

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

**Slatington, PA  
April 13, 2015**

**PURPOSE** The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:34 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2015, in the Administration Office Board Room.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Natalie J. Green, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams and Mr. Edward E. Hartman (9)

Members absent: (0)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Ms. Emily Bevans (Sr. Rep.), Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Gavin Kemery (Jr. Rep.), Mr. Paul Leonzi, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mrs. Tanya Simms, Attorney Charles Stopp (District Solicitor), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

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

**APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on March 9, 2015 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Legislative Report – Mr. Gregory Williams reported that the U.S. Senate Education Committee has introduced legislation to begin revamping No Child Left Behind. Mr. Williams gave a brief overview of the legislation that has bipartisan support. Mr. Williams reported that House Members in the state are introducing plans to increase sales tax and income tax to offset property taxes.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Green reported that LCCC was recently named one of the top five large employers in the Lehigh Valley. He also reported that the college's president, Dr. Ann Bieber, was voted the Outstanding CEO of large employers in the Lehigh Valley and one of the twenty most influential women in the Lehigh Valley. Mr. Green referenced a book that dealt with looking for strengths instead of concentrating on weaknesses. Mr. Green stated that he was very impressed a few months ago with the presentation done by the principals outlining our goals to improve test scores and he asked that we seriously look into developing our strengths here at Northern Lehigh.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Minutes of the Education/Policy Committee Meeting held on April 7, 2015 were distributed.

Minutes of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee Meeting held on April 8, 2015 were distributed.

Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings held on March 9, 2015 and April 8, 2015 were distributed.

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Ms. Emily Bevans and Mr. Gavin Kemery distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas reported that the NLEA had a fundraiser at the Burger King on March 31, 2015 and raised \$375. The proceeds will be given to the elementary school libraries. Mrs. Nicholas thanked the NLEA for their donation.

Mrs. Nicholas announced that today was the kickoff of the PSSA's at Slatington Elementary and the Middle School. Mrs. Nicholas thanked the technology department for being at the Middle School since this was the first year the exams are totally electronic.

Mrs. Nicholas announced that the English winter Keystone Exam results were very good. Mrs. Nicholas

thanked Mrs. Denise Turoscy for motivating the students.

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS  
(cont.)**

Mrs. Nicholas reported that a pilot study on Chromebooks has been ongoing at Slatington Elementary School. Miss Amanda Beers, fifth grade teacher, gave a demonstration on the chromebooks at the Education/Policy Committee meeting on Monday night. Mrs. Nicholas reported that the students were very excited about using this new technology.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Molitoris updated the board on the bond refinancing stating that we were able to realize interest savings of \$185,000.

Ms. Molitoris reported that at the board seats is a copy of the power point presentation on the budget that was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. Mrs. Molitoris pointed out that on the sheet, each increase shows the amount of revenue that would be generated and the amount of fund balance needed to balance the budget. Mrs. Molitoris pointed out that the budget was built with no increase in state funding. Utilizing \$410,000 for long range maintenance equipment upgrades leaves a shortfall in the budget of \$966,000. When the state budget for 2015-2016 is passed, any increase in state funds will be used to offset the use of fund balance. She added that at next month's Finance Committee meeting, they are proposing a preliminary budget with a 2.6% increase. Mrs. Molitoris added that a calculator will be on our website for the community to view an estimate of what their tax bill would be with the 2.6%, 2% and 1.5% increase. Mrs. Molitoris thanked Mr. Stephen Haas for his help with the tax calculator. Mrs. Molitoris added that we will not need to utilize fund balance to balance the 2014-2015 budget and further we should be putting \$400,000 back in to fund balance.

Mr. Michaels added that the state senators sent a letter to the superintendents cautioning them not to expect an increase in school funding in the next budget. The Department of Education then sent a letter stating that districts will have to justify how any additional money would be used. Mr. Michaels stated that if that does occur, we will maintain programs that are already in place, i.e.: Special Education and full-day Kindergarten. Mr. Michaels added that we started the budget process with a million dollar deficit due to an increase in salaries, healthcare and retirement costs. Mr. Michaels stated that we will develop a budget that does not mislead anybody and we will be very cautious and conscientious of our taxpayer's money.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michaels thanked Ms. Asimo Long for the donation of a Paragon High Fire Kiln for the High School Art Department.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of employee #3785 to take a twelve week Family Medical Leave beginning on March 30, 2015, to care for a family member. Employee will be using accumulated sick days. Upon exhaustion of sick days, employee is requesting an intermittent family medical leave.

Substitute-Instructional Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2014-2015 school year at the 2014-2015 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Sarah Gordon - Elementary

Substitute-Non-Instructional Approve the following individual as a substitute cafeteria worker for the 2014-2015 school year at the 2014-2015 substitute rate as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Rosetta Strohl

Game Workers 2014-2015 Approve the following person as a Game Worker for the 2014-2015 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 2014-2015 Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule: Kayla Perkowski

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY**

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

Board Policy First Reading Approve school board policy #218.3 – Pupils – Student Restraint, as presented after first reading

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #004 – Local Board Procedures – Membership, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #806 – Operations – Child/Student Abuse, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #818 – Operations – Contracted Services, as presented after second reading.

Delaware Nat'l Heritage Marathon Grant permission, according to Board Policy #707, for the Delaware and Lehigh National & Lehigh Heritage Corridor to use the High School gym and District's parking lot facilities on Sunday, November 1, 2015 for the Delaware & Lehigh Heritage Marathon and Half Marathon. They anticipate participants will begin arriving by 6:00 AM and the event will conclude around 4:00 PM.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFERENCE**

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

Suzanne Mengel – Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Implementers' Forum - May 27-28, 2015 – Hershey, PA – Registration - \$75.00, Lodging - \$154.29, – Total Approximate Cost: \$229.29 – Funding: Slatington Elementary School - Staff Professional Development Budget.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

Chapter 339 School Counseling Plan

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

Approve the Chapter 339 K-12 School Counseling Plan, as presented. The plan was distributed to board members at the March 9, 2015 board meeting.

Facilities Plan Committee Report 2015-2016

Approve the following resolution to adopt the 2015-2016 Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Facilities Plan Committee Report.

**RESOLVED:** It is recommended that the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Directors approve the 2015-2016 Facilities Plan Committee Report that was approved by the CLIU Facilities Plan Committee on March 11, 2015 and the CLIU 21 Board of Directors on March 16, 2015. 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 Special Education Services Agreement 2015-2016

Approve to authorize the superintendent to execute an agreement between the Northern Lehigh Lehigh School District and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to provide special education services for the 2015-2016 school year.

**CURRIC-  
ULUM AND  
INSTRUCT-  
ION  
(cont.)**

Mr. Fedorcha thanked the guidance counselors and administration for the outstanding job they did on the Chapter 339 School Counseling Plan. Mrs. Kulp also thanked them and noted that the services provided and career planning were exceptional.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

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

Financial  
Reports

General Fund Account months of February and March  
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 March and April  
Refreshment Stand month of March  
Cafeteria Fund month of March

Plow Truck  
Bid award  
Truck World

Award the district plow truck bid to Bobby Gerhart's Truck World at a cost of \$46,500.00 to be paid from the capital projects account.

Trash and  
Recycling bid  
award J.P.  
Mascaro

Approve a five (5) year service agreement with J.P. Mascaro and Sons for trash removal and recycling collection beginning July 1, 2015 at a total cost of \$119,092.00.

2015-2020

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>COST PER YEAR</u>
2015-2016	\$22,653.00
2016-2017	\$23,224.00
2017-2018	\$23,805.00
2018-2019	\$24,400.00
2019-2020	\$25,010.00

Roof Re-  
surfacing  
Peters Elem.  
Tremco

Allow administration to enter into an agreement with Tremco Roofing to resurface Peters Elementary west wing roof at a cost of \$229,986.51 to be paid from the capital projects account.

District Wide  
Phone System  
Aceton

Allow administration to enter into an agreement with Aceton Networks for replacement of district-wide phone equipment at a cost of \$85,680.78 to be paid from replacement equipment fund balance as budgeted in the 2015-2016 general fund budget.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**INFOR-  
MATION**

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on January 29, 2015 were distributed.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on February 5, 2015.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on February 25, 2015 were distributed.

**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 8:06 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Green, Mr. Keegan, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams  
Secretary

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