

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA  
May 9, 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 9, 2005 in the Slatington Elementary School gymnasium.
- 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, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Laurie Newman-Mankos, Mrs. Andrea Madochick, Ms. Ashley Kunkle, Ms. Jessica Fidler, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle
- VISITORS** Approximately 11 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 agenda item Financial E, the Public Relations Consortium at LCTI.
- APPROVE MINUTES** Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Ganser, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on April 4, 2005, and the regular school board meeting held on April 11, 2005 be approved and ordered filed.
- YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)  
NAY: None (0)
- SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Mr. Dorshimer informed the board about a State Ethics Conference that is being offered at the intermediate unit on June 29. He also reported from the CLIU Board Brief which was distributed at the meeting to all board members.
- Lehigh Career & Technical Institute -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos  
Mrs. Geronikos commented on the LCTI budget which is on the agenda for approval.
- Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos  
Mrs. Geronikos reported on several items related to Act 72.
- Student Representatives To The Board Report -- Ms. Ashley Kunkle and Ms. Jessica Fidler distributed a written report and reviewed it with the board.
- Federal and Other Programs – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha  
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Director of Curriculum and Instruction report and she highlighted its contents.
- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.  
Dr. Sham reported that he met with the athletic director, the track coach, and the football coach to discuss with them the suggested budget cuts. They had some serious

concerns about those cuts.

Dr. Sham shared some budget increases for 2005-2006 with the board that were both related to previous board action or costs due to other contracts or outside factors.

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

Appointment	Adriane Miller Assignment:	Temporary Vacancy Replacement English teacher in the senior high school, replacing Renee Evans.
	Salary:	\$37,000.00 (Pro-Rated) Step 1 Bachelors
	Effective Date:	May 9, 2005
	Termination Date:	June 15, 2005

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

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

NAY: None (0)

**POLICY** Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approves to grant homebound instruction for an 11<sup>th</sup> grade student, Student #655000 for five hours per week, effective May 1, 2005 and continuing until August 1, 2005.

Homebound Instruction

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

NAY: None (0)

**NEW BUSINESS** Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the Board of Education approves to Adopt Act 72 the way it is presented by the State of Pennsylvania for the Northern Lehigh School District.

Act On Act 72

Mrs. Geronikos informed Mr. Dorshimer that there is a formal resolution that needs to be adopted by the board, not just a motion to opt into Act 72.

Lay Motion On Table Mr. Cox made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, to lay the motion on the table to adopt Act 72 for the present time based on the need for additional information required to adopt Act 72.

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

Motion carried.

**FINANCIAL**

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

- Treasurer's Report Approve the report of the treasurer, Mr. Cox, for the month of April 2005.
- Reports (Info Only) All board members received the April 2005 Expenditure Reports for the Cafeteria, General and Capital Reserve Funds.
- General Fund Bills Approve payment of General Fund bills for the months of April and May 2005.
- NL Refreshment Stand Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Refreshment Stand Financial Report for month ended April 30, 2005 as presented.
- NL Sports Sports Account Report Approve the Northern Lehigh Sports Accounts Financial Report for the month ended April 30, 2005 as presented.
- NL High Student Activity Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activity Fund Account statement for the month of April 2005, as presented.
- Pull Items D & E Mr. Dorshimer requested to have items D and E pulled from the main motion.  
 YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (9)  
 NAY: None (0)
- LCTI 2005-2006 Budget Mrs. Geronikos made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approves the following financial items:  
 The Lehigh Career & Technical Institute has approved a budget for the 2005-2006 school year totaling \$17,965,000 an increase of \$1,332,930 or 8.01 % over the 2004-2005 amounts. Northern Lehigh School District's share of the 2005-2006 budget is \$772,374.23, an increase of \$24,599.23 or 3.29% more than the previous year.
- Public Comment Peter Ruth – Washington Township – He feels that the \$3000 for the Public Relations consortium would be better spent donating it to the Slatington Public Library.
- Divide D & E Mrs. Fullas requested to have items D and E divided for voting.
- Vote On Item D – LCTI Budget ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Green (5)  
 NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Beers (4)  
 Motion carried.
- LCTI Public Relations Consortium Approve the recommendation of the administration to renew a \$3000.00 expenditure for the Public Relations Consortium at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute for the 2005-2006 school year.

**FINANCIAL**

(Con't.)

Vote On

Public

Relations

Consortium

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

**INFORM-  
ATION**

The Department of Education has informed the Superintendent's Office that they have approved the district's request for three Act 80 days for the 2005-2006 school.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on April 7, 2005 were distributed.

**BUDGET  
DISCUSSION**

Business Manager, Christine Stafford, began budget deliberations by distributing a cut list which was identical to the list distributed at the previous meeting with the exception of putting in money to balance out to the 5.22 mills that the board approved for a preliminary budget. She indicated that there was no breaking point on the cut list for that exact amount of money.

**RECOG-  
NITION OF  
GUESTS**

Donna Kulp – Washington Township – She thought Market Day paid for elementary field trips. Inquired about full day kindergarten as part of the budget. Inquired whether the the district could eliminate the administrative position of the assistant technology coordinator position and keep the data/tech position in the budget.

Peter Ruth – Washington Township – Asked why does a data tech position start out at such a high salary. Would this be a non-union position or not. Asked for clarification on the extra curricular programs on the cut list.

**BOARD  
DISCUSSION**

Mr. Green asked from some direction from the board for the Administration for the next meeting. The following information contains only suggestions that developed from the dialogue that followed Mr. Green's request.

Mrs. Geronikos made a suggestion, and gave direction to the board, that they consider putting back into the budget the \$3000 that was taken from LCTI for the Public Relations Consortium and donate it to the Slatington Public Library. Mr. Dorshimer felt that the money should go towards books for the students.

Straw Vote Around Board Table To Do This:

Those in favor were: Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Green

Those not in favor were: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Beers, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Dorshimer

Two board members indicated they would be comfortable with a \$2000 donation.

Mr. Hazzard – needs no further information at this point.

Mrs. Geronikos – asked for clarification on the TV studio equipment at Slatington Elementary that appears on the cut list. She also addressed the computer situation in the senior high school and the large amount of money that has been invested so that our district could become up-to-date in technology. She hopes that the administration has been keeping up with that and that cutting the technology upgrades doesn't hamper the process.

Mrs. Ganser – addressed the fact that full day kindergarten has not been approved yet. She does not like to take textbooks and/or field trips away from the students. She said she would live with it as a preliminary budget. She later indicated that she would look to remove full day kindergarten and put back into the budget half of the field trips and all of the textbooks.

Straw Vote Around Board Table To Do This:

Those in favor were: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Beers, Mr. Green, Mrs. Ganser

Those not in favor were: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard, Mrs. Fullas, Mr. Cox

Dr. Sham commented on cutting full day kindergarten before it eventually goes to the board for a final recommendation. He asked them to think about the fact that they took a solemn oath to supply the best education they could for the students in our district. The decision to support or not support full day kindergarten will directly impact students and their lifetime successes or failures. The administration has shown you how important reading is to our students and how our students are coming to us and leaving first grade a full seven months behind where they should be just to be proficient as readers. A full 50% of our students are not meeting the expectation of being able to read by the time they leave third grade.

Mrs. Ganser – tried to understand what Dr. Sham said. She asked if everyone in the room did not go to full day kindergarten then does that mean you can't get a good job. She doesn't equivilate full day kindergarten with success in life. She can't see spending the money on something that isn't mandated by the state.

Mrs. Fullas – She thinks if the full day kindergarten issue that was just discussed is getting confused with something else. This was not a vote just to cut full day kindergarten and put several other items back in.

Mrs. Geronikos – Commented that full day kindergarten is not mandated, however, once you have it you are accountable for what gets done in kindergarten. We do have the Accountability Block Grant that is meant for full day kindergarten.

Mr. Green – Mr. Green would go along with cutting full day kindergarten but he would like to put about \$14,000 back into the budget for hiring some of the summer help, put some money back into technology upgrades with a recommendation to see what the district needs to stay current with where they are in 2005. He is not willing to start a new program, i.e., full day kindergarten, when the district cannot afford some of the things they are already doing. If the administration is willing to do full day kindergarten instead of some other things and they come back to the board with a recommendation, he would be willing to look at that.

Straw Vote Around Board Table:

Those in favor were: Mr. Green, Mr. Cox would be in favor of putting anything back  
Those not in favor were: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard

Mr. Dorshimer – If the buildings can be kept clean and the grass cut when the classes are in session, he feels that there is no reason that it cannot be done during the summer. He was under the impression that the technology upgrades listed in the budget were for lap tops for the middle school and high school teachers. He would like the technology upgrades broken down so that he can see what goes to the students in the classroom vs. what goes to a laptop for a teacher. He addressed line items listed as "fund balance designated for" listed on at the bottom of the May 2 budget document. He would also like to look at cutting the assistant middle school principal position and the secretary to the director of the support services position.

Straw Vote Around Board Table To Eliminate The Two Positions:

Those in favor were: Mr. Dorshimer  
Those not in favor were: Mr. Beers, Mr. Cox, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Fullas, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Hazzard

Mr. Cox said that not one single word of the straw vote to eliminate full day kindergarten dealt with what they wanted to do with that money, either take it totally out of the budget or put some of it back in to use else where. He stated the board continues to have assumptions as to what other board members are thinking when it comes to the money for full day kindergarten. Mr. Cox stated and asked to be quoted that "Education does a super job with those at the top, and has always done a super job with those at the top. Maybe we are "those at the top" that didn't need it. He has a granddaughter that absolutely does not need kindergarten whatsoever because of her educational level at the point she is, but our school district has a lot of students who need help and we are not helping them out and if we vote

this way we are, in his mind, missing a big part of the responsibility that the board has as educators”.

Mr. Beers said that he couldn't make up his mind about full day kindergarten, so he went to a kindergarten bus stop to talk with parents about full day kindergarten and he got the impression that most people do not want it.

Mrs. Fullas – Referring to the Accountability Block Grant Budget suggested the following scenerio:

- Eliminate Head Start for \$85,000
- Remove from Line 1100-122 down to the bottom of the page which is \$76,000 (Total \$161,000 of one time expenditure items)
- Leave In Chemistry Teacher, 2 Math Teachers, and Multi Media (Ranck)
- Remove Item #30 on the budget cut list in the amount of \$42,000 (This should give you a total of \$203,000 to fund full day kindergarten.

Ms. Stafford indicated that the figures Mrs. Fullas was using reflected 2004-2005 figures.

Mr. Green suggested to the administration to bring back to the board the suggested changes showing an approximate 4.34 mill increase.

Put back in place of full day kindergarten:

Textbooks	\$30,000
Field Trips	\$8,000
Slatington Public Library	\$3,000
Take Out the \$3000 from LCTI	

Mrs. Fullas stated that the board should honor the 34 items listed on the cut list that the administration gave to the board and they should let the administration use their expertise to determine where the cuts should come from with regard to the 2005-2006 budget.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Greg Williams – Borough of Walnutport – He assumes that if full day kindergarten does not pass, the board would be looking at putting back into the budget the kindergarten noon runs.

He also asked if full day kindergarten would not pass if there would be any other programs, at a lesser cost, that could help at-risk children.

Peter Ruth – Washington Township – Questioned the Dibbles information presented at a previous board meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors be adjourned at 10:10 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.