

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
June 5, 2006

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, at 7:38 p.m. on Monday, June 5, 2006 in the Slatington Elementary School gymnasium.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Franklin D. Beers, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr. , Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Peter A. Ruth, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser (8)

Members absent: Mr. Donald H. Dengler (1)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne Fedorcha, Mr. Robert Kern, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. John Fidelibus, Mr. Brian Geiger, Ms. Christine Stafford, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Atty. Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mrs. Andrea Madochick, Ms. Jessica Fidler, Mr. Nathan Hunsicker, Mrs. Sherri A. Molitoris

VISITORS

Approximately eighty-seven visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Joel Kern, reporter for The Times News

Mrs. Ganser announced that the board was in an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss personnel items and they would return to Executive Session following the regular meeting to continue with personnel issues and then continue with negotiations.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on May 17, 2006 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer

Mr. Dorshimer reported verbally on their monthly meeting. They reviewed board policy, discussed the progress of the new building and technology updates. He also reminded all board members about the ballots for the Election of CLIU Board Members which they received in their packets.. There are 10 people listed on the ballot and there are 10 positions to be filled.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles

Mrs. Giles reported on Northern Lehigh students who placed in district-wide competitions within LCTI. She also mentioned students who received awards and scholarships. She mentioned 12 students will be attending the new Academic Academy next school year.

Legislative Report - Mr. Gregory S. Williams

Mr. Williams reported the State House of Representatives is again looking at property tax relief and that they are exploring the idea of raising the state sales tax to 7% to offset the property taxes.

Committee Reports and/or Meetings

Mr. Ruth reported that they held a Finance Committee Meeting on May 31st and there were approximately 71 attendees. He then submitted a petition that was signed by over 477 members of the community asking them not to cut funding for musical programs within our school.

Mrs. Ganser reported that there was a Policy Committee Meeting held prior to tonight's regular board meeting.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(Con't.)

Student Representatives to the Board Report

Ms. Jessica Fidler and Mr. Nathan Hunsicker distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents.

Mrs. Ganser presented Jessica Fidler with a clock and thanked her for serving the last two years as the student representative to the board. She wished her well in her future endeavors.

Solicitor's Report - Attorney Charles Stopp

Attorney Stopp reported on a case currently in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, Wesley United Methodist Church vs. Dauphin County. This case deals with the issue of house of sanctuary exception

Federal and Other Programs Update - Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha

Mrs. Fedorcha referenced changes that came out of the Policy Meeting held earlier in the evening. There were changes that needed to be noted on Board Policy #246 on for first reading on agenda this evening.

Mrs. Fedorcha introduced Mrs. Wadsworth, school psychologist, to give a presentation on the success of our first year of implementing full-day kindergarten and using the RTI (Response to Intervention) process to provide early reading intervention. Comparison graphs indicated that significantly more students achieved benchmark scores this year, indicative of the success of the program. Mrs. Nicholas spoke of the need to review the Language Arts curriculum and requested permission to examine strong core reading programs for future purchase. Mrs. Fedorcha addressed the fact that although Title I funds continue to decrease, there is a need to continue to preserve the current level of staffing in order to conduct the early intervention program effectively.

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

Dr. Sham informed the board that there was a date change for the Act 80 Day Grievance. The new date is November 29, 2006.

He also told board members that they received a Graduation Information Packet which outlines all information they will need to know about graduation.

Dr. Sham also told the board members that they had a Head Start Recognition Luncheon for students and parents. He shared the picture book that was created by the Head Start students and given to the school district.

Congratulated High School staff on the outstanding job with the awards night.

Mallory
Bomboy
Memorial
Award

Mr. Fidelibus talked about the Mallory Bomboy Memorial Athletic Award Plaque presented to the High School by the Bomboy Family in honor of their senior daughter who was recently killed in an automobile accident. Memorial plaques are against school policy but that policy was reviewed at the Policy Committee Meeting and it was determined that the Superintendent under special circumstances, can allow or disallow on appropriateness. It was decided that they will go forward with this memorial.

PERSONNEL

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

Head Boys
Soccer Coach
2006-2007

2006-2007 Co-Curricular Appointment

Head Boys Soccer Coach	John Sitaras*	\$4,636.35**
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**Pending verification of clearances.*

***Last year's rates will apply until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.*

Co-Curricular
Appointments
2006-2007

Co-Curricular Appointments for 2006-2007

Head Boys Basketball Coach	Richard Oertner	\$6414.28*
Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	Dennis Rehrig	\$4168.66*
Assistant Boys Basketball Coach	Richard Mantz	\$4168.66*
Head Girls Basketball Coach	David Oertner	\$6,414.28*

PERSONNEL

(con't.)

Co-Curricular Appointments 2006-2007 (Con't.)	<u>Co-Curricular Appointments for 2006-2007 (con't.)</u>		
	Middle School Girls Basketball Coach	Jason Reinhard	\$4086.00*
	Head Wrestling Coach	Todd Herzog	\$6414.28*
	Assistant Wrestling Coach	Brent Herzog	\$4168.66*
	Assistant Wrestling Coach	Robert Marlatt	\$4168.66*
	Cheerleading Advisor (Shared Stipend)	Lil Borger	One Half of \$2834.61*
		Kathy Neff	One Half of \$2834.61*
	Eighth Grade Academic Challenge	Kristin Skinner	\$405.84*
	Elementary Scholastic Scrimmage	Marlene Simock	\$405.84*
	Scholastic Scrimmage (High School)	Denise Turoscy	\$751.32*
	Debate Advisor	Scott DeLong	\$1286.19*
	Senior High Winter Intramural (Weightlifting)	Joe Tout	\$751.32*
	Senior High Winter Intramural (Weightlifting)	Steve Hluschak	\$751.32*
	Senior High Winter Intramural (Winter Track)	Mike Lehtonen	\$751.32*

**Last year's rates will apply until a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.*

Resignation Brian Geiger Accept the resignation of Brian Geiger from his position as Director of Support Services effective the end of the day on August 3, 2006.

Assistant Athletic Director Approve the appointment of Douglas Reynolds as the Assistant Athletic Director for the 2006-2007 school year at a stipend of \$3,500. He will assist the Athletic Director in all Athletic Director duties and responsibilities and will be responsible for athletic fund raising activities.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

Table Merit Increases Act 93 objections. Mrs. Giles asked that the board table the approval of merit increases for school administrators, as recommended by the Superintendent, for the 2005-2006 school year, to concur with the current Act 93 Administrative Compensation Plan until further discussed in executive session. There were no objections.

CONFERENCE

Mrs. Giles made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the Board of Education approves the following conferences:

Tammy Brown – Fluency – Tim Rasinski – Sponsored by Reading Matters – August 7, 2006 – Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$144.00 – Funding: Title I

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY
approves

Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the board of Education the following items listed under Policy:

Student Representative to the Board Approve Rachael Parisi as a Student Representative to the Board for the 2006-2007 school year. Rachael has been elected as the junior representative to the board and will serve from September 2006 through June 2007. Nathan Hunsicker will serve as a student representative to the board as the senior representative until June 2007.

Board Policy 1st Reading Approve to adopt new school board policy #246, Pupils, Student Wellness, as presented after first reading.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

(Con't.)

Waive
Grace Period
2nd Reading
On Policy

Mr. Williams made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Green, that the board of Education approve to waive the 30 day grace period for the 2nd reading on school board policy #246, Pupils, Student Wellness and that this would not be precedent setting for future policy.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (5)

NAY: Mr. Beers, Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green (3)

Motion Carried.**CURRICU-
LUM AND
INSTRUC-
TION**

Mrs. Giles made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Green, that the board of Education approves the following items listed under Curriculum and Instruction:

Summer
Reading
Camp

Approve to authorize the administration to employ seven elementary teachers at a stipend of \$1,200.00 per teacher to conduct a Title I Summer Reading Camp for Title I eligible K-3 students based on teacher recommendation. The Reading Camp will be conducted in the Peters Elementary School from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday from July 24 through August 11, 2006. Expenses for this program will be paid for through Title I funds.

Title I, II,
VI, and
Drug-Free
Contracts
2006-2007

Approve to authorize proper officials to execute contracts for Title I, Title VI, Title II, and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Acts for the 2006-2007 school year.

2006-2007
School
Calendar

Approve the revised 2006-2007 Northern Lehigh School District School Calendar as presented. The March 23 in-service day was moved to April 26th to coincide with *"take your child to work"* day. **(see attached)**

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Mr. Williams made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Beers, that the board of education approves the following items listed under Financial:

Cash Manag-
ment Portfolio

Approve the Arthurs Lestrangle Cash Management Portfolio for the month of March 2006.

Approve
LCTI
Budget
2006-2007

The Lehigh Career & Technical Institute has approved a general fund budget for the 2006-07 school year totaling \$18,960,830 (an increase of \$1,063,870 or 5.94%) and an Academic Center budget for the 2006-07 school year totaling \$904,520 (new program). Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2006-07 general fund budget is \$796,761, an increase of \$24,387 or 3.16% more than the previous year. Northern Lehigh School District's portion of the 2006-07 Academic Center budget is \$28,580.88 or 3.31% proportionate share of the total budget.

Art Supply
Bids

Approve awarding of Art Supply bids for the 2006-2007 school year as presented.

Board
Secretary
and Treasurer
Bonds
2006-2007

Approve to renew the following expiring bonds for the 2006-2007 fiscal year through HRH Palley Simon Associates:

1. A \$50,000 Board Secretary Bond for the term of July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007 at an annual premium of \$175.00.
2. A \$50,000 Board Treasurer Bond for the period July 1, 2006 to July 1, 2007 at an annual premium cost of \$269.00.

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

- Insurance Coverage For 2006-2007 Award insurance coverage for the 2006-2007 school year to the following companies:
1. Commercial Package and Automobile (Vehicle Liability, General Liability, Property Insurance and Boiler and Machinery) Graphic Arts (UTICA) National Insurance Company — \$54,812. The premium is an increase of \$2,214 over last year's rate.
 2. Commercial Umbrella Liability Insurance – Crum & Foster Insurance Company - \$13,566. The renewal is with the same company as last year and the premium is the same as 2005-2006.
 3. School Leaders Error and Omissions Liability - \$13,927 AIG-National Union. The renewal is with the same company as last year and the premium is the same as 2005-2006.
 4. Worker's Compensation Coverage – PSBA Insurance Trust/Old Republic – estimated premium of \$76,500, approximately a \$12,113 increase. This amount is an estimated total, final cost based on actual payroll figures.
- Depositories For School Authorize the following financial institutions to act as approved depositories for school district funds and or temporary investments. The Northern Lehigh School Board further authorizes the following financial institutions to transfer funds on deposit to any other bank for the credit of the Northern Lehigh School District. The Board further authorizes the Business Manager and/or Superintendent to enter into agreements, supplements or amendments to agreements to implement the foregoing operations for the 2006-2007 school year:
- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| M & T Bank | Neff's National Bank |
| Harleysville National Bank | Commerce Bank of Pennsylvania |
| Susquehanna-Patriot Bank | Wachovia National Bank |
| Prudential-Bache Government Securities Trust | |
| Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (PLGIT) | |
- Appoint Insurance Broker Appoint Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton Company (HRH) Palley Simon Associates as the district insurance broker for Property, Casualty, Liability and Workers' Compensation insurance for the 2006-2007 school year.
- Pay Bills For Month of July Approve to grant permission to the business office to pay construction, insurance, and utility bills that are scheduled for payment during the month of July as required by contract. There is no scheduled board meeting in July.
- Delinquent 2006-Tax Collector 2007 school year. Approve the appointment of Statewide Tax Recovery as the delinquent per capita tax collector for the 2006-2007 school year.
- Sewing Machine Maintenance Agreement Approve a maintenance agreement for the 2006-2007 school year with Allentown Sewing Machine Outlet. The Machine agreement covers sewing machines located as follows:
- Middle School – 12 machines at \$30.00 per machine plus parts = \$360.00
Senior High School – 26 machines at \$30.00 per machine plus parts = \$780.00
- YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)
NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

Table EIT Office Termination Agreement Mr. Green made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Beers to table the agreement between Northern Lehigh School District and Slatington Borough to terminate the use of the EIT office located at 125 S. Walnut Street in Slatington. Mr. Green asked that an insertion of the word "and" should appear on page one under number one following the word "Borough" and prior to the word "the".

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

Motion Carried.

Table 2005-2006 Salary Schedule Mr. Dorshimer made a motion, that was seconded by Mr. Green to table the 2005-2006 Northern Lehigh School District Salary Schedule due to incorrect dates and asked that corrections be made and a new copy be submitted for approval.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

Motion Carried.**LEGAL**

July

Mr. Dorshimer asked for legal opinion on agreements that are not passed by June 30th, but pass in the new fiscal year, legally does everything within that agreement carry back to the 1st fiscal year date.,

**CORR-
ESPON-
who
DENCE**

Mrs. Giles commented on an e-mail that has been circulating and expressed her concerns and pointed out what she felt were inadequacies within that document. She asked people who received these e-mails to ask board members questions they may have about board issues. Mrs. Ganser reminded everyone that all board members have e-mail addresses and that they can be found on the district web page.

**INFORM-
ATION**

All board members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on April 20, 2006, the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on April 11, 2006, the Borough of Slatington Parks & Recreation Commission meeting held on May 15, 2006 and the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees Meeting held on May 4, 2006.

The board was also notified of receipt of donations for the 2005-2006 school year:

1. \$1,608.00 From West Side Hammer Electric In Memory Of James Guth to purchase computer workstations in the high school library.
2. \$160.00 From S.H.S. Class of 1939 In Memory Of Harry Ernest, Grace Oswald, Catherine Roberts Rabuch and Eva Pugh and In Honor Of the 12 remaining 1939 class members to purchase books for the high school library.
3. \$5,500.00 From Peters Elementary Activity Fund (\$1,250), Slatington Elementary Activity Fund (\$1,250), Northern Lehigh Elementary PTO (\$2,500), and Lehigh County Farm Bureau (\$500) to purchase supplies for the Ag Fair held at Slatington Elementary in May.
4. \$2,300.00 From Northern Lehigh Educational Foundation to use to pay stipends for the Bigs & Littles Program at Peters Elementary.

**INFORM-
ATION**
(Con't.)

5. \$1,025.00 From Woman's Club of Slatington (\$100), Randall & Joan Varilek (\$100), Northern Lehigh Education Foundation (\$325), Christine Stafford (\$100), Slatington Lions Club (\$100), Dr. Nicholas & Jacqueline Sham (\$100), Rotary Club of Slatington (\$100), and Eugene Mayberry (\$100) to be used for Debate Team and Scholastic Scrimmage transportation.

RECESS

Mrs. Ganser called for a "courtesy break".

**BUDGET
DISCUSSION**

Mr. Williams – addressed the prior years tax increases and amounts used from fund balance compared to this year and feels we have a responsible budget.

Mrs. Giles – Suggested that instead of talking about cutting expenditures, talk about ways to increase revenue through grant writing. We need to look for people to volunteer their time to find and apply for grants.

her Mrs. Ganser – Talked about companies matching donated funds would be a good way to increase revenue but also is very time consuming. A community member approached after the Finance Committee Meeting and was willing to head the committee to seek companies who would be willing to match donated funds. If community members would like to be a part of this committee they can contact the district office for information.

Mr. Doshimer – Mr. Dorshimer asked the current increase for each county.

Mr. Green – Discussed the issues that came out of the Finance Committee Meeting and that there may be a possibility of \$56,000 dollars left over and he suggested we keep this in the budget and put items back in the budget for the students.

Mrs. Ganser – Questioned Ms. Stafford on when a budget needs to be passed and if there are discounts associated with the printing of the tax bills if we pass the budget at an earlier date.

Mrs. Stafford – Stated that the budget needs to be adopted by June 30th and suggested that they pass it no later than June 26th so there is time to print the tax bills before July 1st.

Earl Snyder – Walnutport asked if there can be an additional fee put on homes being sold within our school district that would have children who would be attending school. He asked since the school budget is based on an "X" number of students a huge influx in new families moving in with students attending our schools, could hurt the school budget. He said that he

was told that there are school districts that surround us that impose that impact fee.

Attorney Stopp – Said that in Montgomery County they tried to impose this and that it was determined that there is no authority at the local level to impose such a fee. He did say that township councils have the ability to impose an impact fee.

Mr. Dorshimer – Asked about the money we would be taking out of fund balance this year to balance the budget.

fund Ms. Stafford – Informed him that the money was being used for one time purchases out of balance.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

LeAnn Hoch – Washington Township questioned if we are currently at the 3.433 and that the board is not considering, at this point, any of the other cuts listed on the bottom of that sheet.

Dr. Sham – Asked them to keep in mind that we might have to deal with Act 72 next school year and that we pass the budget as close to what we think the index might be without using fund balance.

Mr. Green – asked that we pass a 3.696 percent increase and put \$56,000 items back into the budget. Suggested maybe we not pass a budget tonight so we have two weeks to explore the possibility of putting items back into the budget.

BUDGET

Mr. Williams – Stated that he was comfortable with where the budget is currently at and if there **DISCUSSION** needs to be an increase, that small amount should be taken from fund balance for more one (Con't.) time purchases.

Mr. Dorshimer – Said that he would not be willing to go above the 3.433 percent increase. He would be willing to support not filling the assistant principal's position for a budget savings of \$98,000.00 or take half that money out of the budget and explore the issue half way through the year if we would need to fill that position. He said that he is against "pay to play" but looking at other districts within the valley that are "pay to play" districts, he feels it is an option.

Mr. Ruth – He would support pay to play but not agree with eliminating the assistant principal's position.

Mrs. Giles – Stated that she does not agree with "pay to play".

Mr. Beers – Does not support pay to play or eliminating the assistant principal's position.

Mr. Follweiler – Does not support "pay to play" or eliminating the assistant principal's position.

3.433
Blended Mill
Increase

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, to adopt a final budget at the blended rate of 3.433681, 3.41 for Lehigh County and 3.75 for Northampton County .

Mr. Dorshimer – Asked what we are taking from fund balance.

Mrs. Stafford - \$151,525.00

Mr. Dorshimer – Stated that we are currently half a mill behind next year already.

Mrs. Stafford – Stated that only if we spend it all.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Beers, Mrs. Ganser (5)

NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth (3)

ADOPTION
OF
2006-2007
NORTHERN
LEHIGH
for
SCHOOL
DISTRICT
BUDGET

It is recommended that the Board of Education adopts a budget for the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2006-2007 school year in the amount of \$25,423,888.00.

1. A 60.292 mill (or \$6.03 per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax on Real Estate for Lehigh County and a 54.943 mill (or \$5.49 per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax on Real Estate for Northampton County. An increase of 3.434 mills over 2005-2006
The mileage rate for Lehigh County is 60.292 and the mileage rate for Northampton County is 54.943.
2. A \$5.00 Resident Per Capita Tax, taxable on 18 year olds and over based on Section 679 of the School Code of 1949. No change from 2005-2006.
3. Taxes under Act 511 with no changes from 2005-2006:
 - 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).

Mr. Green made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams to adopt the 2006-2007 budget as read.

YEA: Mr. Follweiler, Mr. Green, Mr. Williams, Mr. Beers, Mrs. Ganser (5)
NAY: Mrs. Giles, Mr. Ruth, Mr. Dorshimer (3)

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

Mr. Beers made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Follweiler, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of Education is approved at 10:29 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Beers, Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green,
Mr. Ruth, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Ganser (8)

NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Bryan C. Dorshimer
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Lauren A. Ganser