

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**March 12, 2012**

**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, March 12, 2012, in the Administration Office Board Room.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, and Mr. Edward E. Hartman (7)

Members absent: Mrs. Natalie J. Green, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp (2)

Non-members present: Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Anthony Connell (Student Rep.), Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. Scot Engler, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Ms. Heather Heiney (Student Rep.), Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Attorney Charles Stopp (District Solicitor), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

**VISITORS**

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

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on February 13, 2012 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS**

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha noted that the budget is on the agenda for approval tonight.

Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory S. Williams reported that the Lehigh County PSBA Legislative meeting will be held on Friday, March 23, 2012 at 7:30 a.m. at the East Penn School District.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Mathias J. Green reported that the budget is on the agenda for approval tonight.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Education/Policy committee meeting held on March 7, 2012 were distributed.

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds committee meeting held on March 5, 2012 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance committee meeting held on March 5, 2012 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report

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

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Charles Stopp reported that the competitive bidding limits have increased slightly. Attorney Stopp also reported that with regards to the Right to Know Law, we can withhold requested documents when duplicating fees are incurred and have not been paid.

Federal Programs - Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas reported that our preschool program, which has been in existence for seven years, has always been a collaboration with Community Services for Children and has always been paid for with Accountability Block Grant funds. Due to the cutting of the

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)**

that  
the district.  
time the  
district.

Accountability Block Grant, this program is in jeopardy. Mrs. Nicholas informed the board that Community Services for Children needs to know by the end of the month if we will be continuing the Pre-K program next year. The cost for the classroom is \$64,500.00 for the two teachers, and \$44,000 for transportation. Mrs. Nicholas asked the board to please make a decision so she could get back to Community Services for Children. Mr. Michaels stated that it was his understanding we were going to contact them and tell them we would not be able to make a decision at this time and that we were looking into alternative ways to finance this program with funds outside the district. Mr. Williams added that even though he is an avid supporter of this program, at this point in time the only way the district could afford the program is if funds become available from outside the district.

Business Manager's Report

Mrs. Molitoris reported that on the agenda for approval tonight are the LCCC, CLIU and LCTI budgets. Northern Lehigh's share of the budgets are all a decrease over the 2011-2012 budgets.

Mrs. Frantz reported that they hope to have a preliminary budget to present at the Finance Committee meeting in April.

Mrs. Molitoris and Mrs. Frantz thanked the board for allowing them both to go to the PASBO conference. It was a great learning experience and they will be sharing what they learned at the next Administrative Team meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michaels reported that budget meetings are ongoing and the theme of next week's Administrative Team meeting is cost containment. Mrs. Molitoris and Mrs. Frantz are working hard on the budget and Mr. Scot Engler is working on cost saving measures with the IU. Mr. Michaels then asked Mr. Engler to discuss his ideas. Mr. Engler explained that we currently contract with the IU for special programs and the 2012-2013 estimated cost is \$470,000 of which \$140,000 is for students in IU classes receiving speech therapy. Two options exist: hiring our own speech therapist, or contracting with a third party agency. Due to the state mandates of no more than 65 students per therapist and the lack of speech therapists, hiring our own therapist is not a viable option. Based on the current number of students, 138, the best quote is from Pediatric Therapeutic Services at a cost of \$200,000-\$250,000 which would result in a savings to the district of \$80,000 - \$130,000 for the first year. Because the services would be more consistent, this savings could be greater in subsequent years due to students exiting the program and no longer needing the service. Mr. Engler stated that he hopes to present a contract at the next school board meeting.

Mr. Michaels then asked Mr. Robert Vlasaty to discuss our cyber school program. Mr. Vlasaty reported that he has contacted approximately 80% of parents who send their children to cyber charter schools outside the district. Mr. Vlasaty stated that the parents have been very enthusiastic about the e-Learn 21 Virtual Learning Program that is on tonight's board agenda for approval. Mr. Michaels noted that if we bring three (3) students from outside cyber charter schools into the e-Learn 21 program, the program will pay for itself.

Mr. Michaels noted that Mrs. Green is absent tonight due to a commitment with her school district and Mrs. Kulp is out ill.

Michaels  
received. He  
districts of similar size.

Mr. Green asked if Mrs. Molitoris and Mrs. Frantz could give a detailed comparison of the state funds we will be getting in 2012-2013 compared to what was received in 2011-2012. Mr. Michaels distributed a budget comparison of 2010-2011 to 2011-2012 state funds that we noted that Northern Lehigh lost 13.1% of funding which is more than other districts of similar size.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Appointment-  
Non-Instruct-

John Rice\*  
Assignment:

Second Shift Custodian/Maintenance Position

ional Salary: \$9.00/Hour – 2:30 PM – 11:00 PM – 5 Days/Week  
 Effective March 13, 2012  
 \*Pending Verification of Missing Documents

**PERSONNEL****(cont.)**

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of employee #870 to take a Family Medical Leave on or about May 10, 2012. Employee is requesting one week of family medical leave to care for a family member.

Retirement E. Wassum Accept the retirement resignation of Eric Wassum from his position as Slatington Elementary Sixth Grade teacher, effective on or about April 4, 2012. At this time he will begin his retirement from Northern Lehigh School District after 30 years and 7 months of service.

Co-Curricular Appointments 2011-2012 Manny Guedes MS Spring Intramurals – Weightlifting \$ 805.46

Co-Curricular Volunteers 2011-2012 Joseph Seremula Assistant Baseball Coach

Substitute Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Csala Peters\* Elementary & Special Education  
 \*Pending Verification of Missing Documents

Substitute Non-Instructional Approve the following substitute secretary, cafeteria worker and custodian for the 2011-2012 school year at the 2011-2012 substitute rates as approved on the Supplementary Salary Schedule: Deborah Handwerk

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)  
 NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

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

Homebound Instruction It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, Student No. 1390008, for five hours per week, effective February 20, 2012 and continuing until approximately May 20, 2012.

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #907 – Community - School Visitors, as presented after second reading.

Field Trips NHS National Honor Society – High School – New York City, NY – April 14, 2012 – Funded by National Honor Society Students.

Science Club Science Club – High School – Baltimore, Maryland - April 29, 2012 – Funded by Science Club Students.

Senior Class Senior Class Trip – High School – Six Flags Great Adventure – Jackson, NJ – May 29, 2012 – Funded by Class of 2012.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)  
 NAY: None (0)

**CURRIC-**

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of

**ULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Education approve the following curriculum and instruction items:

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**  
**(cont.)**

Approve the following resolution to adopt the 2012-2013 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Facilities Plan Committee Report that was adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on January 27, 2012.

CLIU Facilities Plan Committee Report 2012-2013

**RESOLVED:** It is recommended that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors approve the 2012-2013 Facilities Plan Committee Report that was adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on January 27, 2012. In addition, the Board reaffirms its commitment to the original construct of the Facilities Planning, approved November 1, 1989, which consists of a series of prioritized inquiries to be considered in determining future locations of the CLIU and school district special education classes.

enVision Math Curriculum Core 2012 K-6

Approve the purchase of the envision Math Curriculum Core 2012 for students and teachers in grades K-6. The total cost of these materials is not to exceed \$75,0000.00 and will be paid from the Curriculum and Instruction budget.

e-Learn 21 Virtual Learning Program

Authorize administration to enter into a contract with the Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 for the eLearn 21 Virtual Learning Program partnership beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

which they

Mr. Fedorcha questioned whether Mr. Michaels feels that this program will last more than two years. Mr. Michaels noted that he has spoken at length with Dr. Culp and Mr. Eric Lech from the IU as well as the area superintendents who are part of CAOLA, is the parent of the e-Learn program, who are in their sixth year of the program. While nothing is guaranteed, Mr. Michaels said he did feel very comfortable with the program. Mr. Fedorcha added that he is thrilled at the prospect of bringing these kids back so can be part of our school which makes it worthwhile for both us and them.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)  
NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

Mrs. Ganser asked that the Lehigh Carbon & Technical Institute and Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit budgets be voted on separately as she is abstaining for personal reasons. Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Financial Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:  
General Fund month of January  
NLMS Student Activities Account month of February  
NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Account month of February

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund months of February & March  
Cafeteria Fund month of February  
Refreshment Stand month of February  
Capital Construction month of March

Lehigh Carbon Community College decrease 2012-2013 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2012-2013 Lehigh Carbon Community College Sponsor contribution Budget. Total expenditures equal \$6,381,551.00 an increase of \$49,057.00 (0.8%) over the 2011-2012 budget. Northern Lehigh's share of the total budget is \$231,996, a decrease of \$11,492.00 or 4.7%. A copy of the budget was distributed at the February 13, 2012 school board meeting.

Budgetary Transfers

Approve budgetary transfers for the 2011-2012 school year including any budgetary transfers for the end of year audit.

Renewal  
Verizon  
Wireless

Approve the renewal of our cellular phone service with Verizon Wireless for the two (2) phones used by our maintenance department for \$57.68 per month. This is a month to month agreement.

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

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)  
NAY: None (0)

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2012-2013 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2012-2013 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Operational and Program Services budget. Total expenditures equal \$2,127,918.00 a decrease of \$303,138.00 (12.48%) over the 2011-2012 budget. Northern Lehigh's share is proposed to be \$19,598.00 a decrease of \$11.00 from the 2011-2012 budget. A copy of the budget was distributed at the February 13, 2012 school board meeting.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute 2012-2013 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute general fund budget Academic Center expenditures for the 2012-2013 school year. The general fund budget total is \$23,097,730.00 an increase of \$401,910 or 1.77%. Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2012-2013 general fund budget is \$951,109.90 a decrease of \$4,282.22. The expenditures for the Academic Center budget for the period of July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 total \$1,374,290.00 an increase of \$44,460.00 or 3.34%. Northern Lehigh School District's portion is \$39,960, a decrease of \$10,745.57. A copy of the budget was distributed at the February 13, 2012 school board meeting.

YEA: Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (5)  
NAY: None (0)  
ABS: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Ganser (2)

**INFOR-**  
**MATION**

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on February 2, 2012 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on January 25, 2012 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on January 16, 2012 were distributed.

Mrs. Ganser noted that recently there was an article in the paper about Northwestern School District being pioneers in having great open conversations with their staff and students. Mrs. Ganser added that she believes that Northern Lehigh were the true pioneers and she commended administration and staff for that.

**ADJOURN-**  
**MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (7)  
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

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