

# NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Special Board Meeting Minutes

Slatington, PA

June 19, 2002

- PURPOSE** A special meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors to officially adopt the 2002-2003 Northern Lehigh School District Budget including customary implementing revenue motions and for general purposes, was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, June 19, 2002, in the gymnasium located in the Slatington Elementary School.
- ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)
- Members absent: None (0)
- Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Ms. Laurie Newman, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle
- VISITORS** Approximately 40 visitors attended the meeting in addition to Elizabeth Bartolai, reporter for The Morning Call newspaper.
- Treasurer's Report A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second by Mr. Newhard, that the report of the treasurer, be approved for the month of May 2002.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles  
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
- NAY: None (0)
- Contracted Services A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve to hire Glenn Rissmiller as an Athletic Consultant at a per diem rate of \$210.52 to be deducted from an annual stipend of \$20,000 in the event that Mr. Rissmiller is hired as a part-time athletic director for the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2002-2003 school year. The number of days worked is not to exceed 95 days and the stipend is not to exceed a total of \$20,000.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles  
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
- NAY: None (0)
- Reconfirm Adoption Of 2.99 Mill Increase A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education reconfirm the adoption of the budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2002-2003 fiscal year with a 2.99 mill increase.
- Dr. Sham informed the board that as of the last board meeting it was discovered that, while the board had adopted budget with a 2.99 mill increase, some additional alterations needed to be made to the budget in order to meet the 2.99 mills. He informed the board that an additional \$83,775.00 would have to be removed from the budget in order to meet that 2.99 mill increase. The administration created three scenarios to reach the 2.99 mill increase. Scenario #2 was the recommendation of the administration. This scenario included removal of a special education aide at Peters Elementary in the amount of \$11,596.00, removing \$15,000 worth of textbooks, and an agreement with a textbook company that the district could make payments over the next two years in the amount of \$57,179.00.

- Amend Motion 2.85 Mill Increase A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve to reduce the millage increase from 2.99 mills to 2.85 mills with the administration selecting items to be removed from the priority list to arrive at the 2.85 mill increase. This would involve adopting Scenario 2 plus cutting an additional \$28,000 from the budget by removing all field trips, remove ELF position at the senior high school, reduce building conferences, remove AV positions, remove ELF positions at Slatington and Peters Elementary, remove middle school intramurals.
- Amend Amended Motion A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approve to amend the amended motion and take \$28,000.00 out of the Fund Balance to arrive at the 2.85 mill increase if the amendment is approved.
- Public Comment Dina Wanamaker – what is the difference in our tax increase from a 2.99 and a 2.85 mill increase?
- Vote On Amended Amendment ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard (5)  
NAY: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Fedorcha (4)  
Motion carried.
- Public Comment Janet Kern – What is Scenario #3? Addressed the issue that an ERIP would have helped the district. We need the money now, not in the future.
- Vote On Amendment ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox (5)  
NAY: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Fedorcha (4)  
Motion carried.
- Amend Motion A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education amend the motion and select Scenerio #3 which gives the district more direct cuts for a 2.85 mill increase.
- Executive Session President Fedorcha called for a short executive session to discuss personnel at 8:25 p.m. The board reconvened at 8:55 p.m.
- Withdraw Amendment Mr. Green and Mr. Cox both agreed to withdraw the amendment to the previous motion.
- Adopt The 2002-3003 Northern Lehigh School District Budget A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education adopt the budget of the Northern Lehigh School District for the 2002-2003 fiscal year in the amount of \$19,781,359.00. It was further moved that if the district receives additional money from the Commonwealth that the money should be placed in a fund balance and not used to offset any other items unless it is brought before the board for approval.
1. A 45.69 mill (or \$4.57 per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax on Real Estate for Lehigh County and a 40.92 mill (or \$4.09 per \$100 of assessed valuation) tax on Real Estate for Northampton County. An increase of 2.85 mills for Lehigh County and 2.25 mills for Northampton County over 2001-2002.
  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 2001-2002.
  3. Taxes under Act 511 with no changes from 2001-2002:
    - a. A 1% Earned Income Tax shared equally with the coterminous municipalities.
    - b. A 1% Realty Transfer Tax shared equally with the coterminous municipalities.
    - c. A \$5.00 Resident Per Capita Tax, taxable on 18 year olds and over.
    - d. A \$10.00 Occupational Privilege Tax.

Amend Motion A motion was made by Mrs. Ganser, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos to amend the motion to allow the administration to choose from the three scenarios those cuts they feel are necessary to arrive at a 2.85 mill increase with the \$28,000.00 still coming out of the fund balance.

Vote On Amendment YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)  
 NAY: None (0)

Vote On Main Motion YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)  
 NAY: None (0)

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Renee Evans – The district could save money if they would hire Dave Papay. She also addressed the ERIP situation.

Larry Meixsell – Is Scenario 3 still an option? Offered some supporting comments to hire Dave Papay. Also addressed the ERIP situation.

Andrew Barnett – If the ERIP is a win for teachers, a win for the district, why did the board vote against it.

Mr.Green – There is a difference between an ERIP savings and a retirement savings. The ERIP numbers were presented at a finance committee meeting where approximately 150 to 200 people attended. He has agreed to meet with the NLEA and the offer has not been accepted.

Janet Kern – NLEA would be happy to meet with the Mr. Green at his convenience.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the special meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)  
 NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott  
 Secretary

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ President  
 Gary S. Fedorcha