paying for long distance phone calls.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** Mrs. Rehrig, Business Office Accounts Payable, stated that the prior substitute teacher caller was also reimbursed for long distance phone calls.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles,  
Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Green wanted to advise the public there was a presentation on the independent auditors report at the finance committee meeting. He stated that he constantly hears that the district is

over spending, administrators don't watch their budgets, teachers who just keep going and so on but this document does not show that as they heard the other night. He asked the auditor at the presentation if we, "Are we spending like drunken sailors or aren't we?" She stated that we absolutely are not. Your administration, business office etc. is doing a good job holding down costs and holding down expenses. Bottom line is last year instead of having to dip into our fund balance we actually had money left over. There are three kinds of sightings you can get on an independent audit which are a material weakness, total inappropriate accounting, stealing etc. We had none of those sightings. Next is a reportable condition which is a little less than a material weakness of which there were none noted. That is a clean audit. The best you can get. Lastly, is what they call a recommendation which is just little suggestions on changes for the district. He thanked the business manager and business office for a job well done.

**CORR-ESPON-DENCE** Mr. Dorshimer reported he received correspondence from CLIU on the CLIU#21 School Board Conference on March 29, 2007 at 5:30 at the Days Inn. Mr. Dorshimer said it is well worth attending.

Mr. Ruth received information from Steckel & Stopp stating the Governor's Office of general council would like to compile a contact list of all local government officials involved in the Pandemic Planning and Emergency Preparedness initiative plans in Pennsylvania. Steckel & Stopp submitted a letter providing them the with contact information requested.

Dr. Sham reported that today our Pandemic Planning committee met to review the Pandemic Plan that has been constructed. He reported that it is in rough draft currently and he is in the process of making changes. Once changes are complete it will go back to the committee for final review. Once approved by the committee it will come to the board for review.

Mr. Ruth also received correspondence from Northern Lehigh School District High School Basketball Team. The letter states they will be holding a dinner to celebrate the winning of the 2006-2007 Colonial League Championship. They are inviting two board members to



attend. Mrs. Ganser and Mr. Follweiler stated that Mr. Oertner has already approached them to attend the dinner and they have accepted.

**CORR-  
ESPON  
DENCE**  
(cont.)

Mr. Ruth also received information on an insiders view of myspace.com. The article was written by a police officer on school safety and preventing school violence. This information was forwarded to Dr. Sham.

**RECOG-  
NITION OF  
GUESTS**

Robyn Dengler – Washington Township asked if the approximate cost for the building of the science lab at the high school was ¾ of a million dollars.

Dr. Sham stated that he would not know a true amount until an architect has been hired and the plans and specs have been completed.

Mrs. Dengler asked if the project would be open to the public for bidding.

Dr. Sham stated that the project must go through Plancon and therefore would have to be bid. He further stated that there was a question raised after last weeks board meeting on whether LCTI could come in and take on all or some responsibility of building the science lab. This would allow us to build the project without having to pay prevailing wages and save money but feels this should be reviewed by the solicitor for legal concerns.

Mrs. Dengler wanted to know what responsibility the tax payers will have in the completion of this project.

Dr. Sham said the agreement is between the Education Foundation and the School District. He said the construction of the science lab will only take place when money is released to the school district from the Education Foundation.

Mrs. Dengler asked if there was anything in the contract that says the tax payers would not be responsible for the completion if it only gets to a shell.

Dr. Sham told her that it is spelled out in the contract.

Mrs. Dengler reiterated that she does not want the burden to fall back on the tax payers of this community.

Dr. Sham again told her it is not the responsibility of the tax payers to fund this project.

clearances and Susan Firth – Slatington Borough wanted to know with all the current publicity with the principal at Bethlehem Area School District what is our school district policy on child abuse random drug screening for staff members who deal directly with children.

therefore recommend a have a a FBI Criminal Dr. Sham stated that currently he does not think random drug screening would pass and is not a part of policy. If this is something the school board would suggest he would solicitor’s opinion first on whether this was allowed. Currently all new employees must Child Abuse History Clearance, a Criminal Record Check and as of April 1, 2007 Record Check.

Ms. Firth asked if criminal checks are done periodically or is it once and done?

Dr. Sham told her that the way the law reads is as long as you stay in your current position you never need to get new clearances.

Ms. Firth asked how we go about changing policy on clearances and drug testing.

drug trouble. Dr. Sham stated that if the Board views this as policy they would want to change it would have to go to the policy committee and he would recommend a solicitor’s opinion on whether random testing is allowed because he would not want the school district to get into any legal

their Ms. Firth said that she understood that but thinks we need to think about the safety of our students first. She stated that students are with their teachers more than they are with parents in a day's time and this is an issue the Board needs to seriously consider.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

(cont.)

Greg Williams asked to get a solicitor's opinion prior to brining it up at the next Policy Committee meeting to make sure this is legal.

Ms. Firth said she works in a hospital and in order to be hired she had to get a drug test and must agree to random drug testing. She does not understand why this can not be done.

only Mr. Green stated that everything he has heard says that this is not legal and if that is true, the way to change the law is to talk to state legislators or someone in Harrisburg and ask them to change the law.

More discussion ensued amongst board members and Dr. Sham was instructed to get legal opinion on random drug testing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Ruth, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Peter A. Ruth