

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Regular Meeting Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
February 10, 2025

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Civility and Decorum – District officials and members of the public are expected to conduct themselves with civility and to afford each other a measure of dignity and respect. Shouting, personal insults, and attacks or any conduct that disrupts the flow of business is considered to be out of order. Members of the public are to direct their comments to the Board in its entirety, cannot single out Board Members for response, nor can a member of the public address specific issues with other members of the community who may be present at the meeting or who are virtually present if it is a virtual or hybrid meeting. In addition, members of the community shall not bring signs or placards to the meeting and shall not applaud or engage in any actions that would impede another community member's right to make comments at the meeting. At the discretion of the Board/Board President, individuals who are disruptive shall be subject to removal from the venue of the Board meeting, unless the disruptive individual agrees to maintain civility and decorum.

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., at 7:07 p.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024, in the Northern Lehigh Administration Building Board Room..

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Ms. Olivia Schaffer, Ms. Jalah Cook, Mr. Christopher Mann, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Nichole Fink, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Mr. David Jones, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Todd Breiner, Mr. Scott Pyne, Atty. Kristine Roddick, Dr. Lori Bali, Mr. James Schnyderite, and Mr. Daniel Williams.

VISITORS Approximately 4 visitors attended the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT Dr. Link commented there is no one that has signed up to speak this evening.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Christman made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on January 13, 2025 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - January 29 board meeting, included a visit from State Representative Doyle Hefley to the Carbon County Early Learning Center. The 2023-2024 audit report was received with a clean opinion, indicating no findings. The general operating budget remains unchanged, and there is an opening for an IU representative on the board. The Toy Adaptive Day event, where students from LCTI and CCTI adapted toys for special needs students, was successfully hosted on December 3.

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha reported the Skills Olympics held on January 22, 2025 where students from five school districts competed in various vocational skills. The budget has changed slightly due to increased student enrollment and students attending the academic center. Hiring of another security guard at LCTI is discussed due to the large facility size and growing student

numbers. Negotiations with support staff are ongoing, and a public auction for supplies will be held this year.

Legislative Report - Governor Shapiro's third budget address and defers further discussion to Sherry.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green reported on the declining enrollment at Lehigh Carbon Community College and the impact on the budget. The budget for the participating districts remains the same as last year, with a slight increase in tuition.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

- Minutes of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting held on February 3, 2025, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Education Committee Meeting held on February 3, 2025, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on February 3, 2025, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 3, 2025, were distributed.
- Minutes of the Community Relations Committee Meeting held on February 3, 2025, were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Ms. Jalah Cook and Ms. Olivia Schaffer provided updates on various upcoming events, including Valentine's Day card decoration by the Student Council and a Penn State admissions workshop. The National Honor Society induction ceremony was held on January 30, inducting 35 new members. Seniors Michaela Board and Matthew McCarty represented Northern Lehigh at the Lehigh Valley soccer scholar athlete ceremony.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Roddick discusses the transition back to the 2020 Title IX regulations and the need to update policies accordingly. The impact of recent executive orders from the new president's administration on school district operations is mentioned. The firm is monitoring the situation and providing updates to clients. The importance of compliance with the 2020 regulations for ongoing investigations is emphasized.

Business Manager's Report - Mrs. Molitoris provides an overview of the Governor's budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, including additional funding for Northern Lehigh. The potential impact of federal funding changes on the district's budget is mentioned.

Superintendent Report: Dr. Link recognizes and appreciates the school counselors and food services team for their contributions to student success. Recent achievements of Northern Lehigh High School students in the Skills USA Competition are celebrated.

SPECIAL Assistant Superintendent's Report - Dr. Stoker View Presentation [Here](#)

PERSONNEL

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves a motion to approve personnel items A through J:

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)
Motion carried.

POLICY Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Green that the Board of Education

approves the following policy item A:

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

CONFER- ENCES

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

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

CURRIC- ULUM AND INSTRUC TION

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

As per the recommendation of the administration and Education Committee, approve the Middle School Curriculum Guide for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

As per the recommendation of the administration and Education Committee, approve the High School Program of Study for the 2025-2026 school year, as presented.

As per the recommendation of the administration and the Education Committee to amend the motion approved and the January 13, 2025 board meeting for the purchase of additional Amplify CKLA materials to integrate it into learning support classrooms at a cost of \$12,315.52. Funding will come from the Educational Technology, Curriculum and Instruction Budget.

Mentor for Administrative Support Staff

Approve the following support staff assistants as mentors in accordance with the Northern Lehigh School District Administrative Support Staff Agreement:

<u>Mentor</u>	<u>New Employee</u>	<u>Stipend</u>
Kyle Kreamer	Ricardo Babilonia	\$200.00

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

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

As per the recommendation of the administration and Buildings & Grounds Committee, approve to allow Drum Corps International to utilize the High School, Fields, Field House, and Stadium Complex, on July 31 - August 3, 2025 for Boston Area Crusaders to practice and prepare for their competition in Allentown the evenings of August 1, 2 & 3, 2025. Their rehearsal in Bulldog Stadium is open to the local community at no cost to spectators.

Election of Members to the CLIU Board of Directors

The Board of Directors nominates Gale Husack as a candidate to be placed on the 2025 Ballot for

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Mrs. Frantz made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Christman that the Board of Education approves the following financial items A through L:

Approve the Following Financial Reports

1. NLSD Investments for the month of January 2025
2. General Fund Account for the month of January 2025
3. Cafeteria Fund Account for the month of January 2025
4. NLHS Student Scholarship Account for the month of January 2025
5. NLHS Student Activities/Clubs Account for the month of January 2025
6. NLMS Student Activities/Clubs Account for the month of January 2025

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of January and February, 2025
2. Cafeteria Fund months of January and February, 2025

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented. **(Attachment #21)**

Lehigh Carbon Community College 2025-2026 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2025-2026 Lehigh Carbon Community College Sponsor Contribution Budget. Total expenditures equal \$62,569,671.00 which represents an increase of \$1,020,890.00 or 1.7% over the 2024-2025 budget. Northern Lehigh's share of the total budget is \$159,840.00, a decrease of \$6,863.00 or -.4.1%.

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 2025-2026 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the 2025-2026 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Operational and Program Services budget. Total expenditures equal \$1,725,610.00 an increase of \$33,245.00 over the 2024-2025 budget. Northern Lehigh's share is proposed to be \$17,175, a decrease of \$379 from the 2024-2025 budget.

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute 2025-2026 Budget

Approve a resolution regarding the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute general fund budget and Academic Center expenditures for the 2025-2026 school year. The general fund budget total is \$33,499,540.00 an increase of \$1,535,345. Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2025-2026 general fund budget is \$1,433,761, an increase of \$40,480. The expenditures for the Academic Center budget for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 total \$2,720,871, an increase of \$195,438. Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2025-2026 Academic Center budget is \$50,866 an increase of \$27,539. This amount represents a 5 year rolling average of 5.62 students enrolled which is the second year of rolling average for students attending.

Approve to allow administration to continue membership in the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce at a fee of \$504.00 for the 2025-2026 school year, to be paid from the Superintendent's budget. (Attachment #22)

Accept the 2023-2024 audit and management report for the single audit ending June 30, 2024. A copy of the audit was distributed to all board members prior to this evening's meeting.

As per the recommendation from the administration and Technology Committee, approve the purchase of network equipment, accessories, and associated wiring to provide network access for the high school softball/baseball fields at a cost not to exceed \$11,500, funded through the 2024-25 Technology budget.

As per the recommendation from the administration and Technology Committee, approve a five-year agreement with Earth Networks for the Sferic protect lightning alarm monitoring at a cost of \$2,654 per year, funded through the athletic budget. (Attachment #23)

Per the recommendation of administration and the Finance Committee, approve a 3-year renewal agreement with Population Health Innovations effective July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028 for the purpose of providing Health eTools software for our school nurses to collect and report state required health related information. The total three year cost is \$12,977 an increase of \$812 over the prior 3-year agreement. (Attachment #24)

Per the recommendation of administration and the Finance Committee, approve a three year agreement with Willis Towers Watson Northeast, Inc as the district insurance broker effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 at a cost of \$25,000.00 per year as outlined in their proposal. (Attachment #25)

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

LEGAL

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

Expulsion Hearing Waiver Approval

The Board agrees to expulsion hearing waiver for Student #2790045. Student and guardian have agreed to waive their right to a formal expulsion hearing in front of the School Board and have also agreed to disciplinary action outlined in the waiver.

Expulsion Hearing Waiver Approval

The Board agrees to expulsion hearing waiver for Student #3090181. Student and guardian have agreed to waive their right to a formal expulsion hearing in front of the School Board and have also agreed to disciplinary action outlined in the waiver.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Mrs. Husack commented that I do have two items of correspondence. The first, if anybody is interested,

Lehigh Carbon Community College, there is an open candidate for Trustee At-Large. If anybody has any interest, we are to return nominations of who we would choose as a candidate by March 15th, so please visit Mr.

CORRESPONDENCE Mr. Kern commented can we make a nomination publicly?

Mr. Green commented each school district has the right to appoint one individual. This is at-large, so it can be anywhere in the college. It doesn't need to be from our district, but it certainly can be. And yes, we can take a motion tonight and move forward with it, if somebody wants to nominate someone.

Mr. Kern commented I'd like to nominate Gary Fedorcha.

Mr. Green commented okay, Gary has been nominated. Are there any other nominations? Mr. Fedorcha has been nominated, are there any other nominations? Hearing none, is there a motion to close nominations?

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the Board of Education approves to close nominations.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

INFORMATIONAL

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on December 5, 2024

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on December 16, 2024.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on December 11, 2024 and Reorganization Meeting held on December 11, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Christman, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned.

YEA: Mr. Chad Christman, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Mathias Green, Jr., Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Natalie Snyder, and Mrs. Angela Williams (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mr. Mathias Green, Jr.