

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
May 14, 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, May 14, 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., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Peter A. Ruth (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Ms. Maria Pinnata, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris.

VISITORS

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

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer reminded the board of the Open House at the new CLIU building on May 16, 2007 at 5:30 p.m.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on May 9, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on May 9, 2007 were distributed.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha presented and verbally reported on a Reading Apprenticeship Framework display, the process involved in training for trainers of Reading Apprenticeship, and currently how it is working in our district.

The board was presented with a new textbook that is being recommended for purchase next school year. According to policy the board has 30 days to examine prior to purchase.

Samsung's
printers for

Mrs. Fedorcha reported that a teacher in Slatington Elementary School entered the Hope for Education 2007 program and for entering the contest will receive 3 color Slatington Elementary School.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Blank introduced Mr. Derr who briefly stated that the High School Security System specs are almost complete and will be going out for bid shortly.

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

Dr. Sham introduced Jill Chamberlain who reported on a Safe Schools Conference she recently attended and the need to develop a threat assessment team.

The board received an article entitled Why the No Child Left Behind Act Is Unsalvageable and Dr. Sham reported on its contents. He also reported that CLIU has put together a calendar to help school districts who do not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and they anticipate that approximately 50% will not make AYP.

Dr. Sham stated that he reviewed the tapes from the March 12, 2007 board meeting concerning the appointing of Mrs. Kulp as board member. He informed the board that the minutes were correct as presented and that there was not a vote to close nominations for appointment of board member.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Dr. Sham asked for an appointment of a committee for a meet and discuss with the clerical staff regarding compensatory time and flex time.

Mr. Ruth asked for interested persons in serving on the committee for the meet and discuss with the clerical staff. Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp and Mr. Williams were appointed and Mrs. Kulp will serve as chairperson for the committee.

An executive session was held prior to tonight's board meeting to discuss personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Substitutes-
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute teacher rate 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:

Meghan Krebs*

****Pending Verification of Clearances***

Non-
Instructional

Approve the following individual as a substitute secretary/aide for the 2006-2007 school year at the 2006-2007 substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour.

Connie Check*

****Pending Verification of Clearances***

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

Connie Check*

****Pending Verification of Clearances***

Leave
Without
Pay

Approve the request of Dawn Mayer, Peters Elementary teacher, to take an unpaid leave of absence on May 24, 2007. She would like to accompany her daughter on a special high school event for graduating seniors. Her request will not be considered a precedent for future requests, per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

FMLA
and
Unpaid
She Leave

Approve the request of employee #170, to take a 12-week Family Medial Leave of Absence during the 2007-2008 school year, effective September 24, 2007 and further continue with an unpaid leave of absence until the end of the second marking period. anticipates returning to her current teaching position on Monday, January 28, 2008.

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Board Policy
1st Reading

Approve revisions to school board policy #122 – Programs – Extra-curricular Activities, as presented after 1st reading.

Homebound
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 9th Grade Student, Student No.1090029, for five hours per week for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 6th Grade Student, Student No.1390014, for five hours per week for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.

POLICY
(cont.)
2006-

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 10th Grade Student, Student No.936600, for five hours per week for the remainder of the 2007 school year.

Athletic
Honor Code/
Discipline
Code

Approve the Northern Lehigh School District Athletic Honor Code/Discipline Code as presented after changes to page 3.

Non-
Resident
Students

Approve the request of parents of a second grade student at Peters Elementary School, who are moving out of the district, to allow their student to continue in Northern Lehigh School District until the end of the 2006-2007 school year in accordance with school board policy #202.

Resolution
RE Tax
Installments

Approve the Resolution authorizing the Collection of School Real Property Taxes in Installments, as presented.

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 for summer band program director, Lora Krum, of \$1,000.00. There is no increase to this stipend over last year. The summer band program will run on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from June 26, 2007 to August 2, 2007.

Field Trip
by

6th Grade – Slatington Elementary School – Philadelphia Zoo – May 31, 2007 – Funded PTO

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

NAY: None (0)

**CURRI-
CULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

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

Concurrent
Agreement
LCCC

Approve the concurrent Enrollment Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and Lehigh Carbon Community College for the 2007-2008 school year, as presented.

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

NAY: None (0)

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Mr. Williams addressed the Board and apologized for not being able to attend the finance committee meeting held on May 9, 2007. He expressed his concerns about wanting to pursue the possibility of an additional pre-K program at Peters Elementary at a cost of only \$22,000.00 to the district in addition to the \$158,000.00 grant that would be received.

Motion
Pre-K
program

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approve to add \$180,000 into the 2007-2008 budget for the addition of another pre-K at Peters Elementary, contingent on receiving \$158,000 from the Pre-K Counts grant.

Motion
Withdrawn

There was further discussion about the pre-k program and eventually this motion was withdrawn and will be discussed during budget discussion later on this evening.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mr. Dengler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item:

Confidential
Secretarial
Agreement

Approval of a corrected Compensation Agreement for the Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent for the 2006-2007, 2007-2008 and 2008-2009 school years. This agreement was originally acted on by the Board of Education on October 10, 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dorshimer stated that according to the agreement language the base salary and the board meeting stipend, in each subsequent year, shall be increased by the same percentage (cont.) approved in the Clerical Salary and Benefit Agreement. According to the figures presented, the board stipend amounts in subsequent years are incorrect according to agreement language.

Table Motion Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education table this motion, calculations be put on paper, and a new agreement brought to the board for vote at the next board meeting.

Vote on Tabling Motion
 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. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items:

Financial Reports Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund month of April
2. Athletic Fund month of April
3. Capital Reserve month of April
4. Cafeteria Fund month of April
5. NLMS Student Activities Account month of April
6. NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Account for March and April

List of Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of April and May
2. Athletic Fund month of April
3. Construction Fund for month of May
4. Cafeteria Fund month of May

2006-2007 Salary Schedule Approve the 2006-2007 Northern Lehigh District Salary Schedule as presented. (see attachment)

Progressive Telecom Agreement Approve renewal of a service agreement with Progressive Telecom for three (3) pagers at a total yearly cost of \$285.00. This reflects a \$15.00 decrease over last year's fee.

Co-payment OAA Athletic with school Physicals Approve the co-payment amount for student athletes receiving a sports physical from during the 2007-2008 school year at a cost of \$5.00 per student in accordance board policy #122.

Participation Lehigh Schools Consortium Trust The Northern Lehigh School District Board of Education approves participation in the Lehigh Schools Consortium Trust which will provide a self insurance program for dental benefits. The Northern Lehigh School District Board of Education appoints Lisa Blank as the Trustee on behalf of the Northern Lehigh School District.

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

Purchase Classroom Calculators Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education authorizes the purchase of 12 classroom sets of calculators as listed on the PEPPM Statewide Bid to include, 10 EZ-Spot Yellow TI84PLUS Graphing Calculators, teachers guide, unit to unit and USB cables, batteries and manuals, at a cost of \$1,037.03 per set for a total of \$12,444.36.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

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

Election
Of
Treasurer

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education Elects a Treasurer for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, as required by Section 404 of the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, as amended.

RECOMMEND That the Board of Education elects Mathias Green as Treasurer for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, effective July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008.

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

Receipt of	\$1,000.00	Helen L. Smith Memorial Scholarship given by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith
Donations	\$ 500.00	LeRoy "Elroy" Snyder Memorial Scholarship given by the Family
2006-2007	\$ 500.00	Mallory Bomboy Memorial Athletic Award given by Mr. & Mrs. Bomboy
School Year	\$3,250.00	Ann Bernard Memorial Scholarship given by Lehigh Valley Community Foundation

Mr. Ruth called for a 10 minute courtesy break at 8:45 p.m.
 Mr. Ruth reconvened the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

BUDGET
DISCUSSION

Mrs. Kulp stated that she again would like to request a list of all computers in the district from the technology department.

Mr. Hrizuk stated that she would receive that list by the end of the week.

CORR-
ESPON-
DENCE

Mr. Ruth stated that Mrs. Ganser resigned from the Safe School and Wellness Advisory Committees. He asked for a board member who would be interested in serving on the committees. Hearing none, he will bring it up at the next board meeting.

Mrs. Ganser stated that due to personal reasons she is no longer able to serve on these committees.

BUDGET
DISCUSSION

Mr. Green talked about the finance committee meeting and the discussion with fellow board members which are not opposed to doing things but are looking more at an "instead of" as opposed to an "in addition to" attitude.

Mr. Williams asked, after hearing what Mr. Green had to say, is there any possibility that the pre k program is more important than something else in the budget.

Mr. Dorshimer asked that administration look within the budget to find the money for the pre k program versus looking at the cut list that was given.

impact

Mrs. Kulp stated that she had been looking at some calculations and expenses to see if perhaps there were other ways the district could save money other than the cut list. She asked about reducing advertising expenses, technology licenses and legal fees which would not directly impact the students.

Dr. Sham stated that using fund balance to purchase one time items is an excellent idea. He stated that the fund balance is verging on dangerously high.

Mrs. Kulp asked how much money we had extra in this year's budget.

Mrs. Blank stated that we will not know that number until the auditors come in to audit the books. She said that there is several hundred thousand dollars not expended.

BUDGET
DISCUSSION
(cont.)

Mrs. Kulp said that we increased the taxes and we now have extra money. If we do not need to increase the taxes why can't we keep it even.

Mrs. Blank stated that a lot of this money is because we were unsure of the settlement of the teacher's contract and the health care insurance. For 2007-2008 there are no outstanding contracts and she knows what the salaries are going to be so there is not that much padding there. Legal fees and advertising are padded because you do not know how much is going to be needed from year to year.

Mr. Ruth reminded everyone that we currently are at a 61.642 millage rate for both Lehigh and Northampton Counties. On the cut list, items 1-17 were cut except item 12, 16 and 17.

Dr. Sham reminded the board that at the finance committee meeting it was discussed that you can add money back into the budget because the preliminary budget that was passed back in February is what set your preliminary budget amount.

Mr. Williams asked if we know how we are getting to the 61.642 millage rate since some items were put back in.

Dr. Sham stated that administration must cut \$34,000 to get to the 61.642 mill and he will be looking at the cut list and will also look at one time purchases that can be purchased this year to get to the millage rate cut to by the board.

Mr. Green asked if the salary accounts have been adjusted for the retirees during this school year.

Mr. Blank stated that there is a savings in those accounts but she has not adjusted for the retirees yet in the 2007-2008 budget. She said that roughly it would be a \$25,000 savings per teacher.

Mr. Green said that he does not want to have to pay arbitrage penalties on the bonds that we currently have. He suggested paying for some of the maintenance items out of the bond money.

Mrs. Blank said that if the board awards the bid for the high school paving project it will use up most of the bond money.

Mr. Green asked if we can take one leaving teacher's savings in salary to offset the cost for the pre-k program, if that is something administration would recommend, and is that something the board would approve.

Dr. Sham stated that administration would recommend the pre k program using the savings from a retiring teacher's salary to offset the cost.

Motion Pre K Program Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approves administration to move forward with the Pre-K Counts Grant funding it through the \$158,000 grant plus \$22,000 to be transferred from the salary budget.

- YEA: Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Ruth (3)
- NAY: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Kulp (6)

requesting Mr. Dorshimer recommended that administration create a list of one time single purchase items, who is requesting the item for purchase, and the dollar amount. He is also an update on the salaries for retirees and possible savings.

Mrs. Ganser would like to give the library a \$1,000.00 donation.

Mr. Williams said that he would also like to see a donation to the library.

Mr. Green asked for an updated list of what is in the budget. He said that there were items on the original cut list that are not on the new cut list. He is not sure if these items are in the budget or not. He would like a list showing the original budget with the new initiatives, what items have been cut to date, and items that are still available to be cut.

BUDGET DISCUSSION
(cont.)

Mrs. Kulp asked why we are not looking at the extra money that we have in the 2006-2007 budget and use this to balance the 2007-2008 budget and have a zero mill increase.

Mr. Dorshimer asked if Mrs. Blank could find out an estimated fund balance as of right now.

Bid Motion
HS Security
System

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve administration to advertise for bids for the High School Security System.

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

CORR-ESPONDENCE

Mr. Ruth stated that he received correspondence from Mrs. Yadush, high school principal, about the Loose Change for Literacy that was done at the high school by the student council. The students presented a check to the Slatington Library in the amount of \$150.00.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Giles, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:55 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