

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Special School Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
June 25, 2001

PURPOSE

A special meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors, for general purposes, was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:40 p.m., on Monday, June 25, 2001, in the cafeteria of the Slatington Elementary School.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, Mrs. Jane J. Escott, Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos, Mrs. Sheryl A. Giles, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mr. Jason M. Newhard, Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (8)

Members absent: Mr. Robert J. Cox (1)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Dr. Brian Gessner, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Atty. Neil Ettinger (Solicitor), Mrs. Doneta Merkle

VISITORS

Approximately twenty visitors attended the meeting, in addition to a reporter for TheTimes News.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**

Committee
Reports and/or
Meetings

The minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on June 4, 2001 were distributed.

The minutes of the Technology/Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting held on June 6, 2001 were distributed.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos gave a brief legislative report.

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

Dr. Sham announced that Mr. Iacobelli was successful in writing a grant through the Tosco Educational Assistance program in the amount of \$500.00 to obtain additional reference tools (dictionaries, thesauruses) to improve the skills of our fifth grade students.

Mr. Robert Kern, senior high school student council advisor, addressed the board with regard to some financial assistance the senior high student council needs for the 2001-2002 school year. He explained that the council treasury has been depleted to approximately \$200 which poses a major problem for them with all of the activities they would like to plan in the early part of the 2001-2002 school year.

He is requesting that the money remaining in the Senior High School Newspaper Account for the 2000-2001 school year be transferred into the Student Council Account so that they may begin the 2001-2002 school year in a relatively good financial status.

Transfer Student
Activities Funds
At High School

A motion was made by Mr. Green, seconded by Mrs. Geronikos that the Board of Education approve to transfer funds within the senior high Student Activities Account for 2000-2001 by transferring the remaining balance in the Senior High School Newspaper Account to the Student Council Account to begin the 2001-2002 school year.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

Supt.'s Report

Dr. Sham acknowledged Lisa Vaughan, senior student representative to the board, and presented her with a gift

(Con't.) recognizing her years of service on the board.

Dr. Sham reviewed/discussed information he distributed to the board outlining costs associated with the anticipated second phase of funding the district is considering.

Mr. Barry Brobst, representing The Architectural Studio, gave a presentation on the costs associated with expanding the field house and creating a practice soccer field.

Mr. Les Bear, representing Arthurs Lestrage & Company, gave a presentation explaining the funding impact associated with the anticipated funding and distributed information which outlined some financing options for the board to consider.

Enter Into Bond Debt Service Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos that the Board of Education authorize Arthurs Lestrage & Company to prepare the necessary documents to enter into a Bond Debt Service for a total of \$4.5 million to allow the district to meet building and technology needs that were not part of the first phase of funding, but remove \$70,000 from the proposal for classroom TV's and \$350,000 for a Dukane SmartSystem for the district.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Sechler (4)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (4)

Motion defeated.

Enter Into Bond Debt Service Motion made by Mrs. Escott, with a second made by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education approve to enter into a Bond Debt Service for \$4 million, decreasing the estimated cost of expanding and renovating the field house by \$500,000.

Public Comment Art George – Presented some updated information about the soccer program in the district. He thanked the administration and board members for their efforts in working with their organization to begin a soccer program in the district.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (5)
NAY: Mrs. Geronikos, Mr. Green, Mr. Dorshimer (3)

Motion carried.

Executive Work Session was held prior to the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, seconded by Mrs. Escott that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Personnel:

Rescind Motion Rescind the June 14, 2001 motion approving an effective departure date of August 2, 2001 for Dr. Brian Gessner, high school principal.

Resignations-Administrative Accept the resignation of Dr. Brian Gessner from his position as high school principal, effective July 8, 2001 and approve to compensate him for all accrued and unused vacation and personal days.

Non-Instructional Accept the resignation of Donna Heffernan, Title I Aide in the Peters Elementary School, effective June 8, 2001.

Abolish Non-Instructional Position And Employee In accordance with School Board Policy #511, approve to abolish the position of Transportation Coordinator for the district and move those responsibilities into the realm of the Director of Buildings and Grounds. As a result of this abolishment, the last day of employment for Marie Logue, Transportation Coordinator, will be June 30, 2001.

PERSONNEL

(Con't.)

Uncompensated Approve the request of Jacqueline Sham, Slatington Elementary third grade teacher, to take an

Leave-J. Sham uncompensated leave from her teaching position for the first semester of the 2001-2002 school year in accordance with School Board Policy #439.

Appoint Athletic Director Approve to employ Mr. Glenn Rissmiller to the position of Athletic Director for the 2001-2002 school year. Mr. Rissmiller's stipend for the 2001-2002 school year will be determined when the 2001-2002 Auxiliary Salary Schedule is approved.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Motion made by Mr. Newhard, seconded by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

NLHS Student Activities Fund Statement Approve the Northern Lehigh High School Student Activities Fund Statement for the month of April 2001.

Conferences Approve the request of Sharon Williams to attend the annual ACCESS PA conference in Allentown on September 20, 2001. Expenses for this conference include \$31.00 for registration, \$360.00 (\$180.00 for each elementary school) for project fees, for a total of \$391.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day. This request has been included in the 2001-2002 Peters and Slatington Elementary library budgets.

Approve the request of Kristie Croll to attend the Project Care, SAP Training conference in Bethlehem from June 26-29, 2001. Expenses include \$350.00 for registration and will be paid for through Drug Free monies.

Approve the request of Betsy Vasquez to attend a Wilson Language Training conference in Allentown on July 16 & 17, 2001. Expenses for the conference include \$195.00 for registration and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, seconded by Mrs. Sechler that the Board of Education authorize proper officials to ratify a contractual agreement between the Northern Lehigh School District and the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 to continue the Driver Education Program in our district, effective July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, seconded by Mrs. Escott that the Board of Education approve to allow Mrs. Lori Geronikos, who applied for the Federal Relations Network, and upon approval by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Executive Board to attend the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, DC from February 3-5, 2002, Mrs. Geronikos is requesting reimbursement for costs, estimated to be \$405.00 plus meals and transportation. At this conference she will be given time to lobby for federal funds. This is a one-year commitment beginning in September 2001.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)

NAY: None (0)

FINANCIAL

Motion made by Mr. Dorshimer, seconded by Mr. Newhard that the Board of Education approve the

following financial items:

- Portfolio Summary Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio Summary for the month of May 2001.
- Construction Bills Approve to have Construction Account bills paid on July 2, 2001, as presented.
- Capital Reserve #1 Bills Approve payment of Capital Reserve #1 bills, as presented.
- Purchase Approve the purchase of cafeteria equipment at a cost of \$31,978.53 from Singer Equipment Cafeteria Company. These items would be purchased under the current PA State Contract No. 7350-05. Equipment Money for this purchase would come from the "moveable fixtures & equipment" portion of the high school project.
- Purchase Various Items Of Furniture Approve the purchase of various items of furniture at a cost of \$36,340.30 from Roberts & Meck, Inc. These items would be purchased under the current PA State Contract No. 7105-05. Money for this purchase would come from the "moveable fixtures & equipment" portion of the high school project.
- Purchase Library Furniture Approve the purchase of library furniture for the senior high school at a cost of \$13,531.00 from Roberts & Meck, Inc. These items would be purchased under the current PA State Contract No. 7105-05. Money for this purchase would come from the "moveable fixtures & equipment" portion of the high school project.
- Change Orders SH Brick Replacements Approve to authorize a change order request for brick repairs at the senior high school for brick replacements as presented for a total cost of \$2692.00.
- Vision Mechanical Approve to authorize a change order request from Vision Mechanical, Inc. to provide labor and material to install one (1) 3" floor drain in Serving A-022, as per piping sketch dated June 1, 2001 at a cost of \$4,623.00.
- Approve Change Orders Under \$10,000 Approve the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee to authorize the Superintendent and Director of Buildings and Grounds to approve change orders up to \$10,000.00 to allow work to be accomplished without interruption, when necessary, between school board meetings.
- Delinquent Per Capita Tax Collector Approve the appointment of Statewide Tax Recovery as the delinquent per capita tax collector for the district for the fiscal year 2001.
- Next Day Hardware Maintenance Approve the renewal of a one-year Next Day Hardware Maintenance Program through Nortel Networks at a cost of \$8520, a decrease of \$1390, effective July 1, 2001 and ending on June 30, 2002.
- Travel And Accident Insurance Renewal Renew the travel and accident insurance policy for the 2001-2002 school year with Aon Consulting. This renewal is with the same company as last year, and the \$500 yearly premium is with no increase.

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

- Refund Real Estate Taxes Refund \$101.85 of the 2000-2001 school property taxes to the following individual due to assessed value being reduced from \$25,400 to \$14,900. The value was reduced due to fire damage on April 1, 2001.

Heather Lynn Kimak

436 West South Street
Slatington, PA 18080-1723
Tax Parcel ID 18-02-B06SE3A-025-003
Borough of Slatington

Use Cafeteria Funds To Purchase Cafeteria Equipment Approve the recommendation of the Business Manager to use up to \$60,000 of cafeteria funds to purchase cafeteria equipment that is necessary due to the building project. Items will be purchased under Pennsylvania State Contract or through competitive bidding as required by School Code.

CAN Insurance Company Renewal Approve to renew the equipment maintenance insurance program for the 2001-2002 school year with CAN Insurance Company at a yearly premium of \$34,949. The renewal is with the same company as last year, and the premium is a \$320 increase from the previous year.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)

**INFORM-
ATION** Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on May 21, 2001 were distributed.

**RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS** Art George – Asked if the board would give the high school administration some direction to petition the Colonial League for a high school soccer program.

Begin Soccer Program In Northern Lehigh School District Motion made by Mrs. Sechler, with a second by Mr. Newhard that the Board of Education approve to begin a soccer program in the Northern Lehigh School District with the understanding that the soccer parents organization fund the cost of coaches for the first year.

Amend Motion Motion made by Mr. Green, with a second by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve to authorize Dr. Brian Gessner to apply to the Colonial League for a boy’s and girl’s soccer program with the funding coming from the school’s athletic fund for the 2001-2002 school year.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)

**ADJOURN-
MENT** Motion made by Mrs. Geronikos, seconded by Mrs. Sechler that the special meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mrs. Sechler, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Geronikos

Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha