

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, August 5, 2024**

**Immediately Following Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
Administration Office
Board Room**

Committee Members					Remaining Meeting Dates
X	Donna Kulp - Chairperson	X	Lori Bali	Gene Marks	August 5, 2024
	Natalie Snyder - Co- Chairperson	X	Todd Breiner	X Sherri Molitoris	September 3, 2024
X	Chad Christman	X	Michele Dotta	X Scott Pyne	November 4, 2024
X	Gary Fedorcha	X	Nichole Fink	X James Schnyderite	
X	Rhonda Frantz		Bryan Geist	Tania Stoker	
X	Mathias Green	X	David Hauser	X Michael Strohl	
X	Gale Husack	X	Eric Hill		
	Robert Kern	X	Matthew Link		
	Angela Williams		Christopher Mann		

Also in attendance: Mary Frank, Steve Haas

- Cafeteria Update
 - Finance Committee Meeting Notes:
 1. Staff- 2 openings for cooks helper positions one at PE and one at SE. 10 people applied we have 6 interviews scheduled or that have already taken place. Will decide on candidates by end of the week.
 2. School year audit and Summer SSO Audit both came to an end. Our department is in compliance, with no significant findings.

3. Summer Food service program- August 8th this Thursday last day- serving the kinder quest incoming kindergarten group over the 6th, 7th, and 8th.

4. Upcoming Catered events:

a. Providing breakfast and lunch for teacher induction this year on the 12th, 14th and 15th of this month

b. Providing breakfast for the new teacher orientation on Tuesday the 13th

c. Planning an employee wellness breakfast the following week on Wednesday the 21st

5. Planning of various meal service styles for upcoming school year:

a. L & L at High School- Solidified plan with food service staff for the lunch and learn schedule for this upcoming year. Any micro purchases for that have been made and supplies have been delivered so we are ready to go with that.

b. "Merged" Lunches at Middle School- serving 7th and 8th graders together

c. Grab and Go breakfast for 6th graders only at Slatington Elementary

d. No significant change in meal service style at Peters Elementary

e. Hopefully with these modifications we will be able to provide a faster service and still maintain our meal participation.

6. Singer equipment- both dishwashers and steamer were ordered at the end of June. Waiting on a status update on the order from Singer. If not able to be installed prior to the school year starting, will plan to utilize foam trays and close dish room during that time frame.

- [Auxiliary Salary Schedule](#)

- No changes to the Auxiliary Salary Schedule for 2024-2025 school year
- Look at increasing substitute rates during the 2025-2026 school year which will be evaluated during creation of the 2025-2026 budget
- This will be on the August Board agenda for consideration for approval.

- State Budget Update

- Mrs. Molitoris provided an update on the State Budget and it's impact on NLSD.
- Basic Education increased by \$225M

- Base reset for the 2024-2025 school year; prior years was set at 2015-2016 base and no district could receive lower than what school districts received in that year
 - NL amount received over 2023-2024 was \$180,664
- Hold Harmless new \$60M only 182 school district received
 - Money was given to school districts that were receiving less basic education funding this year due to resetting the base and not running all additional money through the funding formula
- Special Education funding increased by \$100M
 - NL amount received over 2023-2024 was \$102,108
- Ready To Learn Block Grant flat funded
- New Tax Equity Investment increase \$32M which will be added to the RTL base moving forward
 - NL is only school in Lehigh and Northampton Counties to receive this additional funding and one of only 50 school districts receiving funding
 - NL's amount is \$24,008
 - Must be used for:
 - Mitigating or preventing an increase in the millage rate of real estate property taxes levied by the school district
 - Supplementing the amount calculated by the school district for the homestead and farmstead exclusion
 - Establishing maintaining, or expanding a program provided by the school district that supplements senior tax rebates
 - Mitigating or replacing the loss of revenue received by the school district resulting from a decision of a court of this commonwealth within the previous five years relating to an assessment appeal
 - Reducing debt
- \$100M funding for Mental Health and Safety Grant funded through PCCD
 - Combined grant this year
 - Each school will receive \$100K plus an amount based on the school district's ADM's
 - Eligible uses are permitted as in past years of funding for physical security and mental health
 - Not much more known about this - opens for application late August
 - Preliminary amount NL would receive is \$130,707
- \$100M for Cyber Charter Reimbursement
 - Districts will receive a pro rata share of the \$100M based on their share of the 2022-2023 total cyber charter expenditures
 - Indication is that this funding will continue in future years
 - No Cyber Charter regular education flat rate
 - January 2025 change will occur for the calculation of special education tuition for cyber charter schools

- Will be the lesser of 1) the regularly calculated rate (used of 16% of ADM's) or 2) the district's total special education expenses divided by the district's special education ADM's.
- NL estimated to pay \$40K less however no formal information has been provided yet and PASBO is still working on getting more information on how this reimbursement will work
- Other CCS reform highlights include
 - School districts must submit PDE 363 by 11/1 each year
 - Requires that paid media advertisement must advertise the cost of tuition or other expenses are covered by taxpayer dollars
 - Charter School is required to complete a certified audit each year
 - Cyber Charter School students are to be provided reasonable access to facilities for standardized testing.
- \$109M additional funding for Pupil Transportation
 - Used for shortfall in reimbursement received during the 2023-2024 school year and to make sure adequately funded for 2024-2025
- Overall NLSD received \$231K in additional revenue
 - \$99K can be used for current items in the school district budget
 - \$131K for Mental Health and Safety Grant

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 3, 2024