

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 3, 2001

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, December 3, 2001 in the Board Room of 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 Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None (0)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mrs. Doneta J. Merkle

VISITORS Approximately six visitors attended the meeting in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for The Times News.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Solicitor's Report -- Attorney Charles Stopp
Attorney Stopp reported on one item that dealt with the school district filing an assessment appeal if it comes to our attention that a radical is assessed too low. A Lehigh County case has recently been decided where another school district objected to the assessments for some mini markets or gasoline stations within their district and the court did allow the district to file assessment appeals claiming that the assessments were too low. This is now an option that is available to our district should the opportunity arise.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos gave a brief Legislative Report to the Board.

Federal and Other Programs Update -- Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written report to the Board.

Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
Dr. Sham's report included the following:

1. The school board committee meeting calendar for 2002 was distributed.
2. A list of school board committee members for 2002 was distributed. It was decided that the school board president will serve as an exofficio member of all committees.
3. Dr. Sham shared some information with the board with regard to the Middle School Steering Committee's Action Plan.
4. He announced that the district received a Middle States Commission on Secondary Schools Continuance Notification.
5. He informed the board that some complications have arisen with regard to our scheduling program with the CLIU. The administration will look at additional scheduling programs to make sure that we purchase the best package that fits our district's needs and be cost effective. This decision will mean that we will have to remain with our current scheduling software provider for one more year.
6. Mrs. Debbie Siglin, a fifth grade teacher at Slatington Elementary, was recognized for receiving the Lehigh County Conservation District Outstanding Conservation Educator for 2001 Award.

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS At 7:45 p.m. President Fedorcha asked for an executive session to discuss Act 93. The board reconvened at 8:30 p.m.

A short executive session was held prior to the meeting and also immediately following the meeting for personnel issues.

PERSONNEL

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following individuals as Subject Area Contact Persons and Department Chairpersons for the 2001-2002 school, effective December 10, 2001:

Position	Name	Stipend
Subject Area Contact Person - Language Arts	Kori Dibilio	\$1400
Subject Area Contact Person - Math	Shawn Green	\$1400
Subject Area Contact Person - Science	Ellen Drake	\$1400
Subject Area Contact Person - Social Studies	Donna Marushak	\$1400
Department Chairperson - Math	Bryan Geist	\$1800
Department Chairperson - English	Renee Evans	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Science	Larry Meixsell	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Social Studies	Dick Snell	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Wellness/Fitness/Nurse	Bob Kern	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Business/Computer Science/Technology	Erv Prutzman	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Foreign Language	Sandra Vajda	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Library	Jane Englert	\$1800
Department Chairperson - Fine Arts	Mary Ann Mattiola	\$ 900
Department Chairperson - Practical Arts	Steve Drake	\$ 900
Department Chairperson - Special Education K-12	Sharon Hunsicker	\$1800

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard (7)
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)
ABSTAIN: Mr. Fedorcha (1) Conflict of Interest

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following personnel items:

Resignation-
Non-Inst.

Accept the resignation of Nancy Wagner, Peters Elementary special education aide, effective November 21, 2001.

Substitutes-
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Marsha Strickler – Elementary
Danielle LaBarge – Elementary

Non-Inst.

Approve the following substitute aides for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:
Nancy Wagner
Judith Wagner

PERSONNEL

Approve the following substitute cafeteria worker for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25

(Con't.) per hour: Judith Wagner

Approve the following substitute secretary for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:

Judith Wagner

Unpaid Volunteer Aide Approve the following individuals as unpaid volunteer aides in the Slatington Elementary School for the 2001-2002 school year:

Michele Wagaman
Susan Smith

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

A motion was made by Mrs. Giles, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

Board Policies- Approve revisions to Policy # 202 – Attendance of Nonresident Students, as presented after second
Second Reading reading.

Approve revisions to Policy # 204 – Attendance, as presented after second reading.

Approve revisions to Policy # 217 – Graduation, as presented after second reading.

Conferences Approve the request of Slatington Elementary teachers Denise Plotsko and Tara Balliet to attend a Hands-on Equations Workshop in Allentown, PA on December 6, 2001. Expenses include \$175.00 each for registration, \$8.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$533.00 plus the cost of three substitute teachers for the day and has been approved by the district Continuing Professional Development Committee.

Approve the request of Lynn Haab to attend a Bureau of Education & Research conference in King of Prussia, PA on December 13, 2001. Expenses for this conference include \$175.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for one day. Money for this conference is available through IDEA funds.

Approve the request of Christine Koder to attend an Appelbaum Training Institute conference in Allentown on January 22, 2002. Expenses include \$175.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$6.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$191.00 plus the cost of a substitute for one day and will be paid for through IDEA funds.

Homebound Instruction Grant homebound instruction for a 9th grade student, Student No. 05-14000 for five hours per week, effective November 6, 2001 and continuing until approximately January 2, 2002.

Agreement of Sponsorship Approve the Agreement of Sponsorship To Attend Another Pennsylvania Community College for Michelle Kuntz, in accordance with the guidelines established under Policy #912. Beginning in the Spring of 2002 she will be a fulltime student at Northampton Community College to pursue her course of study in Interior Design.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**

A motion was made Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mr. Green, that the Board of Education appoint Mrs. Sheryl Giles as the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee representative for a one-year term beginning January 2002.

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

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education appoint Mrs. Jane Escott as the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee alternate representative for a one-year term beginning January 2002.

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

Mr. Dorshimer questioned the status of the retention pond overflowing at the Peters Elementary School. A discussion ensued and Mr. Dorshimer was informed that this situation has been rectified.

FINANCIAL

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following financial items:

- PC Abatements Consider abatement of per capita taxes for the residents that fall within the guidelines.
- Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account, as presented.
- Extended Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Extended Construction Account, as presented.
- Cash Management Portfolio Approve the Arthurs Lestrage Cash Management Portfolio for the month of October 2001.
- Exoneration Of Real Estate Approve a \$1,364.58 real estate tax exoneration for Slatington Borough for the period July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001. The exoneration pertains to the borough owning the old Slatington High School at 443 Main Taxes Street, in order to have the building razed and the parcel transformed into a central municipal park.
- Budgetary Transfers Approve budgetary transfers for the 2001-2002 school year as presented.
- VRM MAXIMUS Services Approve VRM MAXIMUS to perform professional property valuation and consulting services in order for our district to be in compliance with GASB 34 requirements. VRM MAXIMUS's services include an asset appraisal, bar code tagging, moveable equipment inventory, software, and training. The total cost of their proposal is approximately \$9,905.
- Portnoff Law Associates Approve Portnoff Law Associates as delinquent real estate tax collectors for the Northern Lehigh School District pending contract review by our Solicitor.
- Purchase Staff Shirts Approve the recommendation of the Technology/Buildings and Grounds Committee to purchase staff shirts for the custodial/maintenance personnel at a cost of \$958.00. Funds for this purchase will be taken from account 2600-610.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)

LEGAL

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the Board of Education approve to appoint the law firm of Steckel and Stopp as solicitors for the Northern Lehigh School District for 2002 at a retainer fee of \$1750.00.

Appoint Solicitor For 2002

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,

Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**PPL Right Of
Way
Agreement**

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve a Right of Way Agreement granting PPL the right, privilege and authority to construct, reconstruct, operate and maintain its electric lines consisting of one (1) pole, two (2) anchor guys and one (1) pad mounted transformer, overhead and underground facilities located along Oakhurst Drive situated in Washington Township.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

**INFORM-
ATION**

All board members received copies of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on October 15, 2001.

All board members received copies of the minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on October 9, 2001.

Correspondence from PSBA Negotiations Cluster Meetings was distributed.

**ADJOURN
MENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane J. Escott
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha