

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**April 8, 2013**

**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, April 8, 2013, 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, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, and Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Natalie J. Green (1)

Non-members present: Ms. Alexandra Abruzzi (LCTI Rep.), Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Ms. Courtney Blocker (Senior Rep.), Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Nathaniel Czarnecki (Jr. Rep.), Mr. Greg Derr, Mr. Scot Engler, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. Paul Rearden, Jr., Attorney Charles Stopp (District Solicitor), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

**VISITORS** Approximately seven visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News, and Channel 13 News.

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on March 11, 2013 be approved and ordered filed.

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

**RECOGNITION OF CAST AND CREW OF HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL** Mr. Nicholas Sander, Production Director of the High School Musical "Little Shop of Horrors," introduced the cast and crew. Mr. Hartman expressed his enjoyment of the show and Mr. Michaels thanked everyone for the wonderful production. Mr. Michaels added that Northern Lehigh is the gem of the Lehigh Valley and he hoped that the cast and crew would be honored with a Freddy Award.

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Follweiler reported that Mr. Randy Williams resigned as Transportation Director of the IU.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mr. Fedorcha reported that the governor visited LCTI last week and he was very impressed and he announced that LCTI is the recipient of another grant. Mr. Fedorcha added that if you have not seen LCTI in the last five years, it would be worth visiting. It is a great asset for our school district to be a part of the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute.

Legislative Report – Mr. Williams reported that House Bill 658 has been approved by the House and will be sent to the Senate for approval. This bill gives school districts the authority to implement local tax credit programs for seniors who volunteer in the district. This is not mandatory and it is not yet a law.

Mr. Fedorcha added that he attended the legislative workshop last week and it was very informative. He expressed the need for the school district to stay on top of our local representatives and let them know our concerns especially in matters concerning private and charter school reform.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Green announced that several properties have been removed on Rt. 309 and the campus is more visible. The LCCC budget has been approved by nine out of ten districts which makes it official.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Ms. Courtney Blocker and Mr. Nathaniel Czarnecki distributed the written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents. Ms. Alexandra Abruzzi, LCTI student representative, verbally reported on events at LCTI.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Stopp reported on a recent case in West Shore School District, where students in a split custody case may be considered a resident of both school districts which can affect transportation responsibilities to private schools.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Molitoris reported that Portnoff Law Associates, Delinquent Tax Collector, has asked that we inform our legislators that we support Senate Bill 634 which states that as long as we pass a resolution notifying the counties in our district that they will not collect our delinquent taxes; they would be exempt from the 5% commission. We currently do this every year. We have notified Rep. Harhart that Northern Lehigh School District supports this bill and we are asking her to support it as well because it saves the district money.

There are three resolutions on the agenda this evening. The first resolution was received from PSBA asking the general assembly to uphold its responsibility to provide reimbursement to school districts engaging in construction and renovation projects and to appropriately fund the program to ensure the reimbursement in a timely and predictable manner. Our Plan Con H was submitted, August 2011, but we have not received the approximately \$245,000 that should have been refunded. If this moratorium continues, and we never see the reimbursement, we stand to lose almost \$4 million.

Mrs. Frantz stated that the second resolution is concerning Pension Reform. This resolution is calling for reform to the pension system which would alleviate the burden placed on the local taxpayers while maintaining a fair benefit plan for employees. In 2008-2009 the employer contribution rate was 4.76%, it currently stands at 12.36% and within the next six to seven years it will exceed 30%. In the past five years, we have paid a total of roughly \$4.5 million into the retirement system. Over the next five years, the amount would be over \$15 million.

The third resolution, deals with Charter School funding formula. Initially, we received some reimbursement for charter schools but in the 2011-2012 school year, they discontinued reimbursing school districts for charter schools. Our costs have increased over the last 5 years from \$266,000 to \$451,000. The number of students participating went from 27 to 52. There are currently eleven house bills addressing charter school reform. Unfortunately, none of these bills addresses all of the issues. We have contacted Representative Harhart and Senator Argall's offices with our concerns on each bill.

Mr. Hartman asked what reason does the state give when we ask why they are not reimbursing the PlanCon projects. Mrs. Molitoris replied there is not enough money budgeted on that line item to reimburse all of the projects that were approved. Mr. Michaels added that we recently had a meeting with Representative Harhart and a representative from Senator Argall's office here at the District Office. Each of these concerns was addressed with them and Representative Harhart is interested in learning more about our concerns. Unfortunately, when they return to Harrisburg, they get a different spin on these issues. Mr. Argall's representative was very interested, asked some outstanding questions, and we feel that she will share our concerns with Senator Argall.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Michaels asked Mrs. Michele Dotta and Mr. Greg Derr to report on the recent School Safety Task Force meeting. Mr. Derr announced that the meeting was held last Wednesday and was well attended. Trooper Mark Allen from the Bethlehem State Police barracks gave a short presentation to the group. The next meeting is at 6:45 p.m. on May 8, 2013. Mrs. Dotta added that during the presentation, they gave us a recommendation on how to handle an interior threat versus an exterior threat which was very helpful. A longer presentation is available for the whole staff. Mr. Michaels added that they made it clear that the lesson learned is the people who survived were the ones who fought back. The State Police also noted that they wished more school districts were as proactive as Northern Lehigh. Mr. Michaels added that school safety is not only an issue during the school day but also when the facilities are used in the evening. Lastly, it was emphasized again, that when you call 911, the police are in charge and parents cannot have all of the details. Mr. Michaels added that Northern Lehigh School District has a team that sits on the counterterrorism task force for this region.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Mr. Michaels asked Mr. Vlasaty to update the board on recent events at the high school. Mr. Vlasaty reported on the recent searches conducted at the High School due to incidents that occurred in the community. The second search went very well. Mr. Vlasaty commended the High School staff for their cooperation. A connect-ed call was also sent to inform parents. At the recent safety task force meeting, the state police commended us on our wand searches and advised us to continue that practice.

Mr. Michaels asked Mr. Scott Pyne to discuss his first couple of weeks as acting principal at Slatington Elementary. Mr. Pyne commented that he is very excited about the changes taking place. With the help of Mrs. Sue Mengel, Mrs. Sue Beil and the rest of the faculty, we should be getting recognized by the IU for full implementation of the Tier 1 positive behavior support. He further stated that PSSA testing is underway and running smoothly, and with the help of Mrs. Kristie Borger, the curriculum is transitioning into the common core. Mr. Michaels added that last week Mr. Pyne participated in a very good team building activity with the staff.

Mr. Hartman reported that an executive session was held prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Appointment Instructional	Samantha Sontag Assignment	Temporary Vacancy Replacement High School Science Teacher replacing an employee on family medical leave.	
	Salary:	Substitute Teacher Rate Days 1-30; Day 31 and beyond \$44,000 prorated (Step 1 Bachelors on the 2012-2013 CBA Salary Schedule)	
	Effective:	February 8, 2013	
	Termination Date:	upon return of full time employee	
Family Medical Leave	Approve the request of employee #1410 to take a twelve week Family Medical Leave beginning on March 11, 2013 for medical reasons. She will be using accumulated sick days in conjunction with her family medical leave. She plans to return to her current teaching position upon release from Her physician on or about April 15, 2013.		
Substitute- Instructional	Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2012-2013 school year at the 2012-2013 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:		
	Jenimida Christiansen* – Social Studies		
	*Pending verification of Missing Documents		
Co-Curricular Appointments 2013-2014	Jeff Miller	Head Boy's Basketball Coach	\$7,084.32
	Dennis Rehrig	Asst. Boy's Basketball Coach	\$4,604.11
	Richard Mantz	Asst. Boy's Basketball Coach (JH)	\$4,604.11
	Trevor Miller	MS Boy's Basketball Coach	\$3,099.11
	Anthony Thomas	Head Girl's Basketball Coach	\$7,084.32
	Brandon Hibbler	Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach	\$4,604.11
	Sarah Arndt	MS Girl's Basketball Coach	\$4,512.82
	Steve Hluschak, Jr.*	Head Wrestling Coach	\$7,084.32
	Kathi Neff	Cheerleading Advisor – Shared Stipend	\$1,565.36
	LeAnn Hoch	Cheerleading Advisor – Shared Stipend	\$1,565.36
	*Pending verification of missing personnel file items		
Co-Curricular Volunteers 2013-2014	Mike Mantz	Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach	
	Richard Roberts IV	Assistant Boy's Basketball Coach	
	Jaclyn Follweiler	Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach	
	Michael Hofmann, Jr.	Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach	
Game Workers 2012-2013	Approve the following person as a Game Worker for the 2012-2013 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 2012-2013 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule: Katrina Wehr		

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

Mrs. Ganser questioned the family medical leave approval for twelve weeks when it is only for 4 weeks. Mrs. Molitoris and Mr. Michaels commented that you are approved for up to twelve weeks.

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

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

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

Homebound  
Instruction

It is recommended that the Board of Education grant homebound instruction for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade student, Student No. 1890174, for five hours per week, effective March 5, 2013 and continuing until approximately April 16, 2013.

Field Trips  
Senior Class

Senior Class Trip – High School – Six Flags Great Adventure – Jackson, NJ – May 31, 2013 - Funded by Class of 2013 and IDEA grant.

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

NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approve the following conferences:

Michele Dotta – Positive Behavior Support Network Implementers' Forum - May 29-30, 2013 – Hershey, PA – Registration - \$50.00, Lodging - \$143.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$193.00 – Funding: Special Education Director's Budget

Suzanne Mengel – Positive Behavior Support Network Implementers' Forum – May 29-30, 2013 – Hershey, PA - Registration - \$50.00, Lodging - \$143.00, Travel - \$56.40 – Total Approximate Cost: \$249.40 – Funding: Special Education Director's Budget

Ellen Yenser - Positive Behavior Support Network Implementers' Forum – May 29-30, 2013 – Hershey, PA - Registration - \$50.00, Lodging - \$143.00, Travel - \$49.80 – Total Approximate Cost: \$242.80 – Funding: Special Education Director's Budget

Amy Zeiser - Positive Behavior Support Network Implementers' Forum – May 29-30, 2013 – Hershey, PA - Registration - \$50.00, Lodging - \$143.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$193.00 – Funding: Special Education Director's Budget

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

NAY: None (0)

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**Facilities  
Plan  
Committee  
Report  
2013-2014

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approve the following curriculum and instruction items:

**RESOLVED:** It is recommended that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors approve the 2013-2014 Facilities Plan Committee Report that was adopted by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on February 22, 2013. 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.

CLIU  
Driver  
Education  
Program

Approve to authorize proper officials to ratify a contractual agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to continue the Driver Education Program in our district at a cost of \$2,000.00 no change in cost over last year, effective July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

**CURRIC-  
ULUM AND  
INSTRUC-  
TION**

**(cont.)**

Non-  
Resident  
Students

Approve the request of the parents of a first grade student at Peters Elementary School, who are moving out of the school district at the end of April, to allow their student to finish the 2012-2013 school year in Northern Lehigh School District in accordance with school board policy #202.

PDE  
E-Signature  
Agreement

Approve the resolution to allow Northern Lehigh School District to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's e-signature program which will allow us to enter into any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses with the Pennsylvania Department of Education using an electronic signature thereby saving on paper and postage.

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

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

Resolution  
Urging Pension  
Reform

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Resolution Urging Pension Reform, as presented.

Resolution  
PlanCon

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Resolution Urging Increased State Funding for School Construction and Renovation Projects, as presented.

Resolution  
Reform of  
Charter  
School  
Funding  
Formulas

RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the Resolution calling for Reform of the Commonwealth's Charter and Cyber Charter School Funding Formulas, as presented.

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

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial  
Reports

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

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:  
General Fund months of March and April  
Refreshment Stand month of March  
Cafeteria Fund month of March

CLIU Power  
School  
Agreement  
2013-2018

Authorize administration to enter into an agreement with Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to continue serving the district's student information system needs with Pearson (formerly Apple) PowerSchool. The effective date of this agreement is July 1, 2013 and will be in effect for 5 years and thereafter will automatically renew for successive one year terms. First year usage fee is \$24,225.00 and is based on 1,900 students at a cost of \$12.75 annually per student. Usage fees are subject to increase based on current prices with the guarantee that the usage fee will not increase more than 3% from the previous year.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. 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 February 27, 2013 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on February 7, 2013 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on January 30, 2013 were distributed.

Mr. Williams wished the Administration, teachers and students luck during the upcoming PSSA testing.

**ADJOURN-**  
**MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

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