

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
January 11, 2021

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order virtually, via Google Meet, by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:06 p.m. on Monday, January 11, 2021.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Michele L. Martineau, and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. James Schnyderite, Mr. Robert Vlasaty, Ms. Paige Craddock (Jr. Rep.) and Mr. Aidan Williams (Sr. Rep.)

VISITORS Approximately two hundred and forty-eight visitors viewed the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Keegan made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the minutes of the reorganization and regular board meeting held on December 1, 2020, be approved and ordered filed.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that there was a December meeting. The CLIU did a Zoom video with the students. It was a really awesome program and it is posted on their website at cliu.org. The CLIU will continue to have the same number of board members. A representative from each district will be on the board. CLIU budget will be coming due in March/April. There is no increase to the district.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha reported that there was a December meeting. Mr. Fedorcha has been re-elected as Chairman and Mr. David Heim from Parkland has been re-elected as Vice-Chairman. LCTI has prepared their budget and will be presenting to the district in the next month. LCTI is still in a hybrid situation with board meetings.

Legislative Report - Mrs. Heckman reported that there were no state bills on education at this time. She did not report on the second stimulus or any COVID relief because it is covered in more detail when shared by Dr. Stoker or Superintendent Link.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green reported that LCCC had a pretty good month. LCCC approved their budget and copies will be sent out. Northern Lehigh is getting a couple dollars decrease, nothing significant. LCCC had two people recently give \$1,000,000 donations. First one was a gentleman named Cliff Miller who was one of the first professors of technology. His donation will be used for technology scholarships. The second person was a gentleman named Nevin Remaley, a former American Airline pilot from Lehigh. His donation will be used for aviation scholarships. A company (can't be named at this time) started a pilot program with LCCC several months ago. They had 30 people in the first program which was successful and it has continued with three additional classes. It's a great program for the college and the college has received equipment from the company. This company has picked two schools nationwide to do their Phase 2 training program and LCCC is one of them.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on January 4, 2021, were distributed.

Minutes of the Extra and Co-Curricular Committee Meeting held on January 4, 2021, were distributed.

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on January 6, 2021, were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on January 6, 2021, were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Ms. Paige Craddock reported that for the first time, Northern Lehigh has had an Artist of the Month, Keona Dyer. Her artwork can be seen in the most recent edition of News Slate. Congrats to her. National Honor Society will host their induction ceremony this week to welcome new members and officers. New members include Aicha Salih, Gabriel Diaz, Brittney Diehl, Danielle Dougherty, Emily Hunsicker, Caitlin Kirk, Brianna Kuntz, Cameron Kuntz, Sophia Lear, Ryan Lynch, Caelin Mack, Madelynn Mack, and Abigail Williams. This year's officers are Riley Griffith as president, Kendall Heiney, vice president, Aidan Williams, secretary, Owen Levan-Uhler, treasurer, and Nia Nicholson, historian. Keystone exams are rescheduled to January 19th to the 25th.

Mr. Aidan Williams reported that the Northern Lehigh Band and Choir released their virtual holiday concert just before the winter break. The middle school and Slatington elementary band and choirs were included this year. The spring musical this year will be Nunsense. It's a musical comedy about nuns who need to raise money. It will be a virtual play just like the fall play this past semester. Winter sports will begin on January 16th. Sports games will start at the end of the month.

Business Manager's Report - Mrs. Rhonda Frantz reported that board members should have received a delivery from Mr. Utsch of the Single Audit Report. If there are any questions, please reach out to Mrs. Frantz or Mrs. Molitoris. It will be on February's board meeting for approval.

Mrs. Molitoris reported that at the end of every year we have to post on the municipal securities rulemaking board. The district must report on the EMMA website for our bonds. We have to post our district budget, end of year financial report, and audited statement by our auditors, along with giving the tax information. It must be posted by December 27th and presented at a board meeting that all that information was done. It was done by December 27th and the district is in compliance for the bond issues that were issued and we currently are paying on.

Mr. Green asked where the district is at with revenue collections. There were some concerns last year that they would be down. Mrs. Molitoris reported that at this time we are not seeing a big reduction in the tax collection rate. We're pretty much on par for what we were anticipating on collecting this year from our local real estate taxes and EIT taxes have been coming in very strong again this year.

Assistant Superintendent - Dr. Stoker reported that the books set up on the board room table in the opening picture of the virtual board meeting are the books that are being donated tonight on behalf of our school board members to our school libraries so that NLSD students and staff can check them out. On behalf of our librarians, Mrs. Tiedeman, Mrs. Frank, Mr. Green and Mrs. Vernarr, who are either on this call or watching our YouTube channel tonight, students and staff, I would like to thank the school board members for these donations.

Mrs. Tiedeman took the opportunity to say thank you very much for your continued support of the libraries and literacy at Northern Lehigh.

Dr. Stoker reported that on behalf of the district, she'd also like to take this opportunity during board appreciation month to say thank you for all that you do as board members for this district. You all volunteer a great deal of time to ensure that our students get the best education and have a variety of opportunities available to them. We recognize that the job of a board member has been even more difficult this year as we navigate educating students during a pandemic.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Dr. Stoker reminded the board that there is not a federal testing waiver and there's not expected to be one either during the 2020-2021 school year. So, as communicated out by Principal Vlasaty, our winter Keystone exams are set to begin at the high school on January 19th. On January 19th and 21st, Algebra 1 will be administered. January 20th will be Keystone make ups. On January 22nd and 25th, Literature will be administered and make ups will follow afterwards. Only students who are testing on these days should report to the high school. Students who are not involved in testing will attend classes virtually from the 19th through the 25th. Students who attend LCTI will also be virtual on those days. Additionally, the WIDA or Access for ELLs testing will also begin on January 19th. Each student in our English Language Development program will take four assessments in listening, reading, writing, and speaking. Last week, the state extended this testing window a second time through April 23rd to provide the maximum flexibility for districts to administer the Access safely and to as many students as possible. Mrs. Lieberman and Mrs. Mattiola, our ELDP teachers, will be reaching out to families to let them know the specific days and times that students will test.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link shared his appreciation of the board on behalf of the entire district for their continued dedication and efforts on behalf of our students, staff, administration and the entire Northern Lehigh community.

Mr. Link reminded board members and all administrators that the ethics forms are currently enroute, so keep an eye out for those and be sure to return them by April to the central office.

Mr. Link reported that St. Luke's University Health Network had donated four (4) Stop the Bleed Kits to the school district. Officers Gnas coordinated the training with St. Luke's, some of our school nurses and other personnel on how to use these in the event of an emergency. Mr. Link also thanked the Mickley/Fravel Charitable Trust donation. They donated \$1,000 to the Backpack Buddies program which is one of our meal stability programs for our students and their families.

Mr. Link introduced Don Marangoni and John Gunning from the McClure Company, McClure is a company that the district partnered with for our guaranteed energy savings work done over the past few years and they've been invited to join this evening and they presented last Wednesday at the Buildings & Grounds and Technology meeting. The district requested that they conduct a COVID study for all the buildings in the district and come back with recommendations on how to best mitigate the spread of the virus through HVAC alterations or upgrades and plumbing alterations or upgrades.

A PowerPoint presentation was shared with the board and community. McClure Company shared who they were and the districts they work with in Pennsylvania. In November, they walked the district buildings with Mr. Greg Derr and looked at all the different areas. McClure uses the CDC guidelines. They make sure that the HVAC is sufficient in the buildings, Upgrading filters if the equipment is able to handle it and utilizing technology such as bipolar ionization to clean the air. Also installing hands-free fixtures and hands-free water fountains. Mr. Gunning did the high level report of the buildings. The purpose of the report is to help school districts understand what's all the different pieces of guidance that come from PDE, CDC, ASHRAE and DOH. The report helps the district understand which recommendations may or may not be applicable to buildings. Mr. Gunning explained bipolar ionization. Historically, this technology has been around for a number of years and where we would have seen it over the last 10-20 years would have been in situations where you are looking to mitigate odors from locker room spaces and for energy savings purposes. Bipolar ionization works by either the device is added to the ductwork or within the existing unit itself and it creates ions which are positive and negatively charged. It's the ions that do the work in terms of the virus and the air cleaning. Samples of the installation devices were pictured on the PowerPoint. The benefits of bipolar ionization are agglomerates particles, inactivates viruses, kills bacteria, eliminates odor and future opportunities to reduce energy. McClure offers pre and post testing of spaces to document the effectiveness of the equipment. Proposed investment for bipolar ionization for Northern Lehigh is \$249,500. Start to finish to complete the process would be about 7 weeks. Touchless plumbing fixtures prices were also included in the presentation such as water bottle fillers and sink faucets. The schedule for touchless plumbing would be anywhere from 8-10 weeks and 12-15 weeks.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS (cont.)

Mr. Link asked what happens if we don't get the results we anticipate. Mr. Gunning answered that it has happened and what was found that the outer parameters may be affecting the measurements because it's not a sealed environment. Outdoor readings can affect the inside reading.

Mrs. Husack asked where these costs would come from? Mr. Link explained that anything proposed tonight, that the board would support, would either be from the current ESSERS/COVID Relief funds that are available, the \$45,000 disbursement from the state which was held by the state in the first release, or from the ESSERS II fund which is not officially disbursed but has been shared with the district which is estimated to be \$1,352,173. This work would be fully funded through these sources, not through the general operating budget. All of these projects have been identified as allowable.

Mrs. Heckman asked Mr. Link to explain what we are allowed to spend these grants on. Mr. Link shared a document to show the eligible uses under the ESSER II and the upgrades are included in the eligible uses.

Mrs. Husack asked by removing the current water fountains and going to a bottle filling station, will the students being able to have certain water bottles be changing? In the past, middle school for instance, they couldn't bring in water bottles unless doctor approved. Mr. Link commented that that model is currently still in place right now as part of the Health & Safety Plan. Some of the things we learned through all of this is our students and children have been really responsible with this and we'll look to the principals to weigh in on this. Mrs. Chamberlain commented that the middle school students have been excellent. Mr. Schnyderite commented that it is the same at Peters Elementary. Mr. Vlasaty also agreed with the high school. Paige Craddock commented that she would like to have a filtered bottle filler at the high school especially as an athlete going from school to tournaments. McClure Company explained the filters in the bottle fillers. The filters are good for about a year.

HVAC Upgrades

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, per the recommendation of administration and Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting approve the HVAC upgrades at a cost not to exceed \$249,500, funding through the ESSERS/COVID Relief funds.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Touchless Faucets Denied

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee to approve the installation of 113 touchless faucets at a cost not to exceed \$135,600, funding through the ESSERS/COVID Relief funds.

Mrs. Heckman asked if any of our buildings or any of our facilities currently have touchless faucets? Mr. Link commented yes, all of Slatington Elementary and district office. Mr. Green commented that he does not carry a bottle with him at all times. These are also 15 weeks out. We are looking at the end of the semester and won't be in effect until next school year. There are other things that the money can be spent on. We can buy technology and curriculum for our students. Mrs. Heckman commented that the lead time on the items is quite a bit and it's a lot of money. Mr. Distler asked if the COVID funding is short term? Mrs. Molitoris said it needs to be used by 2023. Mr. Link commented that there are other allowable uses for the funds. Mr. Link commented that even if the board did all of the upgrades, there would still be \$950,000 left to spend towards instruction and technology. Mrs. Molitoris commented that these funds must be used towards new purchases. We cannot use them to supplement items that are already part of the general fund budget. Mr. Kern also commented about using it towards cleaning supplies and technology. Mr. Keegan asked what was the recommendation of the committee. Mr. Link commented that administration is recommending the faucets and the HVAC upgrades and selected fountains. The committee supported the HVAC upgrades and the faucets but there was disagreement on the water bottle filling stations. Mr. Keegan commented that the safety of our children and staff is primary here. Mrs. Martineau commented that she has spoken with medical professionals and they are "pro" on the kids

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

having water bottles with them through the day for health reasons and sanitation reasons. Mr. Fedorcha clarified that the motion is in regards to the touchless faucets, not the fountains. Mr. Derr commented that battery life has been excellent on the touchless faucets.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Keegan, Mr. Distler (2)

NAY: Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Green, and Mr. Fedorcha (7)
Motion denied.

**Bubblers and
Bottle Filling
Stations**

Motion made by Mr. Kern, which was seconded by Mrs. Heckman, to approve combination bubbler and bottle filling stations not to exceed 25 at a cost of \$170,000, funding through the ESSERS/COVID Relief funds.

Mrs. Heckman commented that from what she is hearing, there is water coming out of the faucets that is yellow or not enjoyable to drink at the high school. Is this an issue at Slatington or Peters? Mr. Derr commented that occasionally in the borough if they flush lines or use the fire hydrants, sometimes there is yellow or discolored water. The high school, in particular, we've made a couple of plumbing repairs and we have had to shut down the water to the entire building. So, when that happens, it rouses up the water in the lines. Eventually the yellow tinge does go away. Slatington and Peters does not have a problem, it's primarily at the middle school and high school. Mr. Green asked if putting water bottle filling stations in would prevent the scenario being discussed. Mr. Derr commented he wasn't sure if the filter would, he asked McClure Company to address the question. McClure said they would have to reach out to the manufacturer. It is adding a high-level filter to the water service. Mr. Kern asked Mr. Link to explain how many bubblers we're talking about in the entire district and the total cost. Mr. Kern asked if it's possible to put the water fillers in key spots in the building. Mrs. Martineau asked what if a student or teacher doesn't have a water bottle and all of the fountains have been replaced. Mr. Kern makes a good point that we could have a designated water bottle filling station and not replace every single source. Mr. Link commented that currently there are 38 water fountains within the district, which if we were to do them all, would be \$242,500. Since the last meeting, administration has revisited the topic and even if it was just one station per building level or for a building as large as Slatington, two upstairs and two downstairs. We can configure them however the board directs for a total number of stations throughout the district. Mr. Marangoni explained that you can have a single filler or you can have a filler with a bubbler on it. Mr. Link commented that initially, administration had recommended 38 of the water bottle filling stations and there are more water fountains than that located in the district, traditional height one and ADA accessible ones next to them. Mr. Kern commented that the gymnasium area would be used by athletes and people in the stands. Mrs. Heckman commented that she is onboard with replacing a few in each building. Mr. Link and board members discussed how many bottle filling stations would be needed throughout the district. The consensus was that anywhere from 20-25 would be needed.

Mr. Hill read comments from attendees. What about the water smelling like pool water? Will the water bottle filling stations replace water fountains or will drinking water still be available to students without a bottle? Mr. Link commented that potentially there may be a motion where there would be some of each. Another comments, as a community member we don't even drink right from a faucet, we filter it. I think bottle stations are a good idea, not only for better, filtered water, but also for illness beyond Covid. Another comment, the PTO is always looking for things to donate to students and staff, we would be happy to look into donating water bottles if this is an issue holding back the filling stations. Parents who said their kids would like a water bottle filling station.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Mr. Link reminded the public that the target date for a return to the hybrid model for students continues to be January 19th. We'll be sending notification out to the community by the end of the day on Wednesday reminding them of that. We continue to track any recent cases between now and Wednesday. Once we return to the hybrid model, we are still bound to follow the requirements in the attestation statement which means that any given number of cases in any building could force a return to the fully remote model for that building for short-term closure.

Mr. Kern asked Mr. Link if there are any school districts in Northampton or Lehigh County that have decided, with the discussion that was in the news, to send elementary students, specifically K to 3, back to five days a week. Mr. Link commented that the last time we met as a Superintendent's group was the morning of when that information was released and we've not reconvened since then. Mr. Link commented that initially it may have been misinterpreted by some people. It's not a recommendation to bring them back for five days a week, it's a recommendation to return them to the blended model for districts that have been in the fully remote model. Mr. Kern commented that he did a little research in Montgomery and Buck County and 40%-60% of the elementary students are in full time. He can't say enough or emphasize enough that those are essential years of skill building and if there's any chance that we could send our elementary students in earlier, he would be all for that. Mr. Keegan agreed with Mr. Kern. He has a grandson in the Radnor School District and he goes five days a week. It's happening elsewhere and if we can possibly bring our youngest kids back, it's critical and he would support it.

Executive Session An executive session was held at 6:00 p.m. virtually via Google Meet to discuss personnel, negotiations and legal purposes.

PERSONNEL Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Keegan that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items A through I:

Retirement With regret, accept the retirement resignation of Ellen Yenser from her position as
E. Yenser High School Emotional Support Teacher, effective January 25, 2021. Ms. Yenser will
be retiring from the Northern Lehigh School District after 27.5 years of service.

Resignation Accept the resignation of Mariel Cordero-Ledesma from her position as Long Term
M. Cordero- Substitute teacher, effective January 22, 2021.
Ledesma

Family Approve the request of employee #2630 to take a twelve week family medical leave of
Medical absence beginning on December 4, 2020, in conjunction with workers' compensation.
Leaves

Approve the request of employee #7146 to take a child-rearing leave of absence, beginning on January 11, 2021, through the end of the 2020-2021 school year in accordance with Appendix D of the 2017-2021 NLEA Collective Bargaining Agreement. Employee plans to return to her teaching position at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year.

Approve employee #6813 to take a twelve week medical leave of absence for their own health reasons beginning on January 4, 2021. Employee is requesting to use accumulated sick days and upon exhaustion of sick days employee is applying for a family medical leave of absence. Employee plans to return to their current position on or about February 4, 2021 or upon release from attending physician.

Unpaid Approve the request of employee #7147 to extend her unpaid leave of absence, in
Leave of accordance with Appendix D of the 2017-2021 NLEA Collective Bargaining Agreement,
Absence from January 26, 2021, through April 17, 2021.

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Sabbatical Leave Approve the request of employee #650 to take a Compensated Sabbatical Leave for the second half of the 2020-2021 school year.

Salary Adjustment Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle them to a salary increase for the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year:

Jennifer Balliet
 From: Step 6B+24
 To: Step 6M

Game Workers 2020-2021 Motion to appoint the following list of people as Game Workers for the 2020-2021 school year. Game workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges and scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2020-2021 Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Chris Baumann Matt Newhard
 Steve Martinez David Pristash

Substitute Instructional Motion to approve the appointment of the following substitute teacher for the 2020-2021 school year at the 2020-2021 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Drake Pristash* – Health & Physical Education
***Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Substitute Non-Instructional Motion to renew the appointment of the following individual as a substitute paraprofessional for the 2020-2021 school year at the 2020-2021 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Kim Deprill

Co-Curricular Appointment 2020-2021	Timothy Weaber	Slatington Elementary Yearbook	\$650
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Renew Co-Curricular Appointment 2020-2021 Motion to renew the appointment of the following Co-Curricular positions for the 2020-2021 school year:

Drake Pristash	Track & Field Assistant Coach	\$3,335
Rajeev Gupta	MS Track & Field Coach	\$3,016

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)
 Motion carried.

Mr. Link took a moment to recognize Ms. Ellen Yenser. She has been so dedicated to our students and community. She taught when we had a school in Walnutport. She's taught at the middle school and the high school with supporting some of our most at-risk students and students with special needs. Thanked her for her service to our students and our community and to her colleagues. Mr. Vlasaty commented that he's sad to see her go. She's been a stalwart member of our family at

PERSONNEL Northern Lehigh. She's been in multiple buildings throughout her career and she's done an outstanding job at the high school. Her colleagues, the administration and her students will miss her greatly. Mrs. Dotta added that she has done such a wonderful job with some of the most challenging students that we've had. She did a wonderful job with being secretary of the union for many years. She will be greatly missed.

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

Policy Approve school board policy #203 - Pupils - Immunizations and Communicable
First Diseases, as presented after first reading.
Reading

Approve school board policy #209 - Pupil - Health Examinations/Screenings, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #314 - Employees - Physical Examination, as presented after first reading.

Approve school board policy #815.2 - Operations - Livestream Video, as presented after first reading.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION** Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction items:

Induction Approve the following teacher as a helping teacher in the Northern Lehigh School
Program District Induction Program for the 2020-2021 school year:

Helping Teacher	Inductee	Stipend
Amanda Bashore	Melissa Bowers	\$200.00

Roll Call.

YEA: Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

**NEW
BUSINESS** Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item:

Resolution **WHEREAS**, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of
for School Pennsylvania and local communities in meeting the needs of public education since the passage of
Board Director the Free School Act in 1834; and
Recognition
Month

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this non-paid, volunteer public service commitment; and

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women who serve on the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors:

- Robin T. Distler
- Gary S. Fedorcha
- Mathias J. Green, Jr.
- Michelle M. Heckman
- Gale N. Husack
- Robert J. Keegan, Jr.
- Robert L. Kern, Jr.
- Donna M. Kulp
- Michele L. Martineau

should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania School Boards Association hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month in this commonwealth; and

FURTHER RESOLVE that this proclamation be communicated to all school districts, school officials and local communities in a planned program which brings visibility and awareness of the role of locally elected school officials to the citizenry of this commonwealth.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Heckman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items A through G:

Financial Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

- 1. General Fund Account months of September, October, and November, 2020 (Audited)

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

- 1. General Fund months of December 2020 and January 2021
- 2. Cafeteria Fund month of December 2020

Per Capita Abatements/Exonerations

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

Act 1 Tax Levy Resolution

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2006, the Pennsylvania legislature passed Act 1 of Special Session 2006, entitled the "Taxpayer Relief Act" (hereinafter "Act 1");

WHEREAS, Act 1 requires school districts to limit tax increases to the level set by an inflation index unless the tax increase is approved by voters in a referendum or the school district obtains from the Department of Education or a court of common pleas certain referendum exceptions;

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

WHEREAS, Act 1 does, however, allow a board of school directors to elect to adopt a resolution indicating that it will not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the public schools for the following fiscal year by more than its index, provided this resolution must be adopted no later than 110 days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the upcoming fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District index for the 2021-2022 fiscal year is 4%;

WHEREAS, the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors has made the decision that it shall not raise the rate of any tax for the support of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2021-2022 fiscal year by more than its index.

AND NOW, on this 11th day of January 2021, it is hereby RESOLVED by the Northern Lehigh School District (hereinafter "District") Board of Directors (hereinafter "Board") the following:

1. The Board certifies that it will not increase any school district tax for the 2021-2022 school year at a rate that exceeds the index as calculated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.
2. The Board certifies that it will comply with the procedures set forth in Section 687, of the Pennsylvania Public School Code (hereinafter "School Code"), 24 P.S. §6-687, for the adoption of its proposed and final budget.
3. The Board certifies that increasing any tax at a rate less than or equal to the index will be sufficient to balance its final budget of the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
4. The Administration of the District will submit the District's information on a proposed increase in the rate of a tax levied for the support of the District to the Pennsylvania Department of Education on the uniform form prepared by the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
5. The Administration of the District will send a copy of this Resolution to the Pennsylvania Department of Education no later than five days after the Board's adoption of this Resolution.
6. The Board understands and agrees that by passing this Resolution it is not eligible to seek referendum exceptions under Section 333(f) of Act 1 and is not eligible to request approval from the voters through a referendum to increase a tax rate by more than the index as established for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.
7. Once this Resolution is passed, the Administration of the District is not required to comply with the preliminary budget requirements set forth in paragraphs (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1. Provided, however:
 - (a) The Board understands and agrees that, upon receipt of the information submitted by the District as set forth in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall compare the District's proposed percentage increase in the rate of the tax with the index.
 - (b) Within ten days of the receipt of this information, the Pennsylvania Department of Education shall inform the District whether its proposed tax rate increase is less than or equal to the index.
 - (c) If the Pennsylvania Department of Education determines that the District's proposed increase in the rate of the District's tax exceeds the index, the District is subject to the preliminary budget requirements as set forth in paragraph (a) and (c) of Section 311 of Act 1.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

E-Rate Service Point to Point Per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve the renewal of a five (5) year E-Rate Service Agreement with PenTeleData for Point to Point connectivity between Northern Lehigh School District and Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 in the amount of \$761.25 per month. This contract will run from 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2026.

E-Rate Service Dark Fiber Per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee, approve the renewal of a five (5) year E-Rate Service Agreement with PenTeleData for Dark Fiber Point to Point connectivity between Slatinton Elementary School and Peters Elementary School in the amount of \$540.00 per month. This contract will run from 7/1/2021 through 6/30/2026.

T-Mobile Hot Spots Per the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee, approve an agreement with T-Mobile to provide CIPA-compliant, education-only filtered internet access for our students who do not have internet access at their home, so they can utilize their laptops and Chromebooks. 24 month term for 10 devices. Devices will be funded through the ESSER Grant.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

INFOR-
MATION

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meetings held on October 1, 2020 and November 5, 2020 .

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on October 28, 2020.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 19, 2020 and November 16, 2020.

RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS

Mr. Fedorcha asked Mr. Hill if there were any comments or questions from guests.

Mr. Hill read a few questions. Eric King asked in reference to the elementary students attending five days, why do we need to play follow the leader, why can't we just decide as a district ourselves. Mr. Link commented that his remarks were not a characterization of following the leader, it was simply that he was responding to a question at the last time has there been a discussion and the answer is no, there has not. The last time the superintendents met was prior to that announcement. Richard Roberts asked if schools would go back to 5 days a week, would the 100% virtual students be able to stay virtual with their current teachers. Mr. Link commented that it would be something we would consider, we're not at the point where we could force families to return their children if they're not ready to do so. In fact, he would expect quite an exodus of students from the district if we tried to do that currently. One of the things we continue to try to work through is, if the number of students in the building were to increase beyond what we're seeing in the hybrid model, can we maintain social distancing. He did point out that with those recommendations from PDE and the Department of Health, they continue to emphasize 6 foot social distancing if a district were to increase the capacity in the buildings. Mr. Keegan commented that the way he reads what has been put out by the state is that 6 foot isn't the exact number anymore, it's to the maximum extent possible or maximum extent feasible. Those are the words being used by the state and that's very different than six feet. We need to consider that if we do decide to go back especially for our youngsters in Peters. Kristina Pollard asked why are we the only league in the area not allowing spectators to our home

games. PIAA states we can have them, which are the rules you follow, especially since football was allowed. Mr. Link commented that part of the logic between the difference between winter sports and football with spectators is that football is played in the outdoors and what we know about the spread of the virus is much more likely to occur with larger number of people indoors which is why are having the conversation about the bipolar ionization devices. Mr. Geist commented that in regards to the league, our sports medicine providers gave that recommendation and the league voted on that but it can be revisited. There have been a number of things that have changed since the fall and as Mr. Link pointed out that football and all of our other sports in the fall are played outside. We now have indoor sports. In addition to that, Mr. Fedorcha and Mr. Link had to sign an attestation page, in fact every other school in our league had to sign that, if there are any cases attributed to anything in the stands, that would also contribute to our numbers. At this point, we are going to revisit it and we said if the numbers continue to go down, if we get new information, if things change, spectators will be allowed in but at this point, for the best interes and safety of all of our athletes, that's the recommendation we have from our medical partners.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mrs. Martineau made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned at 9:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha