

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
February 11, 2008

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, February 11, 2008 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, 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. Donald H. Dengler (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, 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), Ms. Heather Rehrig, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep), Mrs. Dawn Wadsworth and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

VISITORS

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

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos spoke about the Skills USA Competition. The following students from our district received the following awards:

Danielle Dooley	Job Interview	2 nd Place
Kayla Trotter	Material Handling and Logistics Mngt.	3 rd Place
Ann-Catrin Hoppe	Web Design	1 st Place
Janell McCarroll	Related Technical Math	1 st Place

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported on Governor Rendell's budget proposal which includes a 5.9% basic education increase. The Governor is looking to expand the state's education funding to meet the goals of the costing-out study over a 6 year period. The budget also includes a 16.7% increase to the Pre-K counts program while keeping the funding for the Accountability Block Grant stagnant at \$275 million.

Dr. Sham informed the Board that he received information today that President Bush's budget appears as though the Carl Perkins money for Vocational Technical Schools will be cut completely from the budget.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. reported that although Governor Rendell's budget is higher for school districts it is lower for community colleges. He further stated that LCCC received a donation of a million dollars for the new library and it will be called the Bruce Rothrock Library.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology Building and Grounds Meeting held on February 6, 2008 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 6, 2008 were distributed.

Mrs. Kulp asked if all Board Members that attend committee meetings can be listed as attending and there was also a discussion at the Technology Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting about the inventory with the technology information and that is not listed on the minutes.

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.

SPECIAL
the **BOARD**
REPORTS
be (cont.)

addressed the
and Slatington
distributed a memo
district for the building of the
EITC qualified funds and
been spent. She further stated the
that the money has not been spent
resolution to the situation. To them
Mrs. Blank has suggested that
which would fulfill the districts
Meeting Les Bear will be attending
money.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Lisa A. Blank stated that administration received a letter from Ethics Commission Compliance Review and that the district is being asked to submit all ethics forms from 2004, 2005 and 2006 to the commission. She stated that on March 5, 2008 there will be a budget work session held at Slatington Elementary beginning at 5:00 PM. She addressed the issue of the Per Capita Tax Agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and Slatington Borough. This item is on the agenda for approval this evening. She also distributed a memo discussing the money that The Education Foundation has given to the district for the building of the new science lab. She discussed the legal issues with these funds being EITC qualified funds and that the money was accepted by the district but to date has not been spent. She further stated the Department of Community and Economic Development is aware that the money has not been spent in the allotted time frame. They currently are just interested in a resolution to the situation. To them a resolution means spending the funds on the designated project. Mrs. Blank has suggested that we use this money to purchase equipment for the science lab which would fulfill the districts obligation. Mrs. Blank stated that at the March 10, 2008 Board Meeting Les Bear will be attending to discuss the bond and all financial aspects of borrowing the money.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that in June the Board authorized signing of a contract with Architectural Studios. He would like to know where we stand with this contract.

Dr. Sham stated that it currently is on hold because there was a clear indication that the Board was not interested in moving towards any construction projects while he was superintendent.

Mrs. Gernoikos asked if it would be appropriate to have a gentlemen come and address the Board with the need for education foundations and their roles in the school district.

Dr. Sham stated that future Boards must pay a much more supportive role of the foundation work because it pays dividends to the tax payer, district and ultimately the students.

Mrs. Geronikos suggested a presentation from Bob New.

Mr. Hartman asked if there is money in the capital reserve account why wouldn't we use that money instead of using this money or raising taxes.

Mrs. Blank stated that if we move ahead with all the projects discussed at the Buildings and Grounds meeting the other night that would use up almost all of the capital reserve funds. There is money in designated fund balance in the general fund and we could use that also. Her concern is that there is always going to be big ticket maintenance items and she would rather use designated fund balance money and the capital reserve money to continue on the district long range maintenance plan.

Mr. Hartman asked how much money will come into the capital reserve fund this coming year.

Mrs. Blank stated that there was discussion to transfer a million dollars from the general fund to the capital reserve fund in 2008-2009.

He asked if it would be better to use that money instead of going to the tax payer and asking for more taxes.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that you have to have 5 people on the Board willing to take that money out of the capital reserve fund and use it.

will Mrs. Blank stated that eventually there will be roofs that will need to be replaced and paving that need to be done and we will not have the money and we will either have to raise taxes or not keep up with the maintenance of our buildings.

Mrs. Kulp and Mrs. Ganser were concerned with how many students would be taking the advanced and/or honored courses and how many students this project would benefit.

Mr. Williams stated that his understanding is that this area would also be used for the regular chemistry and biology classes when it is available to be used.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)

Mr. Green stated that he is still unsure of how many science labs the high school needs. It is cheaper to build multiple labs then to build a single lab now and realize later that we need additional labs.

Mrs. Blank stated that in order to actually know how many labs the high school needs we would need to have a feasibility study.

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Mr. Green stated that we should not do a feasibility study if the Board is adamantly opposed to anything. We need the Board to buy in and say if the study shows the need we will at least pursuing that. There are curriculum driven needs at the high school as well as building elementary school. He is not sure what the biggest priority is and he does not know unless more information letting him know what is more important.

Lastly, Mrs. Blank informed the Board that she wishes to reject all the bids for the band uniforms and advertise again. The bids that were received were not to spec and there was even one received late.

Reject Band Uniform Bids & Re-advertise

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve to reject the original bids and advertise again for bidding of 60 band uniforms.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
NAY: None (0)

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

Dr. Sham welcomed to our district Heather Rehrig school psychologist.

Dr. Sham informed the Board that he has met with all administrators for a mid year review of their goals and that all administrators are on target for completion by the end of the year.

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He reminded everyone that the next school board meeting will be held on March 3, 2008 in multipurpose room at Peters Elementary School.

He distributed to all Board members information about the 2008 CLIU School Board Conference and told them to contact Sherri Molitoris if they are interested in attending.

Executive Session

Mr. Hartman stated that the Board was in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel and contract issues.

PERSONNEL

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

Non-Instructional Appointment

Debi Hollenbach*
Assignment: Slatington Elementary Office Aide replacing Melissa Fritchman who resigned
Salary: \$9.88 Per Hour/6½ Hours Per Day/ 5 Days Per Week (2007-2008 Education Support Staff Memorandum of Understanding)
Effective: February 12, 2008
*60 day probationary period ending on or about May 14, 2008

Substitute the Non-Instructional

Approve the following as a substitute cafeteria worker for the 2007-2008 school year at approved 2007-2008 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule substitute rates:
Rosa George

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

POLICY**(cont.)**

Resolution

Approve the Resolution Opposing Proposed High School Graduation Competency Assessments as presented.

Opposing

HS Graduation

Requirements

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

NAY: None (0)

OLD**BUSINESS**

Mrs. Kulp asked about the status of the ConnectEd system.

Mr. Hrizuk stated that he is still waiting for ConnectEd to send a contract. He stated that we are in a consortium with Capital IU and we have to wait till all parties are ready.

Mrs. Kulp asked if the system easily integrates with our student software system.

Mr. Hrizuk said that they have integrated already with the PowerSchool student software system.

Mrs. Kulp asked if we are not going to be up and running until April or May why are we pursuing it for this school year. If this was such an urgent matter because of the things that were happening she thought there would have been a push to get this done quickly.

Dr. Sham stated that you never know when things are going to happen and there are many things that it can be used for at the end of a school year.

Mrs. Kulp asked about protocol for requesting information from administration. She stated that she could not find any policy on this issue.

Dr. Sham said that it is not In policy but it is something policy could address.

She stated that with everything going on at Liberty that she can not say with any given certainty that we are not in the same situation with equipment missing. She thinks with the amount of money invested in technology here we ought to be able to say yes we know our stuff is, we know what we have and we are managing the resources appropriately. She stated that she can not say that but she is also hearing from our technology person that he can't state that with any level of certainty either.

where

Dr. Sham stated that the Board should be willing to purchase some kind of software system that could track equipment in a much more efficient fashion.

Mrs. Kulp stated that when the School Dude request was made it was said that School Dude would handle all of that and now she is hearing it is not.

Dr. Sham said that administration will look into a software system that will keep better track of equipment and is easily capable of running reports with information.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that as a whole board we lack the thought process of what our duties are and what way we should fulfill our duties here on the Board. He stated that early on as a Board member he was taught that he is a Board member when he is sitting at a Board meeting or a committee meeting. When he is out in the public he is a tax payer. If we are not at a Board meeting or committee meeting where information can be requested then requests for information should come through the superintendent's office.

NEW**BUSINESS**

to

Mr. Williams addressed the board on adding a new Pre-K program in the 2008-2009 school year. He informed the Board about the new Pre-K Counts Grant and the use of that money support this program.

Pre-K
Counts
in Grant

NEW
is BUSINESS
(cont.)

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, to direct administration to apply for the Pre-K Counts Grant with the intention of adding a 20 student Pre-K program the 2008-2009 school year.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that he can go along with this as long as the understanding is that this is a modified Pre-K program and not mimicking the Pre-K program we currently have.

Roll Call:

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (6)

NAY: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Kulp (2)

Motion Carried.

Mr. Follweiler asked if it is state funded all the time or is it for just one year.

Mr. Williams stated that when he was involved in the phone call last year with Secretary Zahorchek he stated that if you get it one year you will get it the next. He further stated that the point he made was that we are not adding a teacher, it is a contracted service. Therefore if the legislators say next year we are cutting the program we can stop it.

FINANCIAL

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

Financial
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund month of January
2. NLMS Student Activities Account month of January
3. NLHS Student Activities Account month of January

Payment of
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of January
2. Cafeteria Fund month of January
3. Athletic Fund month of January
4. Refreshment Stand Fund month of January
5. Capital Projects Fund month of January

2008-2009
LCCC
Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2008-2009 Lehigh Carbon Community College Sponsor contribution Budget. Total expenditures equal \$5,905,590, an increase of \$301,656 (5.4%) over the 2007-2008 budget. Northern Lehigh's enrollment is 156.9 FTE, an increase of 9%. Northern Lehigh's share of the total budget is \$234,298, an increase of \$18,070 or 8.4%.

Common-
wealth of
PA Audit
Report

Accept the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Performance Audit Report for years ending June 30, 2005 and June 30, 2006. **(Handed out at February 4, 2008 board meeting)**

2008-2010
Auditors

Approve to enter into an agreement with Gorman & Associates, for auditing services for the years ending June 30, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Per Capita
Tax Bill
Printing
and Agreement

Approve the agreement with Slatington Borough for the printing of per capita tax bills. Both the school district and borough tax will be printed on one bill form. All fees charged for processing and mailing of the bills will be shared equally by the district and borough.

Resolution
Delinquent
Tax
Collection

Approve the resolution directing Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent taxes.

Tremco of Roof Replacement Peters Authorize administration to enter into an agreement with Tremco for the replacement of the gymnasium roof at Peters Elementary. Cost for this project is \$227,200 paid for from the Capital Reserve Fund and is through the Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council. There is a 15 year warranty on the roof.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

Dengler-Whiting Replacement HS Bleachers Authorize administration to enter into an agreement with Dengler-Whiting, Inc. for the replacement of the gymnasium bleachers at the High School. Cost for this project is \$134,350 with a one year warranty paid for from the Capital Reserve Fund and is through COSTARS PA.

Agreement CTC Assoc. Closed Circuit TV – MS Authorize administration to enter into an agreement with CTC Associates for consulting, design engineering and bidding for the upgrade to the Closed Circuit TV at the Middle School. Cost for this service is \$3,680 and is being paid from the Capital Reserve Fund.

Agreement Spotts, Stevens, McCoy MS Paving Project Authorize administration to enter into an agreement with Spotts, Stevens and McCoy, Inc. (SSM) for the design and preparation of bid documents for the Middle School Paving Project. Cost for this service is \$14,200 and is being paid from the Capital Reserve Fund.
 YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
 NAY: None (0)

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees Meeting held on January 3, 2008 were distributed.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Sefcet Pjetrovic – Slatington Borough stated that at the last board meeting he addressed the board concerning harassment of his daughter and since then he has not heard from anyone concerning his issue.

Dr. Sham stated that the principal is handling this issue and the principal will contact you and let you know what has been done up to this point. She is not going to let you know what is happening to any other student. She is doing what she is supposed to be doing.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
 NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
 Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
 Edward E. Hartman