

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
April 2, 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 7:32 p.m. on Monday, April 2, 2007 in the Middle School Auditorium.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Atty. Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

VISITORS Approximately fourteen visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News and Sarah Fulton reported for The Morning Call.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on March 5, 2007 and the regular school board meeting held on March 12, 2007 be approved and ordered filed.

Mr. Ruth asked that the March 12th board minutes page 10 be corrected to show that Mr. Dorshimer made the motion for adjournment not Mr. Beers as the minutes indicated.

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

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams talked about House Bill 184 which amends the Pennsylvania Unemployment Compensation Law to allow substitute teachers operating without contract and other administrative personnel (ex. cafeteria workers, school bus drivers, janitors, and security guards) to collect unemployment compensation benefits between successive academic years. Mr. Williams talked with Mr. Gary Burks from Julie Harhart's office and expressed his concerns with the law and the expense that a school district could incur from this change in law. Mr. Burk logged down Mr. Williams concerns.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on March 5, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on March 7, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings held on March 7, 2007 were distributed.

Mr. Ruth asked that the Policy Committee minutes be changed to reflect attendees at the meeting.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Charles Stopp talked about the method being used for collection of delinquent real estate taxes. The Real Estate Tax Collection Law of 1949, stated the County Tax Claim Bureau is used to collect delinquent real estate taxes. As time went on, the County Tax Claim Bureau became rather bureaucratic, slower. Many school districts have turned to collection agencies to use powers under Amicable Tax Claim and Tax Claim Collection Act to expedite collection and make the consequences tougher on tax payers. There has been litigation presently by title settlement and title agency's in the commonwealth because one of the

responsibilities for a title agent is to conduct real estate settlements and to make

sure all real estate taxes **SPECIAL** are paid. This process involves requesting tax certifications from the local tax collectors, **BOARD** delinquent tax collectors, the county, and in some cases a third party, Portnoff, who is **REPORTS** collecting the delinquent taxes, which is creating extra fees and delays. If there is some **(cont.)** misinformation supplied because of the different process, the use of Portnoff, the title industry can be responsible for delinquent taxes, sometimes in large amounts. The title agencies and their state agency as well, is questioning whether delinquent taxes can be collected in the way we are doing it right now through Portnoff. The counties are also getting into the act and it appears we must report our delinquent taxes to the County Tax Claim Bureau. They are the repository whether they are paid the taxes or not. It is also possible that the County Tax Claim Bureau will try to impose a 5% fee even though they may not be collecting the taxes.

Mr. Ruth asked for the minutes to reflect that Mrs. Ganser has arrived at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Follweiler announced that he attended the varsity girls softball game before he came to tonight's meeting and that they were losing 3-0 but they came back and beat Wilson 6-3.

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha informed the Board that they are forming a Wellness Advisory Council and the first meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. She stated that they would like members from the public to attend, as well as, one board member.

Business Manager's Report - Mrs. Lisa A. Blank updated the board on the front end referendum question. She stated that the question created by our Act I Tax Study Commission was submitted to the Board of Elections in both Northampton and Lehigh Counties as required by law and on March 9, 2007 the Pennsylvania Department of States came back with an advisory to the Board of Elections that they felt the question should not deviate from the actual language that was in Act I. Our language did deviate slightly and only because the Act I Tax Study Commission wanted to have the clearest language they could possibly come up with in a short block of words. We have received notice from the County of Lehigh that they are going to rewrite our front end referendum question and word it as it is in Act I. Northampton County has not come forward yet to say what they will be doing. There is a possibility that within Northern Lehigh School District the public could be voting on two different front end referendum questions. Mrs. Blank said Jamie Slamon from Steckel and Stopp has been in contact with PSBA and she was told there is not a lot we can do about it as of now.

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

It was announced that the next school board meeting will be Tuesday April 10, 2007 in Slatington Elementary Board Room.

Paperwork was distributed "A Property Tax Rebate – Understanding the Question On The May Ballot" which was published by Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Dr. Sham also reported that last week Mr. Williams, Mrs. Nicholas and he participated in a conference call with Dr. Zahorchak, Secretary of Education. Dr. Zahorchak initiated the call to discuss the Pre K Counts Grant that will be available for application. They require a letter of application by April 26 and we intend on writing the letter stating our intent to apply for the grant. The Pre K Counts Program is Gov. Rendell's big push for Pre K education opportunities. Our Pre K program, which is a collaborative between Head Start district, with each of us funding half, was the first ever in Pennsylvania. We are looking at the possibility of expanding this program. The grant would give us \$7,900 per child and we would ask to serve 20 students, thus the amount of money we would get in the grant would be around \$158,000. Based on early information we have received, it may be possible for us to run another collaborative program with Head Start with them funding part of it and us funding part of it. Head Start knows exactly what needs to be done in putting together the classroom, finding the students, and hiring the teachers and aides for the classroom. We currently run our entire program and we pay for half. It would be great if we could do that again. We are not sure if that is a possibility but we are looking into that. This grant would give us an opportunity to take 20 more students that perhaps need the early intervention, so that by the

Start and the school are looking at the child and we would would be possible for us to and us funding classroom, currently run We are

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

time they get to Kindergarten they are at bench mark and ready to move ahead. In the long run our goal is to prevent students from needing special education opportunities.

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

PERSONNEL
Education

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

Administrative
Transfer

Beverly Rupert

From:

Custodian – Afternoon Shift Fulltime Position
Peters Elementary School

To:

Custodian - Afternoon Shift Fulltime Position
Senior High School, replacing James Brown who retired

Effective Date:

March 16, 2007

Nomination
for
Appointment

Rodney Hausman

Assignment:

Custodian – Afternoon Shift Fulltime Position
Peters Elementary School - Replacing Beverly Rupert who was
administratively transferred to the Senior High School

Salary:

\$8.25 Per Hour/8 Hours Per Day/5 Days Per Week
(2005-2009 ESPA Collective Bargaining Agreement)

Effective Date:

March 16, 2007

Co-curricular
Appointment
2006-2007

Joseph Tout

Senior High School Spring Intramural – Weightlifting \$758.83

Resignations/
Retirements
Susanne
Christman

Accept the resignation of Susanne Christman from her position as cook's helper in the Peters Elementary School, effective the last day of cafeteria operations in the 2006/2007 school year, at which time she will begin her retirement from Northern Lehigh School District after 26 years of service.

Mary Anne
Shafer

Accept the resignation of Mary Anne Shafer from her position as English Teacher in the 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 32 years of service.

George
Weaver

Accept the resignation of George Weaver from his position as English Teacher in the Middle School, effective the last teacher day of the 2006/2007 school year, at which time he will begin his retirement from Northern Lehigh School District after 32 years of service.

Susan
Bowser

Accept the resignation of Susan Bowser, Middle School Family and Consumer Science Teacher, from her 2006-2007 co-curricular position as National Junior Honor Society Co-Advisor currently shared with Jason Graver. Mr. Graver has been performing all duties associated with this co-curricular position and should receive full stipend for this after school activity.

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

NAY: None (0)

Remove
From Table
Co-curricular
Appointments
2007-2008

Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve to remove from the table the Co-Curricular Appointments for 2007-2008 that were tabled at the December 20, 2006 regular school board meeting and pulled from the March 5, 2007 regular school board meeting agenda:

Joe Tout	Head Football Coach	\$6,543.21
Steve Hluschak	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,252.45
Mark Hoffman	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,252.45
Doug Reynolds	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,252.45

<u>PERSONNEL</u>	Dan Blazosky	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,252.45
(cont.)	Chad Henritz	Assistant Football Coach	\$4,252.45
	Mark Lavine	Assistant Football Coach-Shared Stipend	\$2,126.23
	Andrew Lynn	Assistant Football Coach-Shared Stipend	\$2,126.23
	Jess Schoenberger	Head Field Hockey Coach	\$3,920.19
	Kelly Follweiler	Assistant Field Hockey Coach	\$2,547.65
	Dave Oertner	Head Cross Country Coach	\$3,920.19
	Beth Case	Assistant Cross Country Coach	\$2,547.65
	John Sitaras	Head Boys Soccer Coach	\$4,729.54

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

NAY: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Mr. Follweiler (1)

CONFERENCE

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

Tracy Hoffman – Mommy, I Don't Feel So Good! – Pediatric Problems, Emergencies & Lab Interpretation – May 3, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$159.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$159.00 – Funding: Staff Development Slatington Elementary Budget

Janelle Reiser – Mommy, I Don't Feel So Good! – Pediatric Problems, Emergencies & Lab Interpretation – May 3, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$159.00 - Total Approximate Cost: \$159.00 – Funding: Staff Development Peters Elementary Budget

Maria Pinnata - The IDEA Today: The Latest and Greatest – May 11, 2007 – Lehigh University Bethlehem, PA – Registration: \$145.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$145.00 - Funding: Administration Staff Development Budget

Aileen Yadush – Rigor and Relevance for All High School Students – April 4, 2007 – Hershey, PA – Lodging: \$151.51 - Total Approximate Cost: \$151.51 – Funding: Administration Staff Development Budget

Jill Chamberlain – 2006 Safe Schools Conference – April 30, 2007 – May 2, 2007 – Harrisburg, PA – Lodging: \$372.78 - Total Approximate Cost: \$372.78 – Funding: Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools

Michele Dotta – Behavioral Interventions for Childhood Emotional and Behavioral Disorders – Sponsored by PESI Education – April 11, 2007 – Allentown, PA – Registration: \$185.00, Travel: \$10.80, Meals: \$10.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$205.80 - Funding: Slatington Elementary Staff Development Budget

Andrea Thomson – Comprehension Strategies, Motivation, and Monitoring Progress – Penn State – April 23, 2007 – June 21, 2007 – Registration: \$100.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$100.00 – Funding: IDEA

Linda Marcincin – PASA Women's Caucus Conference – May 2-4, 2007 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$350.00, Travel: \$81.90, Lodging: \$412.02 - Total Approximate Cost: \$843.92 – Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget

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

NAY: None (0)

High Schools That Works Conference

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser that the Board of Education approve to send five teachers and one administrator to the High Schools That Works Conference in New Orleans, LA from July 11-14, 2007 at a cost not to exceed \$6,845.00. Expenses for the district administrator will be paid for by a grant through Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

**CONFER-
ENCES**
(cont.)

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (8)
NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

Motion carried.

POLICY
Education

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

Board Policy
Second
Reading

Approve revisions to existing school board policy #100 – Strategic Plan, as presented after
second reading.

Homebound
Instruction
2006-

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant continued homebound instruction for
a 12th Grade Student, Student No.74500, for five hours per week until the end of the
2007 school year.

Homebound
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant continued homebound instruction for
an 11th Grade Student, Student No.862500, for five hours per week continuing until May
20, 2007.

Field Trips

National Honor Society – New York City – April 7, 2007 – Funded by students.

Biology I Class – Philadelphia Zoo – May 15, 2007 – Funded by students and School District
Budget.

Resolution
No Child Left
Behind
Improvements
2007

Approve the proposed resolution supporting the passage of the No Child Left Behind
Improvements of 2007 as presented:

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2002, President Bush signed into law the No Child
Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001, which applies to all school districts and schools within
states that accept federal Title I dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors supports the goals
of NCLB of raising student achievement; closing the achievement gap; and ensuring
that each child has a highly qualified teacher; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors continues to
welcome the accountability for improving student and school performance; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors has had four years
of operational experience in implementing NCLB and;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors has identified
improvements that could be made to NCLB that would eliminate barriers to full
implementation of the federal law; and

WHEREAS, the National School Boards Association (NSBA) developed draft
legislation based on input from local school boards across the nation that would
address the concerns of local school boards, and improve the implementation of
NCLB; and

WHEREAS, in April 2006 the NSBA Delegate Assembly re-affirmed its support
of federal legislation that is consistent with the NSBA draft legislation, and

WHEREAS, in January 2007 Representative Don Young (R-AK) re-introduced
legislation, the No Child Left Behind Improvements Act of 2007, H.R. 648, that is
consistent with the NSBA draft legislation; now therefore, be it

POLICY
(cont.)

RESOLVED, That the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors urges Congressman Charles Dent to fully support H.R. 648 by becoming a co-sponsor of the bill, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors seeks the support of local community and civic leaders and appropriate members of the Pennsylvania State Legislature in encouraging Congressman Charles Dent to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 648, and be it finally

RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to members of the Pennsylvania U.S. congressional delegation, the governor, the members of the Pennsylvania State Legislature, local public governing officials, and the Secretary of Education, Dr. Gerald L. Zahorchak. (attachment)

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

Mrs. Ganser wanted to clarify when it comes to Homebound Instruction staff members are carefully monitoring the process of the situation. She wants it understood that this is an obligation and that we must take care of this. She is hoping that this is well thought out, planned and monitored and that follow-ups are taken care of in the lesson planning and that students are getting the proper lessons and everything is taken care of.

Resolution
For Act 4

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve to remove from the table the following resolution which was tabled at the March 12, 2007 Regular School Board Meeting:

**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 if 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

boundaries

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:

POLICY
(cont.)

- (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 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 Deed, 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 cause 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. (attachment)

Mr. Williams stated that he understood that we would not want low cost housing going into these areas that could cost the school district money in the long run. He wondered if any of these properties would ever have someone interested in developing it as a commercial property or for industry development. If that possibility happened wouldn't it be more cumbersome since they would have to pay all the back taxes on the property.

POLICY
Act (cont.)
change

Mr. Dorshimer stated that once a property is zoned as Act 4 it is signed off and deeded as 4 forever. It is not allowed to be changed unless the state of Pennsylvania decides to it.

Mr. Williams asked if there is any small chance that any of these properties could be zoned anything other then residential.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that two of the properties that he knows of would only ever be residential but that he is unsure of the other property.

Board members continued to discuss this issue.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAY: Mr. Williams (1)

Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction items:

2007-2008
Calendar

Approve the 2007-2008 Northern Lehigh School District School Calendar as presented. (attachment)

CLIU
Drivers
Education
Agreement

Approve to authorize proper officials to ratify a contractual agreement between the Northern Lehigh School district and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to continue the Driver Education Program in our district at a cost of \$2,100.00 effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. There is no increase in the cost of the program over last year.

LCCC
Online Dual
Enrollment
Courses

Accept the recommendation of the administration to approve the course proposal between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Lehigh Carbon Community College for twenty (20) online/virtual dual enrollment courses to be added to the high school program of studies effective for the 2007-2008 academic year.

Day.

Mrs. Kulp asked how many Lehigh Country School Districts will be starting before Labor

calendar.

Dr. Sham stated that there are no school districts that would be starting prior to Labor Day and that Northwestern was the only school that started this year prior to Labor Day. He went on to explain the need to keep our school district calendar in line with LCTI's school

Mr. Dorshimer asked if this years calendar has snow make-up days in it and if they are the same days as other school districts and LCTI.

Dr. Sham stated that this is a problem that all superintendents within Lehigh County have been discussing. He stated that not all school district's observe the same holidays and therefore makes it difficult when it comes to snow make-up days. He stated that he feels this year's calendar is the closet it has ever been between all Lehigh County schools and LCTI.

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

NAY: None (0)

OLD

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of

BUSINESS Education approves a 2% salary increase for School district Superintendent, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., based on the 2005-2006 school year evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS
(cont.)

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Ruth (4)
NAY: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Dengler (4)
ABSTAIN: Mrs. Kulp (1)

Motion defeated.

Mr. Ruth thanked Dr. Sham for the way the school district has been progressing.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that the school board passed 13 co-curricular appoints for 2007-2008 and that he would expect as secretary to see those co-curricular contracts in the packet next week. He thinks it is appalling that he gets 178 contracts to sign for this past year when 90% of them are already completed.

Dr. Sham stated that the reason you received these is because we did not have a settled contract until recently.

Mrs. Giles talked about the Science Lab that was approved at the last meeting through the Education Foundation. She believes this is a wonderful idea. She stated that Mrs. Dengler commented that nowhere in the contract that was approved does it state that the school district will not be liable to finish the project. She stated that she has also heard this from other people in the community. She asked if we could reopen the contract and put

something
finish the project if

in the contract that says the district and tax payer will not be responsible to
it does not finish.

Board members and administration again discussed the issue of the Science Lab at the High School. Some Board Members supported of the Education Foundation and building project while other Board Members wanted to make sure that tax payers do not assume the responsibility of this project if the Education Foundation can not raise all the necessary funds needed to build the Science Lab.

NEW BUSINESS

is

Mr. Ruth brought up the issue of conflict between Policy Committee Meetings and Board Meetings being held on the same night. Mr. Ruth explained that a responsibility of the Board is to set policy and when we continue to have executive sessions prior to board meetings, it is impossible to hold a Policy Committee Meeting. He asked for discussion on changing the night of the Policy Committee Meetings.

After discussion, Mr. Green suggested that the Policy and Community Relations chairpersons should meet and discuss what day would work best and is the most convenient for both of those committees to meet on.

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve to move the Policy Committee Meeting from tonight to Tuesday April 10, 2007 starting at 6:15 p.m.

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

FINANCIAL

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

Cash
Management
Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the months of January and February 2007.

Bid Award Approve to award Duane Moyer Well Drilling, Inc as winning bid on Peters Elementary
Peters Potable Well Casing Extension Project at a cost of \$3,891.64. Work on this project will
Potable Well take place over the Easter break.

FINANCIAL
Green,
(cont.)

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

**CORR-
ESPON-
2007
DENCE**

Mr. Ruth stated he received a letter from Robin Dengler on her concerns with building the Science Lab, a letter from Mary Anne Shafer on her intent to retire at the end of the 2006-2007 year, and a letter from the Slatington Lions Club inviting board members to the July 10, 2007 Steak Fry.

Mrs. Ganser received a letter from Julie Harhart in regards to the school district enforcing compensatory attendance in charter schools.

Mr. Ruth stated that he attended the CLIU dinner meeting and they gave information out about the Pennsylvania Academy and a list of the Advisory Council Members. He stated that he saw no one on the list representing Northern Lehigh. Mr. Green stated that he was unaware of what Mr. Ruth was referencing and that he would be more than willing to talk with Mr. Ruth about this after the meeting.

#

Mr. Dorshimer received a legal opinion from Steckel and Stopp on the issue of the approval of attendance at conferences. The letter references that there is differences between policy 433 and the conference request form. The letter states that the policy and form should be referred back to the policy committee for clarification. Mr. Dorshimer further asked Attorney Stopp, since this conference was originally denied who is responsible to pay for the conference?

Attorney Stopp stated that if the conference request was not properly made under the policy and it was not ratified further by the board, the ultimate responsibility falls on the person who approved the policy. Dr. Sham admits that he approved the conference and Dr. Sham stated that he is the one who bares responsibility. Attorney Stopp stated that it is necessary for this to go back to policy because when you compare the language on the request form and the actual language in the policy, there is ambiguity as to what makes up the \$100.00. Is it the conference fee that has to be over \$100.00 or the reimbursable expense that has to be over \$100.00?

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the board except responsibility for payment of the conference with the exception that we get policy #433 straightened out.

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

**INFOR-
MATION**

All Board Members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on February 19, 2007.

Institute

All Board Members received copies of the minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Joint Operating Committee meeting held on February 28, 2007 and the LCTI Director's Report for March 2007.

**RECOG-
NITION
OF
GUESTS**

Mike and Mary Jane Murray, Slatington Borough asked the accountability of the board and school with homebound students once homebound is approved. Mrs. Murray went on to explain that their daughter was absent only 3 ½ days in the first marking period and was absent the first 6 ½ days of the second marking period and then she was granted homebound instruction. The board approved homebound instruction for 5 hours per week. She has been on homebound instruction for 15 weeks which would have entitled her to 75

1 hours of homebound instruction. To date she has only received 12 hours of instruction. She has received incompletes and F's in all of her classes except her LCCC Psychology class where, with the help of her professor, was able to complete the course with a 91 and receive credit for the first semester. She returned to school on March 9, 2007 and began the process of doing her current work as well as making up for all missed work in her first semester classes. This past Monday they received her report card to find out that instead of incompletes she received F's in all of her classes. On Tuesday she was informed by Coach Geist that she was ineligible to participate in track because she was failing. He recommended **OF** that she talk with her guidance counselor to get it straightened out. She made an **GUESTS** appointment that day and was told that her ineligibility would stand and that she had until April (cont.) 13, 2007 to make up all her missed work and be up to date on all current work or all the F's would stand. While she was collecting 5 months of work for seven classes she was told she had to come up with a two week plan to get 5 months of work done or she would fail her Junior year. Mrs. Murray started making phone calls to see what could be done. She first contacted Mrs. Smith and was told that April 13th was the deadline and she could not answer her questions but referred her to Mrs. Yadush. Unfortunately Mrs. Yadush was not in school but she did leave a voice mail and she has not heard back from her yet. She called and spoke to Mrs. Chamberlain and she said she would check into the matter and get back to her. Mrs. Chamberlain did get back to her after speaking with Mrs. Smith and their daughter. Mrs. Chamberlain helped to get the work needed to be completed and helped with the teacher communication but the bottom line was she had two weeks to complete her work and would not be able to participate in any track meets until this work was taken care of. They are bringing this to the board's attention pleading for some kind of help. She has list from just 3 of the 7 classes of work that has to be completed in just two weeks. Two of her teachers from the first semester have not even gotten her a list of work that needs to be completed yet. She has been scheduling tests and quizzes around teacher's availability, two weeks of no lunches, and meeting after school with as many teachers as she can. This is still unthinkable that all this work can be completed in this amount of time. She is a Junior who has worked very hard for both academic and athletic scholarships and she is in jeopardy of failing. Is it fair to ask the any student to make up five months of work in two weeks when it is not her who failed, but district who failed her.

Susan Firth, Slatington Borough asked if there has been anything done from her comment at the last meeting about random drug testing.

Recess Mr. Ruth called for a 10 minute break at 9:35 p.m., prior to starting budget discussion. Mr. Ruth called the meeting back to order at 9:48 p.m.

BUDGET DISCUSSION Mr. Williams asked about the expansion of early intervention program listed under new initiatives and based on the conference call is this something that can be removed from the budget. Lisa stated that yes because of what she was hearing this item could be removed from the list.

Mr. Williams asked how the board would like to attack this. Do we want to start by looking at the sheet of new initiatives and going through this and discuss the merits of these new initiatives? He is just looking for directive of how we are going to go about this, come up with some kind of game plan on how to break this up. He said that we have until June and that this is not something that has to be knocked out this evening. Let's come up with some kind of plan on how we are going to go about this.

Mr. Dengler stated that we were originally given this preliminary budget with a list of individual items that were listed. \$166,617.00 was interest which was pulled by Lisa. He asked about the \$68,890 form the Education Foundation and what the status was with that.

Lisa explained that money was ear marked for the high school science lab addition and it is in designated Fund Balance for that purpose.

He asked if the other items that are listed under new initiatives, the board has the right to either approve or reject .

Lisa said that is correct.

Mrs. Giles stated that since we are only talking 5 items under new initiatives she asked if we can have the people who are asking for these items show up at the next board meeting and give a 2-3 minutes pitch on why they are asking for this program. This would give her something to work off of because currently she does not know what the need is for these new initiatives.

Mr. Williams stated that he does agree with Mrs. Giles but he thinks what would make more sense would be to have a more in-depth new initiatives list. The 5 items that are listed are very generic and he knows that there are probably multiple items that make up the new initiative item. For example, new curriculum initiatives, he believes involves a few different items as does the new and or expanded positions. He says if we have one list with more detail it will be easier for the board to make a decision on what should be kept in the budget and what should be cut. He would also like to see something in an overhead form for the general public to also be able to view what they are discussing.

Mr. Dengler stated that he also agrees with this but does not want it to go on until June. Mr. Williams also concurred.

Mr. Dorshimer asked what kind of list he would be getting. When this started he asked for a list of everything that he could cut. For example the middle school needs 15 tablets he could go to that list and say we don't need those tablets. There's another \$23.00 we saved.

Mrs. Blank told him that was the non-mandated list.

Mr. Dorshimer said that we should then see a complete list of the non-mandated items and the new initiative items. He stated that if we are giving these people 3-5 minutes to discuss why the board should not cut this item, we could be here forever.

Mr. Williams stated that he was only saying if the board has a question on a certain item that the person who is asking for this item should be allowed to speak about it.

Dr. Sham urged the board that it is okay to ask the questions but he is hoping that the board would be willing to listen. He said that they could very easily go down that list, cut everything on it and never ask a question which he does not think would be the responsible thing to do. He hopes that they would appreciate that administrators might want to speak to an issue prior to voting on them.

Again Mr. Ruth asked that all the lists would be compiled into one list. Mrs. Blank stated that it is her goal to do that.

Dr. Sham asked that the pages be numbered and Mr. Williams asked that we have something to hand out to the public.

Mr. Green asked what would be defined as a non-mandated items and why are we separating those items.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that he asked for this list because this is a list of everything that is not asked for by the state. It does not mean that it has to be eliminated but if you check through that list you may find some items that we are currently providing that we may say are not important and we may want to bring that item up and cut them.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Peter A. Ruth