

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
April 7, 2008

PURPOSE

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

ROLL CALL

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

Members absent: Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos (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, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Ms. Rachel Parisi (Student Rep.), Ms. Heather Rehrig, 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 thirteen visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News and Sarah Fulton reporter for The Morning Call.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the minutes of the school board meetings held on March 3, 2008 and March 10, 2008 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer talked about the purchasing of a piece of property next to the new CLIU building. They are going to pursue a bond issue for the purchase of this piece of property and the building the IU is currently located in. Talked briefly about the water in the basement of the new building from the recent rain storms. He reported that this problem has been fixed. He apologized for not attending the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board Retreat.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams said that a representative from York County is working on introducing legislation that would require any movement on the State Graduation Competency Assessment Test must be approved by legislature.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Dorshimer stated that at all board members seats they will find a ballot for the At-Large Board of Trustees Seat for LCCC. They were instructed to complete the ballot and give to Mrs. Molitoris.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes from the Policy Committee Meeting held on March 12, 2008 were distributed. It was stated that the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting will start at 6:15 p.m. on Wednesday immediately followed by the Finance Committee Meeting which will discuss budget.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

report

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS
(cont.)

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha distributed her written report and verbally reported on its contents which included submission of the Project 720 Grant for 2008-2009 and submission of the Pre-K Counts Grant for next school year. She reported on students who participated in, and won awards at the Lehigh Valley Science & Engineering Research Fair.

Dr. Sham addressed the board with information on the Classrooms For the Future Grant. He stated that administration will be addressing the Board with items that would be acquired if we receive the grant but the Board should understand there will also be some costs to the district that currently are not in next year's district budget. If the Board wishes to apply for the grant, Dr. Sham is requesting that the Board give their approval this evening.

professional
the need for a
grant and
currently
district
data

Mrs. Fedorcha presented a video on 21st Century Learning Skills. Mrs. Fedorcha outlined the goals of the grant. Mr. Hrizuk outlined the computer/technology equipment that would be purchased with the grant. Mrs. Fedorcha and Mrs. Yadush talked about the development that teaching staff would be required to have with the grant and full-time technology coach. Mrs. Yadush talked about the implementation of the informed the board on information she was able to gather from other districts that are receiving the Classrooms For the Future Grant. Lastly, Dr. Sham talked about funds that would be needed to supplement the grant and also about a need for a collection person in addition to the technology coach.

Mrs. Kulp asked if the extra funding that might be available from the state could be used to offset some of the costs that the district would have with this grant?

Dr. Sham thought he was pretty certain it could.

Classrooms
For The
Future Grant

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that administration not move ahead with the Classrooms For the Future Grant.

There was more discussion between board members and administration about the grant.

ROLL CALL:

Yea: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Williams (4)

Nay: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Hartman (4)

Motion Defeated.

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

Dr. Sham stated that he received an opinion from Attorney Stopp's office concerning the research on whether the district could seek reimbursement from the state for additional travel expenses endured by the district for the closure of The General Thomas R. Morgan Bridge. Attorney Stopp's Office was unable to find any obvious avenues for reimbursement but it is always possible that there may be some obscure chance for compensation that is yet to be discovered. They are willing to research at a higher level but they feel it is unlikely that additional efforts will yield any positive results.

Dr. Sham informed the Board that Mr. Mathias J. Green and Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer were both recognized at the CLIU Board Retreat for their years of school board service. Mr. Green received recognition for 30 years of service and Mr. Dorshimer received recognition for 15 years of service.

Dr. Sham stated that his working last day in the district would be June 9th. He stated that Mrs. Blank's last day will certainly be sooner than that. He further stated that the district is going into budget season and within a few weeks will be without a business manager for budget discussions at board meetings. Therefore, he is recommending that the board hold two special meetings in the month of April for budget discussions. In doing this, by the end of April the Board will have come up with the final budget. In the beginning of May the preliminary budget will be passed but knowing this is the final

budget because all the work has already been done in April. The final budget can be approved at the first board meeting in June.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

(cont.)

Special Board Meetings
April 28 & 30

There was discussion between board members on which nights would work best for them.

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education holds two special board meetings on April 28th and 30th.

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

NAY: None (0)

It was decided that the meetings will start at 6:30 p.m.

Board members questioned administration on the closing of the bridge and the impact on busing. Mr. Derr stated that the contractor will be supplying two buses to bus the student walkers from 2nd and Main Streets to the high school/middle school before and after school every day until the pedestrian bridge is built. The expense for these buses will be at the cost of the contractor and no cost to the district.

Executive Session

An executive session was held at 7:00 p.m. in the middle school conference room 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:

Substitute Non-Instructional

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

Maureen McCullion*

***Pending Verification of Clearances**

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

Dianna Stettler

Guidance Summer Per Diem Work

Authorize per diem guidance counselor work during the summer months for the following schools:

Middle School Guidance Maximum 15 days Total (Paul Leonzi)
High School Guidance Maximum 45 days Total (Michael Anderson, Mary Smith, Sheila Lanshe)

Resignations/Retirement

Accept the resignation of Jane E. Kutney from her position as 2nd Grade Teacher at Peters Elementary, effective June 30, 2008. At this time she will begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after 30 years of service.

Rescind Co-Curricular Appointment 2007-2008

Hassan Mouahhid Assistant Varsity Girl's Soccer Coach \$2,627.52

Co-Curricular Appointments 2007-2008

Approve the hiring of Hassan Mouahhid and Candice Longworth as Assistant Varsity Girl's Soccer Coaches for the 2007-2008 season. Mr. Mouahhid and Mrs. Longworth will share the \$2,627.52 assistant coach stipend based on service time.

Co-Curricular Appointments

Carleen Binder Elementary Scholastics Advisor \$ 418.14
Christopher Barnes Middle School Newspaper Advisor \$ 437.43

2008-2009 Kristine Skinker ACE Advisor \$ 418.14
 Amy Zeiser Middle School Student Council Advisor \$1,195.43

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Unpaid Approve the following unpaid volunteer aides in the Peters Elementary School and/or
 Slatington Elementary School for the 2007-2008 school year:
 Volunteers

Christopher Bennett*
 Erika Sieber*
 Barbara Rejician

***Pending Verification of Clearances**

Unpaid Approve the request of Timothy Weaver, Slatington Elementary teacher, to take an unpaid
 Leave of absence on April 30, 2008. He will be using this day in conjunction with 2 personal
 days on April 28 & 29 to attend a church conference. His request will not be considered a
 T. Weaver precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh
 Education Association.

C. Check Approve the request of Connie Check, high school cafeteria worker, to take a 3 day unpaid
 leave from April 21-23, 2008. She will be traveling on vacation with her family.

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

NAY: None (0)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

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

Jill Chamberlain – 2008 Keeping Our Children Safe: Strategies for Schools and Communities –
 May 5-7, 2008 – Harrisburg, PA –Lodging: \$409.62, Travel: \$112.00, Meals: \$60.00 – Total
 Approximate Cost: \$581.62 – Funding: Safe and Drug Free Schools Budget

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

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

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

Agreement Approve the Agreement of Sponsorship To Attend Another Pennsylvania Community
 Of College for Chad Wasilkowski, in accordance with the guidelines established under Policy
 #912.

Sponsorship Beginning in the Fall of 2008 he will be a fulltime student at Northampton Community College to
 pursue his course of study in the Architecture Program.

Re- Approve the request of the Slatington Elementary administration to re-instate a Step/Dance
 Instatement Team in the Slatington Elementary School. This club will teach students cooperation, higher
 of Slatington level of self-esteem, confidence, organization skills, leadership/mentoring skills, friendship and
 Elementary level of self-esteem, confidence, organization skills, leadership/mentoring skills, friendship and
 Step/Dance physical health benefits through association with physical activity. There will be no cost
 Team to the district to conduct this club. Due to the lack of an advisor the Step/Dance Team was
 canceled a few years ago.

Field Trip Biology 1A Students – High School – State Philadelphia Zoo, Philadelphia, PA – May 20, 2008
 – Funded by student's and school district budget

Funded National Honor Society – High School – Spamalot, New York City, NY – May 24, 2008 –
 by National Honor Society Students

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

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

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

Contract
NLSD &
BCIU #22

Approve to authorize proper official to ratify a contractual agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 for the purpose of furnishing special educational services for the 2007-2008 school year.

Bethesda
Day
Treatment
Center

Approve to authorize proper officials to enter into an agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Bethesda Day Treatment Center for the purpose of furnishing educational services for disruptive students for the 2008-2009 school year.

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

**OLD
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Kulp asked if we are using the telephone notification system yet?
Mr. Hrizuk stated that the student data is loaded and we have training on April 17th.

Mr. Dorshimer
stated that at the last meeting the NLYAA was exonerated from paying invoices and he wanted to know the cost of that? He also wanted to know the cost allowing all the others to get the reduced rate.

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FINANCIAL

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

Cash Mngt
Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the months of February 2008.

Budgetary
Transfer

Approve the list of budgetary transfers for the 2007-2008 school year as presented.

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

**INFOR-
MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee Meeting held on February 27, 2008 and the LCTI Director's Report for March 2008 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on March 6, 2008 were distributed.

February

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on 18, 2008 were distributed.

**RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS**

Lori Berger – Slatington Borough addressed the board with concerns of her child being bullied at the middle school and wants to know what the district is doing about stopping this. She would like to set up a meeting with herself, her daughter, the parent's of the students that are bullying her daughter and those student's.

Dr. Sham said that Mrs. Chamberlain will organize a meeting and Mr. Papay and Mrs. Chamberlain will facilitate the meeting.

Beth Corwin – Slatington Borough addressed the board with concerns of her child being bullied at Slatington Elementary.

Mr. Dorshimer stated that bullying is a constant thing across the United States. He thinks it's time that Northern Lehigh steps up and says enough. It's time to get the parents involved. Administration should look into what we as a district can do to prevent this and bring their recommendations back to the Board.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS
(cont.)

Dr. Sham said that when you have student's bullying other student's, they are very good at what they do and bullying is very difficult to prove. He thanked the Board for their support and he will look into what can be done to stop this from happening.

Marian Johnson – Slatington Borough also addressed the board with concerns of her students being bullied in the district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Follweiler 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 9:33 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman