

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**November 8, 2010**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:32 p.m. on Monday, November 8, 2010 in the Middle School Auditorium.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Natalie J. Green, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Donald Allen, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Ms. Heather Heiney (Student Rep.), Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Jeremy Melber, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mr. Justin Molitoris (Student Rep.), Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Paul Rearden, Ms. Heather Rehrig, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

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

**SPECIAL** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha reported the minutes from the meeting  
are  
**BOARD**  
**REPORTS** attached to the agenda.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos reported the minutes from the meeting are attached to the agenda. She reported that on November 23<sup>rd</sup> is the initial meeting for the 2011-2012 budget. She also reported that she is unable to attend the December meeting but Natalie Green, the alternate, will be attending on her behalf.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported on a bill that is addressing the pension crisis that was overwhelming approved by the senate and has been sent back to the House. Unfortunately, the House Democrats decided that they are not voting on anything for the remainder of this session. This Bill is dead for this session. PSBA has passed their priorities and game plan for the upcoming year.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Technology Buildings and Grounds Committee Meetings held on November 3, 2010 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings held on November 3, 2010 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Mr. Justin Molitoris and Ms. Heather Heiney distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

past Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas reported that the district is continuing to monitor our student enrollment. There has been a decline in enrollment over the 5 years. She congratulated Mr. Paul Rearden, Peters Elementary Principal, who received a High Mark Grant in the amount of \$6,162. Mrs. Nicholas briefed the board on the Title I Parent Involvement meeting held on October 25<sup>th</sup>. There were over 195 students and parents involved in this event.

Business Manager's Report – Mr. Jeremy G. Melber discussed the next phase of the bond financing for the construction project. He stated that he recommended to the Finance

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)**

at

they

1.9% or

referendum or 3.)

exceptions they will need

been discussing offering an ERIP

retiring teachers. At this point, nothing is off

Committee that the district issue a \$10,000,000 bank qualifying bond next year and pay for the contingency items out of fund balance. Mr. Melber briefed the board on a budget update. He stated that Governor elect Corbett is moving forward with his budget plan for next year which will involve deep cuts for school districts. He stated that the district is looking at losing \$825,000 in basic education subsidy. He stated that the Accountability Block Grant could also be discontinued which will result in an additional loss of \$363,000. If these happen, we are looking a 1.2 million dollar deficit. Add that to the increase in salaries and benefits, the district is looking at an overall shortage of 1.8 million dollars or 7-8 mills. Administration has been meeting concerning this issue. The Board will need to make a decision by next month deciding if want to 1.) pass a resolution that they will not raise taxes more than the index, which is 1.22 mills, 2.) if the board wants to raise taxes above the index and take it to referendum or 3.) file for exceptions. If the Board decides to go to referendum or file for exceptions they will need to approve a preliminary budget by February. The district has been discussing offering an ERIP and the savings to the district if we do not replace retiring teachers. At this point, nothing is off the table when it comes to budget cuts.

Superintendent's Report – Mr. Michael W. Michaels

Mr. Michaels stated that November 14-20, 2010 is American Education Week.

at

Mr. Michaels reminded board members that Monday, December 6, 2010 is the School Board Reorganization Meeting beginning at 7:00PM and the Regular School Board Meeting will follow 7:30PM.

Mr. Hartman recognized and presented a gift to the following individual who retired from Northern Lehigh School District: Mr. Nevin Ranck

Mr. Hartman presented a resolution in recognition of the 2009-2010 Northern Lehigh High School Baseball and Softball Teams.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Rescind Appointment  
C. Fritzinger

Rescind the following appointment which was approved at the October 11, 2010 school board meeting:

Cynthia Fritzinger  
Assignment:

Temporary Vacancy Replacement  
Slatington Elementary School 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
replacing current teacher on family medical leave  
Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30;  
Day 31 and beyond \$42,435 prorated  
(Step 1 Bachelors on the 2010-2011 CBA Salary Schedule)  
Effective: September 7, 2010  
Termination Date: Undetermined: Upon Physicians Release of Teacher to Return to Work

Salary:

Effective:

Termination Date:

Appointment Instructional

Michael Strohl\*  
Assignment:

Temporary Vacancy Replacement  
5<sup>th</sup> grade Slatington Elementary replacing Elissa Fry  
who was granted a leave of absence  
Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30;  
Day 31 and beyond \$42,435 prorated  
(Step 1 Bachelors on the 2010-2011 CBA Salary Schedule)  
Effective: On or About November 24, 2010  
Termination Date: Upon Exhaustion of Teacher's 12 Week Leave  
(On or about February 18, 2011)

Salary:

Effective:

Termination Date:

**\*Pending Verification of Missing Documents**

Retirement Resignations

Accept the retirement resignation of Samuel Unger from his position as Second Shift Peters Elementary School Custodian, effective the end of the work day, December 31, 2010. At this time he will begin his retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after 18 years of service.

**PERSONNEL  
(cont.)**

district more  
retirement date  
December 2011

Accept the retirement resignation of Steve Remaley from his position as Maintenance/Lead Maintenance Employee, effective the end of the work day, December 31, 2011. Contract language states that custodial/maintenance employees who have worked for the than 20 years and give notice to the district of retirement 12 ½ months prior to shall receive an additional \$500.00 upon retirement. Mr. Remaley will retire in after 33 years of service at Northern Lehigh.

Rescind  
Co-Curricular  
Appointments

Rescind the appointment of Richard Roberts IV as the MS Boys Basketball Coach at a stipend of \$2,963.73 which was originally approved at the April 12, 2010 school board meeting.

Rescind the appointment of Richard Roberts III as a volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach which was originally approved at the April 12, 2010 school board meeting.

which

Rescind the appointment of Pete Reese as a volunteer Assistant Boys Basketball Coach was originally approved at the April 12, 2010 school board meeting.

Co-Curricular  
Appointments  
2010-2011

Richard Roberts III  
Randy Utsch

MS Boys Basketball Coach  
Band Advisor

\$2,963.73  
\$2,036.63

Co-Curricular  
Volunteers  
2010-2011

Richard Roberts IV

Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Game  
Workers  
2010-2011

Approve the following list of people as Game Workers for the 2010-2011 school year. Game Workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges, scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2010 - 2011 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule.

Renee Evans  
Linda Brown

Unpaid  
Volunteers

Approve the following unpaid volunteer aides in the Peters and Slatington Elementary Schools for the 2010-2011 school year: Robin Blocker, Margaret Blose, Lori-Beth Guelcher, JoAnne Sipos, Sheila White\*, Kathy Yelinek and Charles Uhler.

**\*Pending Verification of Clearances**

Approve the following unpaid volunteer aide in the Middle School for the 2010-2011 school year: Janice Altrichter.

Substitute  
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2010-2011 school year at the 2010-2011 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Michael Strohl\* – Elementary  
Jessica Yenser – Elementary  
Edward Anderson – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Donna Bauer – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Nika Belcastro Albanese – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Shannon Burky – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Ann Forrestal – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Ines Heuser – CLIU Guest Teacher  
John Hughes – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Melissa Lawson – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Cara Meskill – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Roobhenn Smith – CLIU Guest Teacher  
Jeanine Villano-George – CLIU Guest Teacher

**\*Pending Verification of Missing Documents**

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

NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

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

– Karen Nicholas – 2010 SAS Institute: Bridging Research and Practice – December 5-8, 2010 Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA – Lodging: \$432.90, Travel: \$71.00, Meals: \$25.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$528.90 – Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget

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

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

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

Digital Photography Club Approve the request of the Slatington Elementary administration to create a Digital Photography Club in the Slatington Elementary School. This club will expose students to basic techniques of digital photography and apply those skills to real life photography challenges. The club will meet on Day 3 from 3:00 – 4:00. There will be no cost to the district to conduct this club.

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

NAY: None (0)

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

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

Agreement  
CLIU Special  
Education  
Services  
2010-2011

Approve to authorize the superintendent to execute an agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to provide special education services for the 2010-2011 school year.

Purchase of  
Psychology  
Books

Approve the purchase of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Holt McDougal Psychology: Principles in Practice books, including books and resources for students and teachers in grades 9-12 level. The total cost of these materials is \$3,001.08 and is from the curriculum and instruction budget.

HS Program  
Of Study Book  
Changes

Approve the changes to the High School Program of Studies book, specifically related to increased graduation requirements, GPA calculations, and Dual Enrollment's effect on GPA.

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

Emergency  
Operations  
Plan Changes

Approve changes to the Northern Lehigh School District Emergency Operations Plan as presented.

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

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL** Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Green, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items:

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

Financial  
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:  
General Fund June  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of June  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Acct for the month of June

List of  
Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund month of October & November  
Cafeteria Fund month of October  
Athletic Fund month of October  
Refreshment Stand month of October  
Construction Fund month of October  
Capita Reserve Fund month of October

Per Capita  
Abatement/  
Exoneration

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

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

**LEGAL**

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves the following legal item:

Steckel &  
Stopp  
Retainer 2011

Approve to appoint the law firm of Steckel & Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh School District for 2011 at a retainer fee of \$2,000.00. This is an increase of \$250.00 over last year's fee. This is the first retainer increase since 1999.

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

**INFOR-**  
**MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on September 22, 2010 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on September 20, 2010 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on September 2, 2010 were distributed.

**ADJOURN-**  
**MENT**

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 8:01 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

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