

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, December 6, 2021
Northern Lehigh Middle School
Auditorium
7:30 P.M.



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 7:34 p.m. on Monday, December 6, 2021, in the Northern Lehigh Middle School Auditorium.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, and Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.

Members absent: None

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mr. Todd Breiner, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Atty. Jonathan Huerta, Mr. Eugene Marks, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. James Schnyderite, Mr. Michael Strohl, Mr. Robert Vlasaty, Ms. Paige Craddock (Sr. Rep.) and Ms. Danielle Dougherty (Jr. Rep.)

VISITORS Approximately 8 visitors attended the meeting and forty-seven visitors viewed the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT Mr. Green read a statement regarding public comment at board meetings.

No public comment on agenda items.

APPROVE MINUTES Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on November 8, 2021, be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green

ABS: None (0)

Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that there was a meeting held last month.. They are doing, if any board member is wanting to partake in it or the public, they are doing a fundraiser for the Special Needs Foundation, it is a basket raffle. All the baskets have been donated by staff, administrators and employees. It's on their website if you wish to go onto the cliu.org, you're welcome to partake in it. Those funds go towards the Special Needs Foundation which goes through the bicycle program that they do for special needs students, the adapted bicycles. They also pay for things around the holidays to help families in need. Different types of devices as our special needs students need things. It is a really great fundraiser that they do. Most of this, through the basket raffle, will go to the Christmastime, holidays, and things like that to help students in need. One last thing which we will be going through this month, which will be the 21st of December, we will be looking to approve our operating budget at the IU. That is strictly buildings and grounds, technology, things of that such. It has been presented to the superintendents through their superintendent council. They have also been able to provide comments on that. At this time, the IU is not proposing an increase to that budget at all, which is the 9th or 10th year that there has been no increase in that operating budget. So, over the next few months, once it gets approved by the IU, it'll come to our board as final approval that then will go back to the IU.

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green reported that they also have been working on their budget and the budget is up a little bit in general because who knows where things are going to go with respect to state aid, and he's talked about that before. The good news is, for Northern Lehigh, he thinks between operating and capital, we're down about \$1,200, so there will be a slight decrease.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

Mr. Green commented that we do not currently have a representative to LCTI. He does know what we need to do on that but he's asking the board to hold off on doing anything at least for a short period of time until we know where this whole thing is going to go.

Student Representatives to the Board Report - Ms. Paige Craddock reported that the National Honor Society induction was on November 17 and held in the high school auditorium. Powderpuff was held at the stadium on Thursday, November 18. Sophomores played the seniors and freshman played the juniors. Each class represented a branch in the military and veterans were granted free admission to the event. It was very nice. The branches came and they talked about it with the class. Students took the PSS survey on Friday, November 19, in homeroom. The goal of this survey was to gather ideas for school improvement and obtain student feedback. NL Scholars is a new program for the high school and anyone is able to join and learn for colleges and careers. Along with this, the scholars are mentored by college students and are looking to mentor middle school students to prepare them for high school. Scholars also visited LCCC on November 22. Their next visit is to Lehigh University in early February. On Tuesday, November 23, positive behavior support assemblies were held in the auditorium. They explained the essential skills for students and it's basically just to replace everything with the Keystones because code was crazy. We got to do fun little activities. It was a fun experience. On December 21, the student council is having their elementary day, which we were not able to do last year. She's super excited. They go in and help teachers and get to hang out with the kids.

Ms. Danielle Dougherty reported that the football team paraded around the elementary school on December 2. They met in the auditorium for a speech afterwards to talk to the sixth graders. It was Coach Tout and some of the seniors. Pictures of them from when they were in elementary school were posted on a bulletin board so they could see how far they have come. Both the students and staff enjoyed this. My sister is in third grade and she got to make a little poster. Breakfast with Santa was set up the evening of December 3, and the breakfast was held Saturday morning the 4th. Both the student council and national honor society worked this event. There were crafts for the kids. They could see Santa and they could get their breakfast. On January 6, 7, 10, and 11, we will be administering the Keystones from 7 to 9 a.m. at the high school. For those not taking the Keystones, a two-hour delay schedule will happen. Testers will go in at normal time and then go to class after. Winter sports including girls' and boys' basketball and wrestling began on November 17. Indoor track also began its season so they just practice wherever throughout the high school. League games for basketball begin next week. Danielle took a minute to honor the football team who had an excellent season and played their final game of the season on Friday night against Southern Columbia in the state semifinal game at Lehigh. It was a tough loss, but the team exceeded numerous school records throughout the season. A special congrats goes out to all the seniors that played their hearts out this year and made great achievements.

Mr. Green asked Mr. Geist, for the next school board meeting, to perhaps have a presentation for the football team.

Solicitor's Report - No report.

Assistant Superintendent's Report - No report.

Business Manager's Report -No report.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link recognized two administrative retirees who have done tremendous work for our school district for quite some time now. First, Mrs. Susan Bahnick. Sue was hired full time on July 1, 2009, as the Food Services Director for Northern Lehigh School District. She obtained her Associate's Degree in Food Services Administration from Erie Community College in 1983 and her Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from East Stroudsburg University in 1985. Mrs. Bahnick has done an exceptional job for the district including, and this just scratches the surface here, state food audits, which are a bear, supervising staff, opening day meals for all the professional and support staff, holiday meals and baskets. This evening's meal was next level, so thank you for the work you and your team put into that. As well as, anything that has been asked of

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS**
(cont.)

the Food Services Department. Mrs. Bahnick went above and beyond the last two years during the pandemic. She organized the grab-n-go lunches, dealt with food shortages and deliveries, and encouraged her staff to stay positive, and to keep the main thing, the main thing, and that is our students. They did that every single day, including the summer. Mrs. Bahnick will be greatly missed by the district and for her leadership in the Food Services Department. Mrs. Bahnick will be retiring from the district on December 31, 2021, after 12 and a half years of service. It is my sincere hope, Sue, that your retirement years will bring you much joy and fulfillment and you spend more time with your family which I already know she has plans for. On behalf of the Board of Education and the school district will be honoring your request to have your donation sent to the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation as a token of our appreciation for all you have done for the staff and students in this community, best wishes to you. Mr. Link recognized Mrs. Rhonda Frantz who was hired full time on March 15, 1983, as a Bookkeeper II in the administration office. On July 23, 1986, Mrs. Frantz was transferred to the Bookkeeper I position. During her time in the Bookkeeper position, she was contracted to fill in as the Business Manager over two years. On September 12, 2011, Mrs. Frantz was hired as the Co-Director of Business Affairs/Employee Payroll and Benefits. She obtained her Associate's Degree in Business Management from Lehigh County Community College in 1980. Mrs. Frantz has also served the district as a game worker. She has been an integral part of the business office with child accounting, benefits and audits. There's a lot of audits that happen in a school district and it's because of people like Rhonda and Sue that we are always highly successful in our outcomes. And, she has been our "go-to" for Northern Lehigh School District history. If I want to know something about one of the schools that no longer exists in the district or the redistricting, or the merging of the school district, Rhonda's always happy to sit down and have a conversation with me and I'm going to miss those conversations, Rhonda. Mrs. Frantz will be retiring from the district on December 31, 2021, after almost 39 years of service, it's remarkable. It is my sincere hope, Rhonda, that your retirement years will bring you much joy and fulfillment as you spend more time with your family, especially your grandchildren. On behalf of the Board of Education and the school district will be honoring your request to have your donation sent to the Northern Lehigh Education Foundation as a token of our appreciation for all you have done for the staff and students in this community. I wish you nothing but the best. Mrs. Frantz responded from the audience.

Mr. Link recognized the football team on their tremendous season this school year. I'm looking forward to deeper recognition in January. Mr. Geist, during that time, can you please be sure to highlight all the records that were broken this year. I don't know that I've ever worked in a district where that many records were broken by one team in a single district. So, kudos to the entire team and the coaching staff.

Executive Session An executive session was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Middle School Library for the purpose of personnel and legal items.

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

Rescind Appointment Rescind the motion appointing Jaqueline Miller, Volunteer Assistant Softball Coach that was approved at the September 13, 2021 school board meeting.

Rescind the motion appointing Brianna Schuck, Volunteer Assistant JH Softball Coach that was approved at the September 13, 2021 school board meeting.

Retirement/Resignation J. Eckroth Accept the resignation of Jessica Eckroth from her position as Cafeteria/Hall Monitor at Peters Elementary, effective November 15, 2021.

J. Bloch Accept the resignation of Jessica Bloch from her position as a Personal Care Assistant at the high school, effective November 23, 2021.

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Administrative Transfer Tina Beltz
 From: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor at the High School
 Non-Assignment: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor at the Middle School ESSER Funded
 Instructional Salary: No change in salary
 Effective: November 30, 2021

Appointment Non-Instructional
 Assignment: ELDP Instructional Paraprofessional ESSER Funded
 Salary: \$15.45/hour
 Effective: November 22, 2021
 Termination Date: End of the 2021-2022 School Year
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**

Susan Yesik* **
 Assignment: Cook's Helper - Middle School
 Salary: \$13.50/hour
 Effective: November 10, 2021
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**
****Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Timothy McKay* **
 Assignment: Custodian
 Salary: \$16.21/hour
 Effective: December 7, 2021
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**
****Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Skye March* **
 Assignment: Instructional Paraprofessional - Personal Care Assistant
 Salary: \$15.45/hour
 Effective: On or about December 13, 2021
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**
****Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Megan Frantz* **
 Assignment: Instructional Paraprofessional
 Salary: \$15.45/hour
 Effective: On or about December 13, 2021
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**
****Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Brenda Rudolph*
 Assignment: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor Peters Elementary
 Salary: \$13.87/hour
 Effective: November 15, 2021
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**

Brittany Tremper* **
 Assignment: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor Peters Elementary
 Salary: \$13.87/hour
 Effective: On or about December 13, 2021
***60 Working Day Probationary Period**
****Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

PERSONNEL**(cont.)**

Yazlynn Miller* **

Assignment: Cafeteria/Hall Monitor High School

Salary: \$13.87/hour

Effective: On or about December 13, 2021

60 Working Day Probationary Period***Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Co-Curricular	Michael Bauer	Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach (MS)	\$5034
Appointments	Bradford Jones	Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach (MS)	\$5034
2021-2022			

Co-Curricular	Dylan Hofmann	Wrestling Coach
Volunteers	Allison Chruscial	Assistant Softball Coach
2021-2022		

Substitutes Instructional Motion to appointment the following substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year at the 2021-2022 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Laurissa Rex* - Emergency Certification

Kathryn Burlett - Music K-12 & Reading Specialist

***Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items**

Non-Instructional Motion to approve the appointment of the following individual as substitute custodian for the 2021-2022 school year at the 2021-2022 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Sara Duncan

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of employee #2143 to take a medical leave of absence beginning on November 10, 2021, for their own medical reasons. Employee is requesting to use accumulated sick days. Employee plans to return to their position upon release from their physician.

Approve the request of employee #2630 to take an intermittent family medical leave of absence to care of a family member.

Game Workers 2021-2022 Motion to appoint the following list of people as Game Workers for the 2021-2022 school year. Game workers consist of ticket sellers and takers, game announcers, scoreboard operators, timers, field judges, scorekeepers. Rate of pay is consistent with the rates approved on the 2021-2022 Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Paige Schmidt

Retirement Benefits Upon implementation of their retirements, the following list of administrators request that all applicable benefits to which they are entitled be granted to them on the effective date of their retirement.

Jill Chamberlain July 30, 2021

Susan Bahnick December 31, 2021

Rhonda Frantz December 31, 2021

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green

ABS: None (0)

Motion carried.

Mr. Distler abstained from voting on Personnel, Administrative Transfer - Non-Instructional.

POLICY

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following policy item:

Board Policy
Second
Reading

Approve school board policy #150 - Title I Comparability of Services - Programs, as presented after the second reading.

Approve school board policy #626 - Federal Fiscal Compliance - Finances, as presented after the second reading.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green

ABS: None (0)

Motion carried.

**CURRIC-
ULUM AND
INSTRUCTION**

Mr. Kern made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Husack, that the Board of Education approves the following curriculum and instruction item:

Induction
Program

Approve the following teachers as a helping teacher in the Northern Lehigh School District Induction Program for the 2021-2022 school year, prorated for the number of days each serves in that capacity:

Helping Teacher	Inductee	Stipend
Michael Lehtonen	Paige Schmidt	\$800 (prorated)
Greg King*	Paige Schmidt	\$800 (prorated)

***Revised motion approved June 14, 2021.**

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green

ABS: None (0)

Motion carried.

**NEW
BUSINESS**

Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the Board of Education approves the following new business item:

Early
Retirement
Incentive Plan
for 2021-2022

Approve to develop an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2021-2022 school year.

YEA: None (0)

NAY: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green

ABS: None (0)

Motion denied.

FINANCIAL

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

Financial
Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:

1. General Fund Account months of October & November 2021

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:

1. General Fund months of November & December, 2021
2. Cafeteria Fund month of November & December, 2021

Abatement/
Exoneration

Approve abatement/exoneration requests of per capita taxes, for the residents that fall within the guidelines, as presented.

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

PSBA Accident Insurance Approve to pay for PSBA twenty-four hour accident insurance for administrators at a cost of \$26.50 per administrator per year for 2022, to be paid from the Superintendent's budget.

2021-2022 Salary Schedule Approve the 2021-2022 Northern Lehigh School District Salary Schedule as presented.

McClure Agreement As per the recommendation of administration and the Building & Grounds and Finance Committees, approve a Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement Proposal with McClure Company for a cost of \$655,490 as listed in the Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement Request for Proposal (RFP) Response dated October 29, 2021, contingent upon solicitor review, to be funded through ESSER II funds.

Floor Scrubber As per the recommendation of administration, approve the purchase of a Nacecare Floor Scrubber for the high school at a cost of \$3,810.00, funding through the Buildings and Grounds Budget.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green
ABS: None (0)
Motion carried.

LEGAL

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves the following legal item:

Expulsion Hearing Waiver The Board agrees to expulsion hearing waiver for Student #2690040. Student and guardian have agreed to waive their right to a formal expulsion hearing in front of the School Board and have also agreed to disciplinary action outlined in the waiver.

The Board agrees to expulsion hearing waiver for Student #2290188. Student and guardian have agreed to waive their right to a formal expulsion hearing in front of the School Board and have also agreed to disciplinary action outlined in the waiver.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, and Mr. Green
ABS: None (0)
Motion carried.

INFORMATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meetings held on October 18, 2021.

Minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on October 7, 2021.

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on October 27, 2021 and November 22, 2021.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Green recognized the guests.

Mr. Chad Christman - It's in regards to how you guys want to change the committee layout. Since you guys want to do the committees on all the same day, would it be opposed, I apologize Mr. Hass, to go back to doing live streaming of the committee meetings since these main meetings are streamed on YouTube. Maybe it would be beneficial for those who can't make the extended Wednesday night. They could watch them online. Would that be too much to ask for to try to do that?

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (cont.)

Mr. Link commented technically, we can do that. I'll look to our outstanding I.T. department. Is that something that can be done from the board room as well? I know we have all the equipment set down here. Mr. Hill commented that yes, it's something we could do from the board room. We may have to move some equipment back and forth. Mr. Green commented that we'll certainly look into that and we'll try and get that done if we can. If not next month, maybe the month after, but we should be able to get that.

Mr. Christman commented that some people can't make the committee meetings all the time and it would be beneficial if resources were available to them.

Mr. Linked stated Angela Williams as the next guest. Mrs. Williams spoke briefly from the audience.

Mr. Eric King - Over the last three weeks, our family's been dealing with Covid protocols and everything else going on and I'm sure you guys are well aware 30 something kids were by some testing positive. I'm curious why our district seems to be handling this policy so much different than larger districts. I have a co-worker that has a son that's the same age as mine, tested positive, not one other child was affected at the Bethlehem Area School District. They're not sent home other than being told monitor if you see any symptoms, report it to the school and so forth. I've heard other policies from Nazareth. I've heard other policies from Parkland, Southern Lehigh. It seems we're the only district that is burdening ourselves with sending so many kids out of the school. Now, luckily it was over the Thanksgiving break so they didn't miss a ton of educational time but it seems that we're taking on all this responsibility ourselves because we're a smaller district. Whereas, other districts are leaving it to the CDC to do all of their contact tracing and the school district is basically saying, hey one student was affected, monitor the people in the classroom, but we don't need to send home everybody and spend hours and hours contact tracing to see who they sat with, who they were friends with, where they were. And, I just feel that the parents are being affected unequally in our district and the students are being treated unequally in our district and losing educational time because of this. Where other districts neighboring us are not spending the time doing that contact tracing and not losing out on the education time when they are affected. So, it's a concern of mine and one of the things that we brought up is we detailed our Health and Safety Plan too specific, where other districts made it broad and said we'll do the bare minimum of what needed to be done to recreate or meet our state requirements. The other thing I brought up is when my son was affected by this, other students were asked that if you're vaccinated you do not have to stay home. You're allowed to return back to class and those students were also required to show proof of vaccination. It was my understanding no state mandate has been issued to require proof of vaccination. So, I want to know why the school is requiring a proof of vaccination to stay in school. What is stopping the student from just sitting there saying I'm vaccinated and walking right back to the classroom? I think it's something that needs to be addressed and we need to look at that because it's not fair that we're even requiring that or asking that then that student gets to get sent back. So, something to consider going forward. I wish we could address that moving forward. Mr. Green commented that I think you have two separate questions there if I'm not mistaken. Mr. King commented two separate issues but it's related kind of the same policy and I think we're getting too detailed into how we're doing our contact tracing and it's unjustly affecting the kids laying out an education in school as much as possible. They lost out on way too much last year in the year before. So, something I think we need to look into what other districts are doing differently that might work better for us here and also take the burden off the staff so they don't have to spend hours and hours doing all this contact tracing as well in the building.

Mr. Link commented I can't speak to what the other districts are doing but I'm happy to make some phone calls and ask them directly. I can do that and report back in January. We are following what has come to us by the CDC with the contact tracing. Quite honestly, the CDC recently has, my interpretation of it, has kind of washed their hands of it, meaning they want us to do the contact tracing and then give them an end-of-the-day Friday report or the number of positive students and number of close contacts. That actually changed right before Thanksgiving break.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (cont.)

Mr. King commented that it seemed to me like we're in a smaller district so maybe it seemed like we took on that responsibility because we sat there and said okay, we have "x" amount of students we can handle this type thing. And, other larger school districts, like Bethlehem School District and Parkland and others that are much larger sat there and said, okay, you guys tell us what to do, we'll do it. In that situation if one student is affected by it and says I'm positive, they report it to the school. The school says, okay little Johnny was tested positive, was he around well. Well, we don't know the parents could just sit there and say, I have no idea and that's the end of it and then nobody else has to get sent home just monitor closely and see what happens. Which, 30 something kids go sent home. In our case, and to the best of our knowledge, nobody was affected by it other than they lost out on a lot of educational time.

Mr. Link commented I'm happy to look further into that. That is all that signed up for in-person. Public comment, we have two that were emailed. A person from the audience asked to speak wh wasn't on the list. Mr. Green asked her to come to the podium.

Mrs. Elissa Pesesko - I just thought I'd comment that I work at Parkland School District and I can tell you that I am regularly contacted by the nurse and asked about close contacts and students are being sent home if they were a close contact at Parkland High School. And also, my daughter was a close contact and she was not asked to show proof of vaccination. I'm very happy with any efforts you make to ensure that our kids stay healthy and safe with regards to whatever you need to do to keep a deadly virus from spreading; masking, distancing, contacting, sending them home. I support you 100%.

Mrs. Husack read the public comments in order of time stamp.

Mr. Kyle Ritz - Monday, December 6, 2021, 1:35 p.m. - I would like to know why these teachers are making it their responsibility to teach and wrongly educate our children about this vaccine. One teacher, I was told from my son, even said natural antibodies do not exist so that's why you should get your Covid shot. Can someone explain to me where in the curriculum this is located?

Mr. Link commented that without getting into any specificity on a child's example or that of an individual employee, because I do not know that background, I would say that items like vaccination, personal health, personal care is covered within the state standards beginning in grade 3 through up. Science, Technology and Engineering education standards as well as our Health, Safety, and Physical Education standards. So, they are within the standards. The specificity of what was described there, I can't speak for that.

Mr. Justin Jachowicz - Monday, December 6, 2021, 3:36 p.m. - Mr. Link and School Board, I originally had planned to speak in-person this evening based off Mr. Link and the correspondence I had earlier today. My goal is to avoid public confrontation as I will not be coerced by Mr. Link or the district into wearing a mask at a public meeting. I was given conflicting information and am choosing to once again, write a letter, instead of speaking in-person. I find it shameful and un-American that Mr. Link chooses to blindly follow voided and illegal mandates in a snap of a finger from an unelected and interim Secretary of Health but drags his feet on updating the Health and Safety Plan to reflect the rulings of the case from the Commonwealth Court, ruled 4-1. As a district, we need to question and evaluate our solicitors as we were advised to follow voided and illegal mandates for several months. Yes, there is an appeal but that is the precedent ruling and the reality is, many school districts across the state are choosing to go back to their mask optional policies and update their Health and Safety Plans. I am asking that Mr. Link send out a parent survey to determine what the community wants in terms of the Health and Safety Plan. As always, other local districts are putting plans in place to allow parents the option for masking and how they approach Covid-19. There is not a one size fit all solution and parents should have the final say when it comes to the health of their children. This is a major issue and will continue to be so as our elected school board chose to delegate all authority to Mr. Link. One of the board members spoke out last meeting that they are in "constant communication" about the Health and Safety Plan. When and how is that communication taking place? I have read through hundreds of emails from a Right-to-Know request and certainly am not seeing this. More importantly, what is

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS
(cont.)

the district's plan moving forward to address the Health and Safety Plan? The mask mandate certainly is an issue but equally, if not more important, is the obsessive quarantining that is taking place. Local school districts like Jim Thorpe and Tamaqua are scaling back and removing the quarantining and mask mandates and we remain in a quagmire. During the November meeting, a student spoke about the cancelling of the Homecoming Dance and commended the community for organizing an alternate, private event for the students. Then, former board President rudely interrupted the student with false and incorrect information as the event was indeed cancelled and not postponed. I would like the former board president to publicly apologize to that young man who showed courage and spoke for many of his classmates. Lastly, on a positive note, I would like to commend the Northern Lehigh Football team for having a great season. The coaching staff and players provided a lot of excitement for the community and represented our area, the Colonial League and District 11 football, very well. I hope moving forward into 2022, that as a district, we can return to true normalcy. Happy holidays to everyone!

Mr. Green commented that I'd like to take a second to address that and I'm not going to get into each sentence, an item, etc. I just need to state to the public, the board is aware of the policy. We've reviewed the policy. We've gone over it. We've discussed it. We've discussed it at public meetings on several occasions. I think ours was one of the few districts that said we were making masks optional. That was our original plan until we were prevented from doing so. And, I think Mr. Link is aware of the fact that, possibly in three days, that mandate might be lifted on December 8 and I think he has direction on what to do. The board has given direction, I think we're all on the same page on that, we did move to unmask as soon as possible. As to the legal ramifications, Attorney, do you want to make any comments at all just to answer the questions? Attorney Huerta commented that there was a Commonwealth Court decision issued on or about November 10. That decision overruled the mask mandate however there was still an automatic stay pending the appeal to the Supreme Court. The Commonwealth Court thereafter lifted that stay. However, shortly thereafter, most recently on November 10, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court reinstated the stay. Meaning that the mask mandate is currently still legally enforceable until such time as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court holds oral argument. I believe that's what the President was referring to on December 8 is the oral argument. So, at that point or thereafter, they will be issuing a ruling with regards to the mask mandate but at this time, it is still in place.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Husack made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp and Mr. Green (5)
ABS: None (0)
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.