

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA**  
**February 2, 2009**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, February 2, 2009 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**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, Mrs. Sandi L. Young, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep.), Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Taylor Trapp (Student Rep.), Mrs. Aileen Yadush, and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

**VISITORS** Approximately five visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News.

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the minutes of the regular school board meetings held on January 5, 2009 and January 12, 2009 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Donald H. Dengler reported on the video streaming presentation that was done at the last CLIU board meeting. He stated that Mr. Keegan will be at the next finance committee meeting to discuss IU budgets and answer questions.

There was discussion about moving the Finance Committee Meeting and Policy Committee Meeting for the month of February. Mr. Michaels stated that Mr. Melber requested the switch in committee meetings for the month of February. There was question on whether this needed to be advertised again and if board action was needed to do this switching. Attorney Stopp stated that board action needed to be taken and then there should be an advertisement stating the changing in meeting dates.

Vote On  
Moving  
Committee  
Meetings  
February

Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve to switch the Finance Committee Meeting and Policy Committee Meetings for the month of February and that it further be advertised with the new dates.

Mrs. Kulp asked if next time administration could just send an e-mail letting the board know that there will be a request during the board meeting to switch committee meetings for the month.

Mr. Green asked if the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting will also be switched for the month. He was told there was no change in schedul for the Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAY: Mr. Green (1)

Motion Carried.

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORT (cont.)**

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos stated that LCTI recently held their Skills USA Competition. Mr. Anderson went during the day to represent Northern Lehigh and Mrs. Fedorcha attended the evening awards ceremony. We had three students win awards in their respective areas; Brent Merkel, Jonell McCarroll and Kyle Kremposky.

PSBA. At the between the

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that the State Board of Education held its first meeting for the new year and the three priority issues they have selected for 2009 will be high school reform, health, wellness and safety and teacher/administrator quality. State Board of Education will be having hearing on their Graduation Assessment Plan on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at Parkland High School. PSBA elect Roberta Marcus will be speaking on behalf of State Board of Education meeting they also discussed the need for more partnership department with the education community and the General Assembly.

At the State level, Gov. Rendell has warned that the state's budget is at a deficit of around \$2.3 billion dollars and has warned of cuts everywhere.

At the Federal level, the stimulus package act has passed through the house and part of that bill will be \$14 billion for funding school infrastructure which will be available to districts within 60 days of the enactment and a \$13 billion increase for Title I grants and special education over a two-year period. There is a list of each school district in the country and how much additional funding they would get if the bill passes as is and in 2009 Northern Lehigh would receive at \$600,000 increase in funding and in 2010 they would receive a \$300,000 increase in funding.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. stated that the board members received at their seats copies of the LCCC budgets. He stated he would be willing to answer any questions anybody would have on the budget.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on January 14, 2009 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Michael Showak and Mrs. Taylor Trapp distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

and

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha distributed her written reported and verbally reported on its contents which included information on a \$1,000 Academic Achievement Awards for both elementary schools, Pennsylvania Value – Added Assessment System has been official adopted as the growth model for Pennsylvania, 83 students participate in more than 40 dual enrollment courses during the school year, Slatington Elementary is participating in a partnership with Lehigh University's Center for Promotion Research to Practice to design better ways to assess reading comprehension, lastly, she stated that the district has received approval letters for the Teacher Induction Plan and the Special Education Plan as part of the strategic plan. She also discussed the National High Schools That Work Conference being held in Atlanta GA from July 8-11, 2009. She stated that in the past we have sent 4-5 teachers. She stated that there is a lot of involved in making reservations and planning the trip. She asked for feedback from on whether they would consider sending staff members to this national conference. She stated that one member will go for free which will be paid for by LCTI.

time the board She

Mr. Dengler asked the cost associated with this conference. Mrs. Fedorcha stated that she budgets \$5,000. Mrs. Geronikos stated that this is a very rigorous conference where they are in classes all day long and the only time they actually have a social gathering is the last night. She asked what the plan is for sending teachers this year. Mrs. Yadush stated that her plans for this upcoming school year is to concentrate on planning a students academic career from grades 9-12 so she would request sending one or two counselors to the conference. She also wants to continue to concentrate on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition program and rigor in the classroom.

Mr. Michaels stated that this conference happens during the summer months so we do not have to send teachers out during the school year. He further cautioned the board that many of

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORT  
(cont.)**

the grants Mrs. Fedorcha is working on, the district must constantly do staff development and this conference fits under the staff development piece. He understands that we have to be frugal and pick the conferences we want to go to and this one is over the summer and is an excellent conference.

Mr. Williams stated that this is something that has already been budgeted for and, since it is budgeted for and the district has prepared to it, the board should encourage it.

Mrs. Ganser asked if it would be advantages to send less than 5 people. Mrs. Yadush stated that every year she sends out information asking for interested staff members who would like to attend the conference. Currently she thinks she has 5-6 people interested in attending. Mrs. Ganser stated that she does not doubt that there are some very good classes being offered there but in our current economy and what we are faced with, she would like to limit how many people can attend. She understands that it has been budgeted for, but that does not mean it has to be spent. She is not okay with sending 5-6 people.

Mr. Hartman asked if there was a set fee for dual enrollment courses and if there were any limitations on courses they can take. Mrs. Yadush stated that the cost for the courses are a set fee credit per course which she thinks is \$135.00 for LCCC courses. She stated there are

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber stated that on the agenda for approval is the business office's list of bills for the month, budgetary transfers for the 2008-2009 school year and collection of delinquent real estate tax resolutions for Lehigh and Northampton Counties.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Michael W. Michaels

Mr. Derr stated Mr. Dengler and Mr. Hartman toured the completed Polk Elementary and also the Pleasant Valley Middle School that is currently under construction. He stated that a committee for the construction project has been formed which includes 6 teachers, Mr. Derr, Mrs. Ruff, Mr. Hrizuk and Mr. Weaber. He stated that a list has been made that addresses the needs for the building. He stated the list will be given to the architect so they know exactly what the district would like to do. This list will be given out at the Buildings and Grounds meeting and he feels, with the Board's blessing, we are ready to move forward with an RFP for an architect and begin moving ahead with the construction project. Mr. Michaels thanked Mrs. Fedorcha, Mrs. Ruff, Dr. Marcincin and Mr. Derr for doing their homework and working with the teachers and getting ideas for the construction project. He agreed with Mr. Derr that it is important that the district drives the architect with what is wanted for the district instead of the architect telling the district what it needs. He also stated that the Board, within in the next few weeks, needs to tell administration what their intentions are for the construction project and then put together an RFP for an architect. The Board will then be able to pick the architect they would like for this project. He stated that the Board should pick an architect that has a reputation and track record of not a lot of change orders. He stated that the Board should also pick an architect that is suited for the type of structure the Board is interested in building. Mr. Michaels stated that he could probably arrange one more tours of both Polk Elementary and Pleasant Valley Middle School. Mr. Hartman urged members of the board who have not toured the buildings yet to do so.

He reminded everyone that February 2-6, 2009 is National School Counseling Week and that they should thank the school counselor's for a great job.

Thanked Mrs. Fedorcha, Mrs. Nicholas and Dr. Marcincin for the great job they are doing and the \$1,000 grant both schools received for the Title I Academic Achievement Award.

He reminded the board that the next scheduled board meeting is to be held at Peters Elementary School.

He apologized to the board for the confusion over the changing of the Finance Committee Meeting and the Policy Committee Meeting for the month of February.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORT  
(cont.)**

Attorney Stopp addressed the board about the possibility of a building project. He stated that in a tight construction market you may get some more competitive bidding but he urged the board to be more vigilant with the bid bonds, the integrity of the company issuing the bid bonds, the integrity of the company and the rating of the bid bond company.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Appointment Instructional Derek Long\* Temporary Professional Employee  
Assignment: High School Mathematics Teacher replacing David Humenik who retired  
Salary: \$40,500 pro-rated (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2008-2009 CBA Salary Schedule)  
Effective: January 26, 2009

**\*Pending Verification of missing personnel file items**

Substitute Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2008-2009 school year at the 2008-2009 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Trevor Bartholomew\* – Health & Physical Education  
Whitney Babyak – All Subjects

**\*Pending verification of missing personnel file items**

Non-year Instructional Approve the following individual as a substitute aide and secretary for the 2008-2009 school at the 2008-2009 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Rachael Gruber

Salary Adjustments Acknowledge the following teachers who have completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the second half of the 2008-2009 school year:

Scott Gerould  
From: Step 5B+24  
To: Step 5M

Tracy Hoffman  
From: Step 6B+24  
To: Step 6M

Douglas Reynolds  
From: Step 5B+24  
To: Step 5M

Unpaid Leave of Absence Approve the request of Christina Carmody, Peters Elementary teacher, to take an unpaid leave of absence on April 20 & 21, 2009. She will be using these days in conjunction with 3 personal days on April 15-17, 2009 to attend her brothers wedding in Hawaii. Her request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

Approve the request of Tracy Hoffman, Elementary School Nurse, to take an unpaid leave of absence on March 6, 2009. She will be using this day in conjunction with 4 personal days on March 2-5, 2009 to take a family vacation to Walt Disney World. Her request will not be considered a precedent for future requests per correspondence received from the Northern Lehigh Education Association.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

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

Sharon Hunsicker – PDE 2009 Annual Conference – April 14-17, 2009 – Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA – Registration: \$125.00, Lodging: \$223.12, Meals: \$130.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$478.12 – Funding: Project 720 Grant

Kristie Ahner – PDE 2009 Annual Conference – April 14-17, 2009 – Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, Hershey, PA – Registration: \$125.00, Lodging: \$223.12, Meals: \$130.00, Travel: \$48.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$526.12 – Funding: Project 720 Grant

Lora Krum – 2009 PMEA Annual Conference – April 23-25, 2009 – Valley Forge Convention Center, King of Prussia, PA – Registration: \$110.00, Lodging: \$320.00, Travel: \$42.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$526.12 – Funding: Slatington Elementary Budget

Rhonda Frantz – Attendance/Child Accounting Professional Association (A/CAPA) Spring Conference – March 19-20, 2009 – Hotel Hershey, Hershey, PA – Registration: \$175.00, Lodging: \$223.00, Travel: \$88.00, Meals: 8.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$494.00 – Funding: Business Office Budget

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

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

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy 201 – Pupils – Admission of Students, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy 246 – Pupils – Students Wellness, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy 539 – Non-Professional Employees – Uncompensated Leave, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy 605 – Finances – Tax Levy, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy 705 – Property – Safety, as presented after first reading.

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

reading. Approve school board policy 801 – Operations – Public Records, as presented after first reading.

Right to Know Office Appoint Mr. Michael W. Michaels, Superintendent of Schools, as the Right to Know Officer for the district. He will be responsible for all public record requests and his assistant will be Sharon Sherman from the business office.

many student Mr. Williams stated that policy #201 is changing the Kindergarten admission date from October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>. This date is the date that an overwhelming majority of school districts in Pennsylvania utilize and it is the date that the State is pushing for as a cut off date for Kindergarten registration. He stated that there will be a two year transition period because children may already be involved in a pre-school program aligned with the cut off date of Kindergarten registration being October 1<sup>st</sup>. Any parent whose student is affected by this date change during the first two years has the right to contact administration and ask for their to be admitted to Kindergarten.

Mrs. Young asked how policy #707, which addresses hitting of golf balls on district policy, is going to be enforced.

**POLICY**  
**(cont.)**

The majority agreed that they did not know how it was going to be enforced but the intention is to post signs stating that the general public is not authorized to hit golf balls on school property. They felt that if signs were posted and something happened it offered some protection to the school district if they would happen to be sued.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-  
ULUM AN  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

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

Dual  
Enrollment  
Partnership  
NWLSD

Approve administration to enter into a partnership agreement with Northwestern Lehigh School District in order to provide our students with greater options to earn concurrent high school/college credit. The term of the Dual Enrollment Partnership Proposal between Northern Lehigh School District and Northwestern Lehigh School District will be from July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education remove from the table the Per Capita Abatement/Exoneration Requests tabled at the January 5, 2009 board meeting.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Abatement/  
Exonerations

Motion made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

Mrs. Ganser stated again that she has seen at least two of the people listed walking the streets of Slatington and entering a home in the borough. She questioned what Mr. Stein is doing to collect from these people.

permit

Mr. Melber had a conversation with Mr. Stein and the Borough of Slatington. Currently the bills are mailed and it comes back they try to locate the person. They check to see if a moving permit was filed. If they find a moving permit the tax bill is forwarded but if they do not find a moving permit and it is coming back that they no longer live there the tax collector can't really do anything else. He has also had a conversation with Attorney Stopp and the district could have administrator or staff member try to locate these people but they feel that the district will spend a lot more money trying to locate these people than what they are actually going to collect from them.

an

ROLL CALL:

YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser (2)

Motion carried.

Mr. Hartman read a memo that was distributed to all board members which outlined administrations recommendation for the structuring of committee and board meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS**  
**(cont.)**

Restructuring  
Committee  
And  
Board  
Meetings

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the Board of Education approve the recommendation of administration to hold the Policy/Education Committee Meeting immediately followed by Community Relations on the first Monday of every month, Technology Buildings and Grounds immediately followed by Finance on the Wednesday after the first Monday of the month and hold only one voting board meeting a month on the second Monday of the month.

Mr. Williams asked if the Board would like to make any provisions at this time for budget or in August for hiring prior to the start of school or does the Board just wish to deal with these issues as they come up and call special meetings. He warned the Board that with only having one Board meeting a month there could be times during budget time and construction project time that meetings could last until 11:00 at night and he wanted to make sure they were prepared for that possibility. Finally he stated that he did not see a reason to stop holding board meeting at the other district buildings.

Mrs. Ganser also stated that she felt that it was good to go to the other buildings.

also

Mrs. Kulp stated that she was not if favor of going to the other buildings. She stated that there is a lot of work involved in preparing and setting up for these meetings. Y-Care is inconvenienced at Peters Elementary because they can not use the gym on the day the board meeting is being held in their building and other outside organizations who have asked to use our facilities are inconvenienced.

Mr. Green asked what can be accomplished by having a committee meeting instead of a public meeting. He does not understand what can be done at a committee meeting that can not be done at a public meeting. There are lots of things that can be done at a public meeting that can not be done at a committee meeting. He does not understand what is being gained. If it is having fewer meetings and getting out of more work then he understands from a board's point of view the rationale for doing this. He then suggested that this board is so far behind on things they should be doing that the board should be calling more meetings, not less.

Mrs. Geronikos stated that she agreed with Mr. Williams that the board meetings will get longer. She stated that unless every board member attends all committee meetings, the meetings will get longer especially when the district goes into PlanCon for a construction project.

**ROLL CALL:**

YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler,  
Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green (2)

Motion carried.

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves to hold all voting board meetings in the District Office Board Room located in the Slatington Elementary School with the exception of the October meeting being held at LCTI.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,  
Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

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

List Of  
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund month of January  
Capital Projects Fund month of January

Athletic Fund month of January  
Refreshment Stand Fund month of January

**FINANCIAL**  
**(cont.)**

Financial  
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of December  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Accounts for the month of December

Abatements  
Exonerations  
2007-2008  
Audit Report

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.  
Accept the 2007-2008 audit and management report for the single audit ending June 30, 2008.  
A copy of the audit was distributed at the January 12, 2009 school board meeting.

Budgetary  
Transfers

Approve budgetary transfers for the 2008-2009 fiscal year as presented.

Delinquent  
Tax Collection  
Resolution  
Northampton  
County

Approve the resolution directing Northampton County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent taxes on behalf of Northern Lehigh School District as presented.

Delinquent  
Tax Collection  
Resolution  
Lehigh County

Approve the resolution directing Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent taxes on behalf of Northern Lehigh School District as presented.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,  
Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)  
NAY: None (0)

**CORRE-**  
**SPON-**  
**DENCE**

Mrs. Ganser stated that several board members received letters about some bussing issues and she passed that letter to Mr. Derr.

Mr. Williams stated that he received official paperwork that must be completed upon approval of LCCC's budget and a letter from Don Snyder stating that he would be willing to give a presentation to the board of the budget.

**INFOR-**  
**MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on October 22, 2008 and December 10, 2008 and the LCTI Director's Report for December 2008 and January 2009.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on December 15, 2008.

**ADJOURN-**  
**MENT**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dengler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,  
Mr. Williams, Mrs. Young, Mr. Hartman (9)  
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary



ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
Edward E. Hartman