

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA
May 2, 2005**

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 7:35 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2005 in the senior high school auditorium.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Susan H. Fullas, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mr. William H. Hazzard, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr. (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Mr. Philip Bertolino, Mr. Robert Kern, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Andrea Madochick, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, Ms. Jessica Fidler, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS

Approximately 21 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Joel Kern, reporter for The Times News and Terry Ahner, reporter for The Chronicle.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT
ON
AGENDA
ITEM**

Mrs. Donna Kulp – Washington Township – requested permission to comment on all agenda items.
Mr. Peter Ruth – Washington Township – requested permission to comment on all agenda items.
Mr. Doug Keichel – soccer.
Mr. William Turk – Walnutport Borough – health insurance issues.

**EXECUTIVE
SESSION**

At 7:40 p.m. Mr. Green call for a recess to finish an expulsion hearing that was conducted prior to the meeting. The meeting was reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos gave a brief report.

Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos conducted a brief discussion of Act 72

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on April 18, 2005.

Student Representatives To The Board Report -- Ms. Ashley Kunkle and Ms. Jessica Fidler distributed their written report and verbally reported on its contents.

Federal and Other Programs Update -- Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Director of Curriculum and Instruction report and reviewed its contents with the board.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
Dr. Sham informed the board that the previously approved marching band field trip has been changed. They are now planning on going to New York to see a show and have dinner.

An Executive Session was held in the high school library prior to the meeting for a student problem.

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

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Administrative Transfer | David J. Papay
From: Middle School/High School Assistant Principal
To: Middle School Principal, replacing Robert Mack who will retire.
Effective Date: July 1, 2005
Salary: \$83,280.00 |
| Intent to Retire
Joanne Parry | In accordance with Article XXB – Section 3-G of the Northern Lehigh Educational Support Personnel Association Collective Bargaining Agreement, Joanne Parry, cooks helper in the Slatington Elementary School, is informing the Board of Education of her intent to retire on May 5, 2006. A bargaining unit employee with more than twenty (20) years of service in the district shall receive a salary increment of \$500.00 in excess of the job rate during that employee's last year of service prior to their retirement. Payment of this \$500.00 salary increment is contingent upon the employee giving the district notice of their intention to retire at least twelve and one-half (12 ½) months prior to the employee's retirement. Mrs. Parry's letter of intent was received in the Superintendent's Office on April 6, 2005. She has been employed in the district since 1979. |
| Doneta Merkle | In recognition of service to the Northern Lehigh School District, non-instructional office and supervisory personnel with more than twenty (20) years of service in the Northern Lehigh School District shall receive a salary increment of \$500.00 in excess of their job rate during the employee's last year of service prior to their retirement. The payment of the five hundred dollar (\$500.00) salary increment is contingent upon the employee giving the district notice of their intention to retire at least twelve and one-half (12 ½) months prior to the employee's retirement date. Notification was given on May 1, 2005 that Doneta Merkle plans to retire from her position as Confidential Secretary to the Superintendent in the Central Administration Office. Mrs. Merkle has been employed in the district since 1975 and in her current position since 1994. She plans to retire in August 2006. |
| Unpaid Volunteer | Approve to appoint the following individual as an unpaid volunteer aide in the Slatington Elementary School for the 2005-2006 school year: Nancy Mertus |
| Family Medical Leave Request | Approve the request of Diane Lengel, Clerk/Stenographer in the Special Education Department, to take a Family Medical Leave of Absence. Mrs. Lengel will be using her remaining accumulated sick days and begin her FMLA on or about May 10, 2005 and continue for four to six weeks or until her doctor releases her to return to work. |
| Leave Of Absence | Approve the request of Renee Evans to take a leave of absence from her position as high school English teacher. Effective May 11, 2005, Mrs. Evans will be using a combination of personal, sick, and flex days for the remainder of the school year. She will return to her teaching position for the 2005-2006 school year. |
| Assume Head Cook Duties | Approve the recommendation of the administration to have Susan DeFrain, cook's helper at Peters Elementary School, assume the duties of head cook during the absence of Connie Zellner, retroactive to April 21, 2005. Susan DeFrain will be in this position until Connie Zellner returns to assume her regular duties as head cook. |
| Substitutes Instructional | Approve the following substitute teacher for the 2004-2005 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days: Joseph Halenar – Health & Physical Education |
| Amend Motion | Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, to amend the motion to pull the co-curricular appointments and the unpaid volunteer coaches from the agenda. |

PERSONNEL

- Vote On Amendment YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)
NAY: None (0)
- Second Amendment To Motion Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, to exclude the motion for employment of summer custodial/maintenance employees for 2005 until the 2005-2006 budget is adopted.
- Vote On Second Amendment YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)
NAY: None (0)
- Vote On Original Motion YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)
NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hazzard, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

- NLMS Student Activity Account Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activity Account Fund Statement for the month of March 2005.
- Open An Account Approve the request of the senior high school to open a "Robert K. Hahn, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund" in accordance with the Special Purpose Fund procedures.
- Slatington Elementary Field Trip Approve to allow the Slatington Elementary 5th Grade students to take a class trip to the Capitol Building/State Museum of PA in Harrisburg on June 2, 2005. So there is no cost to the district, they are also requesting permission to conduct a fundraiser. The cost of the trip is \$2700.00. Market Day will give them \$1000.00 towards the trip.
- Increase School Lunches Approve the recommendation of the administration that, effective September 6, 2005, school lunch prices be increased as follows:
Elementary Schools – from \$1.50 to \$1.60
Middle School and High School – from \$1.55 to \$1.65
Elementary Breakfast – from \$.60 to \$.70
Ala Carte Milk – from \$.30 to \$.40
- Agreement Of Sponsorship To LCCC Approve the Agreement of Sponsorship To Attend Another Pennsylvania Community College for Megan Frantz, in accordance with the guidelines established under Policy #912. Sponsorship Beginning in the Fall of 2005 she will be a fulltime student at Northampton Community College to pursue her course of study in Radiology.
- Non-Resident Student Approve the request of a second grade student, whose parents have moved from the district, to continue attending class for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year in accordance School Board Policy #202.
- Board Policy First Reading Approve new school board policy #116 – Programs – Tutoring, as presented after first reading.

Approve new school board policy #210.1 – Pupils – Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers, as presented after first reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #803 – Operations – School Calendar, as presented after first reading.

POLICY

(Con't.)

Approve revisions to school board policy #217.1 – Pupils – Early Graduation, as presented after first reading.

Approve revisions to school board policy #804 – Operations – School Day, as presented after first reading.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)

NAY: None (0)

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Hazzard made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approves the following items listed under Old Business:

Rescind Prior Motion For Point of Sale Contract With Weidenhammer Systems

Upon further analysis and study, approve to rescind the prior motion of April 4, 2005 awarding the nine (9) terminal Point Of Sale contract to Weidenhammer Systems due to non-conformance of the bid.

Award Point Of Sale Contract With Tesoro Technologies, Inc./Volante Systems

Approve to award the nine (9) terminal point of sale contract to Tesoro Technologies, Inc./Volante Systems in the amount of \$46,960.00, pending review by the solicitor's office of the contract. Funds to purchase the POS system will come from the Food Services Account.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)

NAY: None (0)

Mr. Dorshimer inquired as to how many more soccer games are going to be played on the field adjacent to Center Street. He requested that "NO PARKING" signs be posted so that cars do not park in the grass.

There was some discussion about the Lions Club Car Show using the grass area for their annual event.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law and the recommendation of the Hearing committee of 5:30 p.m. on Monday, May 2, 2005. This recommendation is to expel the student for whom the hearing was conducted from school attendance for the remainder of the school year according to the 2004-2005 adopted school calendar beginning May 3, 2005. This expulsion is a result of a violation of School Board Policy 218.1 – Pupils – Weapons.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL Education

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

PC Abatements Approve abatement of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines,

as presented.

Construction Account 2004
 presented. Account 2004
 AAA Financing

FINANCIAL

(Con't.) Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the month of March 2005.
 Cash Management Portfolio

Service Agreement With Altronics Security
 Approve renewal of a service agreement with Altronics Security Systems for monitoring of burglar alarm system and recorded openings/closings for the 6 locations in the amount of \$2,599.73.

Non-Reimbursable Construction Project
 Approve the application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Project to be filed with PDE for the Replacement of the Bus Garage Roof.

Non-Reimbursable Construction Project
 Approve the application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Project to be filed with PDE for the Replacement of the High School Auditorium Sound System.

Non-Reimbursable Construction Project
 Approve the application for Non-Reimbursable Construction Project to be filed with PDE for the Replacement of the High Student Lockers.

Contract For HS Student Lockers
 Approve the contract for the replacement of the High School Student Lockers by Keystone Concepts of Lake Harmony, PA in the amount of \$74,900. Funds for this project are to be taken from the construction bond.

Re-Solicit Fuel Bids
 Approve to authorize proper officials to re-solicit bids for DIESEL FUEL AND UNLEADED GASOLINE for the 2005-2006 school year. (No bids were received the first time we bid, May 2, 2005).

Award Bids #2 Grade Fuel
 Approve the awarding of bids for #2 grade fuel oil with a contract period from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006.
 #2 GRADE FUEL OIL – TRANSPORT DELIVERY OF 6,800 OR MORE GALLONS.
 Awarded to ISObucks, L.L.C., Norfolk, VA, at a firm base price of \$1.6942 per gallon.

#2 GRADE FUEL OIL – TANKWAGON DELIVERY OF LESS THAN 6800 GALLONS.
 Awarded to ISObucks, L.L.C., Norfolk, VA, at a firm base price of \$1.8642 per gallon.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Peter Ruth – Washington Township – Asked if the high school student lockers were out on bid.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas,
 Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (8)

NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on March 21, 2005.

Minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on March 8, 2005.

Copy of the Lehigh County Schools Joint Purchasing Board News for April 2005.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on March 23, 2005 and the LCTI Director's report for April 2005.

BUDGET DISCUSSION
reviewed

Chris Stafford, Business Manager, distributed a new summary sheet for the board to review showing new revenue vs. expenditures for a total of \$1,578,631. Dr. Sham

items on the budget cut list that the Board requested the Administration to prepare to bring the budget down to 5.5 mills. Dr. Sham did not recommend cutting items below item #12 on the cut list.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Mr. Cox stated that at the Finance Committee meeting it was discussed that the Board should follow the same process that was followed last year, voting item by item down the cut list.

Mr. Green's recollection of the meeting was that the administration was to present the board with cuts reducing the budget to 5.5 mills. Mr. Cox had no recollection of this. Mr. Green asked the board what direction they wanted to go.

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion to eliminate item #1 – Trash collection, with 50% of the expense being transferred to the food service fund. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mrs. Fullas felt that this process was absurd because the board was just working to pass a preliminary budget. Mr. Green explained what a preliminary budget is.

7.47611 Mill
Preliminary
Budget

Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hazzard, that for a preliminary budget, the Board of Education adopts an increase of 7.47611 mills for 2005-2006.

Board
Discussion

Mr. Dorshimer feels that the administration needs to be more realistic and they need to bring the board a budget that they can afford, even if it is only preliminary.

Public
Comment

William Turk – Borough of Walnutport – Wanted to know if there was going to be any changes in the medical co-pay with district employees. He also felt that the district should not fund Lehigh Carbon Community College. He asked when he would receive the letter he requested last year from the board informing him how many students in the district reside in Walnutport.

Greg Williams – Borough of Walnutport – He had a question/comment that the administration should give the board a budget and give them direction to cut the different budget items across the board by a certain percentage rather than cut the entire line item.

Peter Ruth – Washington Township – He attended the finance committee meeting and was disappointed that the Board did not give direction to the administration to start at zero and increase what needs to be increased. He wanted to know when the board would make their decision on Act 72.

Vote On
7.47611 Mill
Preliminary
Budget

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Hazzard (2)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser,
Mrs.Geronikos, Mr. Beers, Mr. Green (7)
Motion defeated.

5.5 Mill
Preliminary
Budget

Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, to adopt a 5.5 mill increase for the preliminary budget.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Gansser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green (4)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox (5)
Motion defeated.

7.24 Mill Preliminary Budget Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hazzard, to adopt a 7.24 mill increase for the preliminary budget.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Cox (2)
NAY: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green (7)

Motion defeated.

BOARD

DISCUSSION (Con't.)

5.25 Mill Preliminary Budget Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos to adopt a 5.25 mill increase for the preliminary budget.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green (4)
NAY: Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Beers, Mrs. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler (5)

Motion defeated.

Start Cut List Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education starts to work on eliminating items on the cut list.

Mrs. Fullas wanted to hear from the board members who voted no on the budget as to what they would be willing to live with.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Cox (3)
NAY: Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mr. Green (6)

Motion defeated.

Poll Board Mr. Green polled individual board members to see what direction they wanted to go.

Mr. Beers He would be comfortable with 4 mills.

4 Mill Preliminary Budget Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Dorshimer, to adopt a 4 mill increase for the 2005-2006 preliminary budget.

Mr. Green Indicated that by adopting a 4 mill preliminary budget increase that co-curricular programs (sports/full day kindergarten, etc.), would be eliminated.

Mr. Cox For those that listened to the Act 72 discussion this would put the district in a poor position with all the other unfunded mandates if the Commonwealth mandates Act 72. The board would be cutting out any buffers and would be significantly using their reserve funds. The board shouldn't put themselves in trouble before they even get there.

Mr. Dorshimer There are a few items, i.e., an administrative position that will be vacated, a secretary that is retiring, those positions could be eliminated to save money.

Mr. Cox Commented that the board is only attempting to adopt a preliminary budget and they shouldn't be looking so deeply into the budget already for cuts. Without discussion on some of the items he felt it was dangerous to finalize some of these suggestions.

Dr. Sham Cautioned the board that if they contemplate cutting an assistant principal they would be making a serious judgmental error.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler (3)
NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green (6)

Motion defeated.

Mr. Follweilwer Mr. Follweiler would like to see the same millage increase that Mr. Beers wants, i.e., 4 mills.

5 Mill Preliminary Budget Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, to adopt a 5 mill increase for the preliminary budget.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler (3)
NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Cox, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green (6)

Motion defeated.

Recess Mr. Green called for a five minute "courtesy break" at 10:00 p.m. The board reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

7.46 Mill Preliminary Budget Due to the fact that there are so many things that the board has not discussed with regard to the preliminary budget, Mr. Cox made a motion to adopt at 7.46 mill preliminary budget increase. Mr. Green considered this motion a frivolous motion and he refused to accept the motion. Mr. Cox challenged the chair with this decision. Motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Dorshimer asked Mr. Green where he would like to go with the budget. Mr. Green informed him that he would be comfortable with a 5.5 mill preliminary budget as was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting.

5.2 Mill Preliminary Budget Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, to adopt a 5.2 mill preliminary budget increase.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Beers, Mr. Green (6)
NAY: Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer (3)

Motion carried.

ADOPTION OF PRELIMINARY BUDGET FOR 2005-2006

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education adopts the tentative general fund budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2005-2006 school year in the amount of \$23,878,256. This is an increase of \$1,375,589 or 6.11% over last year's figures.

The preliminary budget is adopted with a 5.22 mill increase for Lehigh County and a 4.49 mill increase for Northampton County.

1. Taxes under Act 511 with no changes from 2004-2005:
 - a. A 1% Earned Income Tax shared equally with coterminous municipalities.
 - b. A Realty Transfer Tax shared equally with the coterminous municipalities.
 - c. A \$10.00 Per Capita Tax (\$5.00 under Act 511 and \$5.00 under Section 679 of the School Code of 1949), taxable on residents age 18 and over.
 - d. A \$10.00 Emergency and Municipal Service Tax (formerly Occupation Privilege Tax).

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Doug Keichel – Wished Mr. Mack good luck in his retirement and Mr. Papay good luck in his new position. He appreciates the consideration he has been given with regard to the letter that he gave the board regarding his coaching position with the district.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mathias J. Green, Jr.