

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA

February 4, 2008

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, February 4, 2008 in the board room located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**Nomination
Temporary
Secretary**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, to appoint Lauren Ganser as temporary secretary for the February 4, 2008 board meeting in the absence of Board Secretary Mr. Dorshimer.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green,
Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams. Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Ms. Rachel Parisi (Student Rep.), Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep), Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth, Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS

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

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Robert Cox – Washington Township - asked to comment during financial.

**APPROVE
MINUTES**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the minutes of the school board meetings held on January 7, 2008 and January 14, 2008 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green,
Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Lori H. Geronikos reported that at the meeting they discussed current LCTI initiatives. LCTI has hired a firm to research all receipts from the recent large construction project, supplies, material, etc. and file for reimbursement of taxes that were paid on these items. LCTI is looking at recouping some money. The company doing the research is not charging anything but will take a percentage of the amount of money they are able to recoup.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported in January the State Board of Education voted its initial approval of amendments to the Chapter 4 regulations to implement the high school Graduation Competency Assessments. The plan is expected to be considered by the House and Senate Education Committees and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission sometime in March. Mr. Williams informed Dr. Sham that PSBA is sending a survey regarding their current high school graduation requirements and their expected actions if the Graduation Competency Assessments proposal would become enacted. He further stated that a public hearing was held in January on this topic and many groups raised concerns. He distributed a resolution opposing the Graduation Competency Assessment Requirements and stated that it will be on the next board agenda for approval.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

require

Legislators
Board

Mr. Williams also informed the board that The House Education Committee made several changes to HB 1841, a bill that would create a statewide healthcare system for school employees that makes the bill more objectionable in PSBA's view. One of the major changes was the makeup of the Benefit Board. Originally the makeup was 4 Senate Officials, 4 Union Representative, and 4 School Board Representatives and any important decisions would require the affirmative votes of at least 2 members of each party. Amendments to this bill would be to increase the Union Representatives from 4 to 10, and replace 2 State Officials with 4 and the vote requirements to a simple $\frac{3}{4}$ majority, meaning that even if all 4 School Representatives are opposed to something, it could still pass.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mathias J. Green, Jr. reported that LCCC's budget for the 2008-2009 has been submitted to school districts. It was distributed to all board members for their review. If Board members would like to have a presentation on the budget, they should contact him and he will make the arrangements. Approval of the budget will be on the February 11, 2008 board agenda. He also stated LCCC has asked him to be a presenter at PSBA's Training Session for New Board Members to speak specifically about the role of the Community College and the responsibility that board members have to those colleges.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on January 16, 2008 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp reported that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has decided on a matter favorable to school boards concerning construction projects. Under the Separations Act when bidding occurs for construction projects there must be separate contracts for plumbing, heating, ventilation and lighting. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has been issuing waivers to have construction occur with one big contract and then the contractor who supervises the contract gets subs to perform various jobs. This has a tendency to keep pricing lower. There was controversy between the point of views of the tradesmen's and tax payers. Result is the waiver program is valid.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha distributed her written report and verbally reported on the contents. She stated that the Science: It's Elementary! grant has provided 3 days of training to Slatington Elementary Teachers and an Administrator, the high school is moving ahead with the goals defined in the Project 720 grant, talked about the eStrategic Planning Meeting held on January 23 and the Professional Development day held on January 25.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Lisa Blank distributed and briefly explained the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Performance Audit Report and stated the board should review this document. It will also be on the February 11, 2008 board agenda for approval.

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

Dr. Sham announced that this week is National School Counseling Week and he thanked all school counselors for their hard work.

Dr. Sham updated the Board on time changes for schools because of the Morgan Bridge renovations. There also is current construction on Route 309 in Schnecksville that is adding time to the buses that are transporting students to and from LCTI. He stated that currently the High School and Middle School will have no change to their current schedule but Slatington Elementary will start and end school 10 minutes later and Peters Elementary will start and end school 20 minutes later. The reason for the changes in start and ending time of the elementary schools is because of the use of the same buses to transport LCTI, secondary and elementary students. He sees this as the only option without having to add 3 new buses which would be costly to the district.

Dr. Sham distributed the Job Descriptions booklet and briefly commented on it.

SPECIAL
to **BOARD**
REPORTS
(cont.)
products.
presented a
at

Dr. Sham introduced Dr. Marcincin who distributed a Market Day order form and pointed out the Board that this form went out nationwide and our students from Slatington Elementary school are pictured. The picture shows students using computers. The computers were purchased using Market Day Funds that were raised through the sale of Markey Day products. Dr. Marcincin then introduced Mr. Timothy Weaber. Mr. Weaber and his student presentation to the Board on how the morning announcements are being broadcasted Slatington Elementary School.

Dr. Sham introduced Mrs. Aileen Yadush, High School Principal, who presented a power point presentation to the Board on the need for a High School Science Lab.

Dr. Sham reported on a memo that he received from Barry Brobst concerning the science lab. Mr. Brobst states that the cost of the science lab has escalated to 1.2 million. He did say that the project is reimbursable and based on a rough estimate we would probably receive about \$200,000 reimbursement on the project.

Mr. Green asked Mrs. Yadush for the actual need of a science lab and space in the high school. Mr. Green requested more information. He wanted to know if we need 1 science lab or 3.

Mr. Dengler asked if portable classrooms would work for what Mrs. Yadush needs. He feels this would be less costly then adding onto the building.

PUBLIC
Education
COMMENT

Lynn Sechler – Washington Township - addressed the Board with the issue that the Foundation and the Board of Education have not been able to work in a partnership about this project and because of this, the Foundation was not able to apply for EITC status because the time has expired for reapplying.

Mrs. Geronikos stated that she recently had to turn down \$10,000 from a local bank who wanted to give money to the Education Foundation to build the science lab because the Foundation no longer had EITC status.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Robert Cox – Washington Township – stated that when he was on the Board over 12 years ago there was discussion about the need for more space in the buildings for the growth of our district. The high school and middle school construction was completed with only 2 grades in the middle school with the thought that there would someday be a need for expansion of the middle school to move a grade into that building. He stated the Board a few years ago put in place \$22,000,000 pre Act I money to anticipate these kinds of building needs.

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Lynn Sechler – Washington Township – asked if the Board has heard from bond council yet? Further stated that bond council can often inform the board on the tax impact. It would be beneficial to hear from bond councils perspective.

Dr. Sham stated that the Board would have to tell him that they would like to hear from bond council.

Executive
Session

An executive session was held at 7:00 p.m. in the Superintendent's Office to discuss personnel and contract issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Salary
Adjustment

Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the 2007-2008 school year:

Christina Carmody
From: Step 2B
To: Step 2B+24

Co-Curricular Ian Chlebove* Assistant Wrestling Coach

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Volunteers Niccole Chirico* Assistant Softball Coach

2007-2008 Gary Warmkessel Assistant Softball Coach

School Year ***Pending Verification of Clearances**

Co-Curricular Cynthia Fritzinger Middle School Field Hockey Coach \$2,522.18

Appointments

2008-2009

School Year

Substitute- Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2007-2008 school year at the 2007-2008
Instructional substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Lauren Watson – Elementary & ESL

Substitute Approve the following as a substitute cafeteria worker and custodian for the 2007-2008
Non- school year at the approved 2007-2008 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule substitute
Instructional rates:

MaryAnn Lucykanish*

***Pending Verification of Clearances**

Approve the following as a substitute teacher aide for the 2007-2008 school year at the approved 2007-2008 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule substitute rates:

Karen DeSantis

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green,
Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

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

Rhonda Frantz – Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association (A/CAPA) Spring Conference – March 13-14, 2008 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$165.00, Lodging: \$212.00, Meals: \$7.00, Travel: \$81.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$465.00 – Funding: Business Office Budget

Kristie Ahner – PDE 2008 Annual Conference: Indicators for Success: Improvement, Performance, and Results – February 24-27, 2008 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$100.00, Lodging: \$179.69, Meals: \$125.00, Travel: \$51.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$455.69 – Funding: Project 720 Grant

Sharon Hunsicker – PDE 2008 Annual Conference: Indicators for Success: Improvement, Performance, and Results – February 24-27, 2008 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$100.00, Lodging: \$179.69, Meals: \$125.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$404.69 – Funding: Project 720 Grant

Aileen Yadush – Pennsylvania Educational Technology Expo and Conference – February 10-12, 2008 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$180.00, Lodging: \$137.34 – Total Approximate Cost: \$317.34 – Funding: High School Technology Budget

Linda Thompson – 2008 PSCA 52nd Annual Conference School Counselors: Helping Students Catch Their Dreams – April 16-18, 2008 – Hershey, PA – Registration: \$280.00, Lodging: \$219.78, Travel: \$40.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$539.78 – Funding: Peters Elementary Counselor's Budget

CONFERENCE
(cont.)

Diane Ruff – Food Service Directors Conference and Exhibits – April 8-9, 2008 – State College, PA – Registration: \$240.00, Lodging: \$230.00, Travel: \$137.50, Meals: \$40.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$647.50 – Funding: Cafeteria Budget

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Board Policy First Reading

Approve new school board policy #808.1– Operations – Point of Sale, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #113 – Programs – Special Education, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #707 – Property – Use of School Facilities and Equipment, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #707.1 – Property – Use of Storage Space, as presented after first reading.

Homebound Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant extended homebound instruction for a 5th grade student, Student No. 1519500 for five hours per week, effective February 4, 2008 and continuing until approximately February 18, 2008.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

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

Stipend Timothy Weaber

Approve payment of \$4,000.00 stipend to Timothy Weaber. Mr. Weaber is serving as the Support on Site coordinator for the Science: It’s Elementary Grant and the amount of the stipend is a direction of the grant. Northern Lehigh has received the money from the grant as reimbursement for this stipend.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Dengler asked Mrs. Blank what procedures would the Board need to take to remove a bond motion for \$24,000,000 that was pasted months ago in order to escape referendum.

entered Commerce proposal by debt all the pay the debt be original action. law. was the

Mrs. Blank stated what her understanding was of the \$24,000,000. She stated that we entered into an agreement with Arthurs Lestrage naming them underwriters and naming Bank as the paying agent for the bond. The resolution was the acceptance of a Arthurs Lestrage that when the school district chose to issue up to \$24,000,000 in paperwork was in place. The resolution was done to avoid going to referendum to on the \$24,000,000. She consulted with PSBA and stated that a previous action may rescinded by proper resolution of the board adopted in the same manner of the However, other legal principals may come into play such as the principals of contract They advised only proceeding with caution. In looking at the actual purchase contract that referenced in the resolution and in the purchase contract it states that the school district shall have the right and privilege to terminate its obligation to sell, issue and deliver the bonds to underwriter pursuant to this agreement for any reason with or without cause upon payment of

OLD BUSINESS
(cont.)

reasonable out of pocket expenses to the underwriter. She is not aware of the amount that would be. In her un-expert opinion the motion could be rescinded if you follow the rules and pay out the cost to the underwriter. She further explained that the Board is in control of this money and that administration can do nothing unless they have the Boards permission.

Mr. Dengler asked what would be the next step to eliminate that debt.

Mrs. Blank stated she would suggest turning it over to Attorney Stopp to verify that what she has informed the Board is correct.

Dr. Sham stated that he is appalled at the concept of that request. He stated that it lacks vision and it doesn't take a look at the vision of the district and it really gets at your responsibility as a Board Member which is the students of this school district. To even entertain that is appalling.

Mrs. Geronikos asked if we as a school district can take anything we want to referendum if we want to. She stated we can keep this money and then go to referendum when we go to build something. She thinks taking everything to referendum is a great idea. She does not think getting rid of this money which is an insurance policy for the district is a smart decision.

has Attorney Stopp said that fundamentally we are in a small republican form of government and your constituents elect the School Board to make decisions. There are limitations when you look at that model to place certain questions out to the public on the ballot box because that is contrary to the republican form of government. If you are proposing to do that the question to be presented to the County Election Board well in advance. They have denied referendums in the past.

Mrs. Geronikos stated that the prior Board did this to protect future boards not to make decisions they did not want to make.

Attorney Strohl stated that he has found that you can put any question you want to referendum but the one thing you must worry about is the Board of Elections does not allow you to put it to a vote as an informal type poll. If it is put to referendum, it is binding.

do what Mr. Williams stated problems he sees with going to the voters with referendum questions. He further stated that in doing this he feels that the Board is now becoming a public relations agency selling a political project to its constituents the same people that elected us to is right for this district and community. We operate in a democracy meaning that if the tax payer is not happy with what the Board is doing collectively at election time they can vote not to re-elect current members. He stated that if the Board chooses to move ahead with a project, the Board does not have to use the \$24,000,000. The Board can choose to use budget money and cut other items out of the budget to cover the cost of the bond. If this Board decides to take this money away you are handcuffing this Board and future Boards. Mr. Williams said in we pursuing it would be saying that this Board does not care about anything else that happens, only care about the taxes.

spend Mr. Dengler stated that he feels the tax payer has the intelligence of what the school district might need in the way of education for the children but they want to make sure their pockets can afford what the school is spending. The taxpayers are concerned that personnel can change on the Board and if next election a new Board comes in and they may say lets spend the money.

what Mr. Green stated that he as a Board member does not know what we need for a district down the road. Neither does this 9 member board because everyone is asking questions about the district needs. Therefore he wonders whether someone who has never attended a board meeting has a better understanding of what the district needs then he does. To reject this money now is assuming that we will never do construction again in Northern Lehigh and that does not make a lot of sense.

Mr. Hartman stated that he would like to meet with some people and gather information before he makes a decision on this issue.

OLD
BUSINESS
(cont.)

PUBLIC
COMMENT

Robert Cox – Washington Township – stated that as a 12 year board member he is furious. As stewards of his money, building and students, our future, he is appalled that the Board is taking an insurance policy that was put in place by a prior Board and just throwing it away.

PUBLIC
COMMENT
 want

Lynne Sechler – Washington Township asked if the Board is required to spend the entire \$24,000,000 or may they spend only a portion of the money. Why would the Board to take that privilege away without hearing from bond council. She is urging the Board to wait and hear from bond council before making any decision on this money.

Seek Legal
 Council to
 Examine
 Rescinding
 Resolution

Mr. Dengler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education ask legal council to examine the issue of rescinding the resolution for the \$24,000,000 bond.

Roll Call:

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, (2)

NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams,
 Mr. Hartman (6)

Motion Defeated.

Mrs. Kulp stated that we have approved the call out system and she was asking if we have a time frame for when that will be implemented.

Mr. Hrizuk stated that he has received all the information and he will be contacting ConnectEd.

NEW
BUSINESS

Mrs. Kulp would like to make a formal request for a list of computer equipment. She feels she should be able to contact district personnel and request information without having to make a formal request at a board meeting. She has reviewed policy and did not find any policy governing how a Board member requests information.

Dr. Sham stated that a majority of the Board should ask for information because often the amount of work and time involved in creating some lists can be extensive in nature. He said that administration does not act on the whim of any one Board member but the whim of a majority of the Board.

Mrs. Kulp stated that as a Board member we can not just pick up the phone and contact an administrator and ask for information.

Dr. Sham stated that if the information they are requesting is extensive and will take the administrator away from their normal responsibilities then the request must come from a majority of the Board not a single Board member.

Request
 Computer
 Equipment
 List

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that at the March 5, 2008 Technology Buildings and Ground Committee Meeting administration will have a list of computer equipment within the district.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green,
 Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

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

Cash Mngt
 Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the months of December 2007.

Solicit Bids
 Diesel, Oil
 Gasoline

Approve to authorize the proper officials to solicit bids for DIESEL FUEL, #2 HEATING OIL and UNLEADED GASOLINE for the period July 1, 2008 thru June 30, 2009.

FINANCIAL**(cont.)**

Solicit Bids Mnt. Truck Approve to authorize the proper officials to solicit bids for a new Maintenance Truck.

Travel Expenses M. Lehtonen Approve the payment of \$97.80 to Michael Lehtonen for travel expenses incurred when he attended the SAT course development workshop in November. Travel expenses will be reimbursed through Project 720 grant.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

CORR-ESPONDENCE

Mrs. Ganser stated she received information on Northern Lehigh's Spring Musical The Apple Tree being held on March 7, 8, 9, 15 & 16.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee Reorganization Meeting and Committee Meeting held on December 12, 2007 and the LCTI Director's Report for January 2008 were distributed.

Minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on December 11, 2007 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on December 17, 2007 were distributed.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sefcet Pjetroec – Slatington Borough – has issues with his daughter being threatened and harassed by a student. States that he has contacted administration but to no avail.

Edward Ziegler – Washington Township asked what our current school district debt is currently.

at

Amanda Maehere, Joan Campbell, Leslie Fehr, Becky Adams – Slatington Borough stated that they have an issue with the bus stop at the intersection of 2nd and Church Street. People are running the bus lights and not stopping for them. They are requesting a crossing guard be put that intersection.

Dr. Sham stated that this will be discussed at the Technology Building and Grounds meeting. If the committee recommends that we enter into an agreement with the police department or borough to fund a crossing guard then it will happen.

Mr. Derr stated that he has come up with a solution to move the bus stop to have the bus stop in the middle of the block.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren A. Ganser
Temporary Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman