

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

**Slatington, PA**  
**April 28, 2008**

**PURPOSE**

The special meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 6:41 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2008 in the boardroom located in the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL**

Members present: Mr. Donald H. Dengler, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (7:34), Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mr. Edward E. Hartman (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Mrs. Lisa Blank, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Mr. John Hrizuk, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Mrs. Diane Ruff, Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Michael Showak (Student Rep), Mrs. Aileen Yadush and Mrs. Sherri Molitoris.

**VISITORS**

Approximately five visitors attended the meeting in addition to Terry Ahner reporter for The Times News.

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS**

Superintendent's Report - Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.

Dr. Sham introduced Mrs. Fedorcha who addressed the Board with concerns that were brought to their attention at a recent administrative team meeting concerning the new addition of a Pre-K Kindergarten program at Peters for the 2008-2009 school year. The concerns involved were security with parents entering building while school is in session and parking. She informed the Board that they are looking into ways to resolve the possible concerns.

Mrs. Blank addressed the Board with a recent letter that was received from a lawyer concerning Portnoff and the collection of delinquent taxes. Dr. Sham, Mrs. Blank and a representative from Attorney Stopp's office met on Friday with other Lehigh County school districts who received this letter and representatives from Portnoff Law Associates. The letter was a representation from the Pennsylvania Land and Title Association stating that delinquent taxes are not being turned over to Lehigh County but to Portnoff Law Associates. When title searches are being done the Pennsylvania Land and Title Association is checking with Lehigh County and they are finding no delinquent taxes because they are not being filed with the County. The letter was demanding that Lehigh County School Districts turn over lists of delinquent taxes from prior years. Mrs. Blank stated that Portnoff will be submitting these documents and information on delinquent taxes that have been paid to date. Two delinquent tax lists should be created at the end of every year. One will be sent to Portnoff for the actual collection of the delinquent taxes and one will be sent to Lehigh County for information when title searches are being done. Portnoff will, on a regular basis, submit to Lehigh County a list of delinquent taxes that have been collected.

**Executive Session**

Mr. Hartman stated that the Board was in executive session prior to tonight's meeting to discuss personnel issues.

**PERSONNEL**

Mr. Dengler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel item:

**Resignations/  
Retirements**

Accept the resignation of Sandra L. Jenkins from her position as 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher at Peters Elementary, effective June 16, 2008. At this time she will begin her retirement from the Northern Lehigh School District after 26 years of service.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Marcincin distributed a newspaper article about an author that came to the school and interacted with the students. She briefly talked about the day.

**FINANCIAL**

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

Physical OAA Co-Payment with school Amount      Approve the co-payment amount for student athletes receiving a sports physical form during the 2008-2009 school year at a cost of \$5.00 per student in accordance with school board policy #122.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Dr. Sham stated that administration met and came up with a list, as directed by the Board, to cut the millage increase down to a 1.5 mil increase.

She      Mrs. Blank first talked about the distribution of gaming money and her calculated homestead amount for tax bills with a parcel on the property. She feels the amount will be somewhere around \$200 or more. She also talked about the Accountability to Commonwealth Taxpayers (ACT) money and the state is saying we will get an additional \$263,619 and of that amount \$210,895 has to be used for new programs. She also referenced the potential to receive additional state revenue in the amount of \$144,791 to offset inflationary costs. She feels optimistic that this money will be received.

reduce      Mrs. Blank distributed the recommended cut list. She reviewed the list and the suggested cuts which included reduction in salary for replacement of 2 retiring teachers, Specialty Underwriters Agreement, using 2007-08 money for curriculum materials for next year, transfer to athletic fund and reduce one teacher to half-time. Administration felt comfortable recommending these cuts which will bring the millage to a 2.02 mil increase which is a 3 1/3% increase.

that      Mrs. Blank talked about the other cuts on the list that would bring the millage increase to the 1.5 mil increase as directed by the Board. Her recommendation would be not to do these additional cuts. She stated that if the Board would like to follow through with these cuts instead of cutting them we move these to budgetary reserve. If additional teachers retire and we receive the additional state funds up to the index that she talked about we could re-instate these items back into the budget. If they are sitting in budgetary reserve they are offset by an "if" revenue. If teachers retire and/or we receive the additional state funds then we re-instate the items in budgetary reserve. These items included maintenance and custodial overtime or elimination of a maintenance position, eliminate soccer teams, reduce Superintendent's budget, eliminate milk bottle recycling, eliminate all conferences and pro-rated cuts to all budgets. The Board and administration talked in depth about the reduction in overtime for custodial/maintenance employees by supplying swipe cards to co-curricular coaches. Co-curricular coaches need to be held accountable for securing the buildings after they leave and there needs to be specific guidelines and policy put in place. Mrs. Blank further suggested that a way to reduce overtime is to institute a shift rotation, whereas, an employee's regular work week will be Monday through Thursday and a Saturday. She stated that there will need to be a consultation with Ellis Katz to see if there is contract language that would prevent the staggering of shifts.

Motion Accept Presented      Mr. Dengler made a motion that the Board of Education accept all the budget cuts as presented by administration.

Budget Cuts      Motion defeated by lack of a second.

Mr. Williams stated that there are 15 new initiative items that were originally presented to the Board. He asked Dr. Sham if there are any new initiative items that he feels very strongly about.

**BUDGET**  
**DISCUSSION**  
**(cont.)**

Dr. Sham stated that he feels strongly about the addition of the business office position. He stated that the prior business manager and Mrs. Blank have stated that there is a definite need for another bookkeeper position in the business office. He does not want the business manager position to become a revolving door position and feels that if the new business manager does not get more help this could happen again. The other item that he feels should be considered is the teacher observation software for the building principals.

Motion  
2.078 Mil  
Increase

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves the recommended cuts, which are, reduction in salary for two retiring teachers, Specialty Underwriters Agreement, using 2007-08 money for curriculum material purchases for next year, reduce transfer to athletic fund, reduce one teacher to half-time and a reduction in custodial/maintenance overtime but adding back into the budget as recommended by administration the business office position and teacher observation software which would equate to a 2.078 mil increase which is a 3.4% increase over the 2007-2008 budget.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Williams (4)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Hartman (5)

Mrs. Kulp stated that she was fine with Mr. Williams suggestion she just was unsure of the business office position. She would like to wait and have a recommendation for this position from the new business manager and superintendent. Mrs. Blank stated that if you are seriously considering this, it has to be a part of the budget so the money is there if they make the recommendation for this position. Mrs. Kulp stated that if we get the additional money we can use it for this position. Mr. Dengler stated that Mrs. Blank and Dr. Sham made this recommendation some time ago and his understanding from that office is that this position is needed. Mr. Williams stated that he wants that office staffed the right way for the new person that comes in. Mrs. Geronikos stated that the pervious business manager also made the same recommendation. Mrs. Blank stated that this position was cut the summer of 2006 and administration is just asking for the reinstatement of that position. Mr. Williams stated that Mrs. Molitoris was originally in that position and it was cut once she moved to Secretary to the Superintendent. Mrs. Kulp was unaware that this position was an original position and it is just being reinstated. Mr. Hartman asked if the Board was in agreement that the business office position should be part of the budget.

Mr. Hartman stated that he would like to eliminate the pro-rated cuts to all budgets. Mrs. Blank stated that she will look at all budgets and pro-rate the amount to be cut between all the budgets and administration will have to look at where to cut that amount from their individual budgets.

Motion  
1.988 Mil  
Increase

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves the recommended cuts, which are, reduction in salary for two retiring teachers, Specialty Underwriters Agreement, using 2007-08 money for curriculum material purchases for next year, reduce transfer to athletic fund, reduce one teacher to half-time, a reduction in custodial/maintenance overtime and additional pro-rated cuts to all budgets but adding back into the budget as recommended by administration the business office position and teacher observation software which would equate to a 1.988 mil increase.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (6)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green (3)

Cancel  
Special  
Board  
Meeting

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves to cancel the special school board meeting scheduled for Wednesday April 30, 2008.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the special meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dengler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (9)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Secretary

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