

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
June 3, 2002

- 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, June 3, 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, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Attorney Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Ms. Laurie Newman, Ms. Pamela Grammes, Mr. Nicholas Sander, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle
- VISITORS** Approximately 25 visitors attended the meeting in addition to Elizabeth Bartolai, reporter for The Morning Call newspaper, who arrived at 8:05 p.m.
- SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit – Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer
Mr. Dorshimer gave his report summarizing items contained in the Board Briefs of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 dated May 20, 2002.
- Committee Reports and/or Meetings
All board members received a copy of the minutes of Policy/Education Committee meeting held on May 20, 2002 and the Community Relations/Volunteerism Committee meeting held on May 15, 2002.
- Student Representatives To The Board Report – Ms. Pamela Grammes and Mr. Nicholas Sander gave their student representative report for the month of June.
- Solicitor's Report – Attorney Charles Stopp – Attorney Stopp reported that the Commonwealth Court disagreed with the Secretary of Education in the secretary's failing to afford districts the opportunity for a hearing on funds that were diverted for cyber schools.
- Legislative Report – Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos
Mrs. Geronikos gave a report that County Executive Jane Ervin has informed the district of a new educational initiative **MORE for Children** which will provide funds from Lehigh County hotel tax revenues for educational field trips to designated County tourist venues. Our district's approximate allocation is between \$3667 and \$7335. She also updated the board on recent legislative issues.
- Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written Administrative Assistant report and highlighted several items contained in her report.
- Superintendent's Report – Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.
Ashley Mayberry, a fourth grade student in the Peters Elementary School, was recognized for her winning essay entry in the "There Ought To Be A Law" Essay Contest sponsored by State Representative Julie Harhart.
- Dr. Sham reminded those in attendance of the Educational Foundation's Fourth Annual 5K Run which will be held on Saturday, June 8.
- Job descriptions for the elementary office aide positions was distributed to all board members.
- Executive An Executive Session for personnel issues was held prior to the meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the

Session superintendent's office.

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

Resignations - Accept the resignation of Glenn Rissmiller from his position as a professional employee in the
Instructional senior high school. Effective June 17, 2002, which at the present time is the last teacher day of the 2001-2002 school year, Mr. Rissmiller will be retiring marking thirty-five years of continuous service to the Northern Lehigh School District.

Non- Accept the resignation of Marvin Mantz from his position as custodian in the district. Effective
Instructional September 10, 2002, Mr. Mantz will retire after 28 years of service to the Northern Lehigh School District.

Accept the resignation of Donna Wagner, special education aide in the Peters Elementary School, effective June 14, 2002.

Co-Curricular Accept the resignation of Angela Scolaro from her position as Assistant Varsity Soccer Coach for the
Spring 2003 season.

Accept the resignation of Ellen Yenser from her position as Middle School Student Council Advisor at the end of the 2002-2003 school year.

Abolish Non- In accordance with School Board Policy #511, approve to abolish the position of a One-on-One Aide
Instructional at Peters Elementary School as a result of a change in the student's Individual Education Plan. As
Position And result of this abolishment, the last day of employment for Connie Kistler is May 23, 2002.
Employee

Administrative Approve to administratively transfer Mary Anne Shafer from her position as grade 6 teacher in the
Transfer Peters Elementary School to the middle school, filling the position of Nadeen Boykin, who resigned. This transfer is effective beginning with the 2002-2003 school year.

Co-Curricular Appointments for 2002-2003*

Head Boys' Basketball Coach – Richard Oertner
Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach – Richard Mantz
Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach – Dennis Rehrig
Head Girls' Basketball Coach – David Redline
Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach – Jason Reinhard
Head Wrestling Coach – Todd Herzog
Assistant Wrestling Coach – Brent Herzog
Assistant Wrestling Coach – Glenn Serfass
Cheerleading Advisors – Lil Borger & Lisa Kern (Will Share Stipend)
Senior High Winter Intramurals – Winter Track – Bryan Geist
Senior High Winter Intramurals – Weightlifting – Steve Hluschak
Senior High Winter Intramurals – Weightlifting – James Tkach
Senior High Scholastic Scrimmage – Denise Turoscy
Debate Advisor – Scott Delong

**The stipend will be determined when a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is approved.*

Substitutes Approve to employ the following substitute instructional aide for the 2002-2003 school year at the
Non-Instruct- substitute rate of \$8.64 per hour: Connie Kistler – Instructional Aide
ional

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 Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

- Conferences Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich to attend a PA Institute of Certified Public Accountants "School District Conference" in King of Prussia on June 27, 2002. Expenses for this conference include \$225.00 for registration, \$51.00 for travel for a total cost of \$276.00.
- Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich to attend a Career Track conference in Bethlehem on June 5, 2002. Expenses for this one-day seminar entitled "How to Handle People With Tack and Skill" include \$149.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$30.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$189.00.
- Approve the request of Michelle Raber to attend an American Heart Association conference at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem from June 4-6, 2002. Expenses for this conference include \$150.00 for registration and will be paid for through Curriculum and Instruction funds.
- Approve the request of Suzanne Gower to attend the Commonwealth Excellence in Science Teaching Alliance conference at Messiah College from July 21-24, 2002. Expenses for this annual conference include \$125.00 for registration, \$45.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$170.00 and have been approved by the district's Continuing Professional Education Committee.
- New Policy-
Policy 917
1st Reading Approve new board policy #917 – Parent/Family Involvement, as presented after first reading.
- Policy 622
2nd Reading Approve new board policy #622 – GASB Statement 34, as presented after second reading.
- Attendance of
Non-Resident
Students Approve to allow a middle school and high school student, whose parents have moved from the Northern Lehigh School District on May 10, 2002, to remain in attendance for the duration of this school term in accordance with School Board Policy #202.
- Approve to allow a high school student, whose parents have recently moved from the Northern Lehigh School District, to remain in attendance for the duration of this school term in accordance with School Board Policy #202.
- Use of Facilities Grant approval to the Slatington Lions Club to use campus grounds to host their Annual 2002 Car Show, which will be held on Sunday, September 1, 2002 (rain date September 2). It is understood that they will be billed for custodial services for using the grounds. It is also the responsibility of the Lions Club to provide sufficient security for the event.
- YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)
- CURRICU-
AND INSTRU-
TION** A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education approve to authorize proper officials to execute contracts for Title I, Title VI, Title II, and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Acts for the 2002-2003 school year.
- Title I, Title VI,
Title II & Drug
Free Schools &
Communities
Acts For 2002-03 YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (9)
NAY: None (0)
- 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:
- Motion
Amended An amendment to the motion was accepted by both Mr. Cox and Mrs. Geronikos, to exclude the awarding of bids for diesel fuel, unleaded gasoline, #2 grade fuel oil to be addressed at the next meeting.

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.												
Portfolio Summary	Approve the Arthurs Lestrange Cash Management Portfolio for the month of April 2002.												
Budgetary Transfers	Approve budgetary transfers as presented. (See Attachment)												
Student Accident Insurance 2002-03	Appoint Mid-Penn Insurance Associates as the 2002-2003 Student Accident and Athletic Insurance carriers. The renewal rate is \$5,460, and coverage is increased to include all interscholastic sports, band and cheerleading. Voluntary school coverage is \$27 and 24-hour coverage is \$98, which is no cost increase from last year.												
Ron Klevenhagen Tax Collector For 2002-03	Appoint Mr. Ronald Klevenhagen as Earned Income Tax Collector, Delinquent Earned Income Tax Collector, Occupational Privilege Tax Collector, and Real Estate and Per Capita Tax Collector for the 2002-2003 school year. It is further recommended that proper officials be authorized to secure, on behalf of the above named individual, a \$20,000 bond for the fiscal year July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.												
Financial Institutions For 2002-03	<p>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 school district or 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 2002-2003 school year:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>AllFirst Trust</td> <td>Prudential-Bache Government Securities Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizens National Bank</td> <td>Patriot Bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>P.S.F.S.</td> <td>First Union National Bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust</td> <td>Chase Manhattan Trust</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pennsylvania School District</td> <td>Neffs National Bank</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liquid Asset Fund</td> <td>Commerce Bank of Pennsylvania</td> </tr> </table>	AllFirst Trust	Prudential-Bache Government Securities Trust	Citizens National Bank	Patriot Bank	P.S.F.S.	First Union National Bank	Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	Chase Manhattan Trust	Pennsylvania School District	Neffs National Bank	Liquid Asset Fund	Commerce Bank of Pennsylvania
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Citizens National Bank	Patriot Bank												
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Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust	Chase Manhattan Trust												
Pennsylvania School District	Neffs National Bank												
Liquid Asset Fund	Commerce Bank of Pennsylvania												
PSBA Legal Liability Risk Management Program	Approve the "Participation Agreement for the PSBA Insurance Trust's School Leaders' Legal Liability Risk Management Program". The PSBA Trust is one option our broker of record is reviewing for our school district.												
Agreement Of Sponsorship	Approve the Agreement of Sponsorship to Attend Another Pennsylvania Community College for Felicia Thomas, in accordance with the guidelines established under Policy #912. Beginning in the Fall 2002 she will be a full time student at Northampton County Community College to pursue her course of study in Dental Hygiene.												

FINANCIAL

(Con't.)

Renew Bonds For Board Secretary & Treasurer	Approve to renew the following expiring bonds for the 2002-2003 fiscal year through HRH Palley Simon Associates: A \$50,000 Board Secretary Bond for the term July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2003 at an annual premium cost of \$175.00, and a \$50,000 Board Treasurer Bond for the period July 1, 2002 to July 1 2003 at an annual premium cost of \$269.00.
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ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles,
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (8)
NAY: Mrs. Ganser (1)

LEGAL

Approve Inception of Petition To Review Cyber Schools

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve to authorize the inception of a petition to review in Commonwealth Court The Einstein Academy Charter School and cyber schools and the Pennsylvania Department of Education's failure to grant a due process hearing under the Administrative Agency Law.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

All Board members received a copy of the minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit Board of Directors meeting held on April 15, 2002 and a copy of the minutes of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors meeting held on April 9, 2002.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Steven Bandzi – Washington Township – Wanted to know if anything was decided on with regard to the principal position at the senior high school. He asked if there is money appropriated to hire someone outside the district?

RECESS

President Fedorcha called for a short recess at 8:30 p.m. The board reconvened at 8:40 p.m.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Dr. Sham informed board members that after the meeting is concluded the administration needs to know exactly what cuts the board is expecting from the prioritized list of possible cuts that were distributed to them in order to prepare a final budget for adoption at the next school board meeting.

Mr. Rockovich gave a brief update as to where the district is with regard to the preliminary budget to date.

President Fedorcha suggested that the board should review, one by one, the prioritized list given to them by the administration and direct whether each item should be cut or should not be cut. This should give the administration some direction with the understanding that changes could still be made at the next meeting.

3 Mill Increase

A motion was made by Mr. Cox that the Board of Education adopt a 2.5 mill increase, with an additional one half mill to be taken out of the district's current fund balance, and any additional money that comes into the district from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania be held, not spent, and put directly into the budget next year as a line item.

Motion failed for lack of second.

President Fedorcha proceeded through the prioritized budget cuts, item by item, asking for each board member to vote on each item. Item #1 (teacher retirement and replacement) and #2 (playground equipment) have already been eliminated from the budget.

President Fedorcha continued working down the prioritized list:

Item #3 – President Fedorcha asked which members were in favor of keeping Edunet in the budget. All board members were in favor of keeping Edunet for the 2002-2003 school, with potential savings of \$58,420.00.

BUDGET DISCUSSION
(Con't.)

Item #4 – Remove all field trips from the budget. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Board Members In Favor – Mr. Dorshimer, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox (4). Board Members Not In Favor – Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Fedorcha (5). Field trips have been recommended to remain in the budget.

Item #5 – Remove \$75,000 worth of textbooks from the budget. A roll call vote was taken as follows: Members In Favor – Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott (6). Board Members Not In Favor – Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Fedorcha (3). Textbooks have been recommended for removal from the budget.

Mrs. Escott addressed the board stating that she was uncomfortable with the method they were using. She stated that the board has asked the administration to give them a prioritized cut list and that this process is going against what the administration is recommending. She suggested that a better way to work through the budget process would be to recommend millage increases.

4.5 Mill Increase

A motion was made by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve to amend the Northern Lehigh School District Preliminary Budget for the 2002-2003 school year and reduce the millage by 4.5 mills.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mrs. Escott, Mr. Fedorcha (4)
NAY: Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Ganser (5)
Motion defeated.

A motion was made by Mr. Cox, with a second made by Mrs. Giles, that the Board of Education table the discussion on the budget until next meeting.

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

Mr. Dorshimer asked that the administration revise the two budget cut sheets, remove those items that have already been cut by the board, and then prepare a new list of prioritized cuts that will bring the budget to a 2.5 to 3 mill increase.

Mr. Dorshimer requested historical information on mailing tax bills on July 1 versus August 1. Approximately what would the district be making. He would also like a list of how many teachers are in each of the district's buildings and what is the staff projections for next year.

**ADJOURN-
MENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 10:15 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