

**NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Board Minutes**

**Slatington, PA  
September 16, 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 7:40 p.m. on Monday, September 16, 2002 in the boardroom 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. Philip C. Bertolino, Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Mrs. Laurie Newman, Nicholas Sander, Amberly Gable, and Mrs. Doneta Merkle

**VISITORS** Approximately 17 visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Sharon Minnich, reporter for TheTimes News.

**APPROVE MINUTES** A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the minutes of regular school board meeting held on August 5, 2002, the regular school board meeting held on August 12, 2002 and the special school board meeting held on July 24, 2002 be approved and ordered filed.

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

NAY: None (0)

**SPECIAL  
BOARD  
REPORTS**

Student Representative Report Nicholas Sander and Amberly Gabel distributed a written report and elaborated verbally on its contents.

Legislative Report -- Mrs. Lori H. Geronikos  
Mrs. Geronikos gave her report which highlighted the fact that legislators will be meeting to deal with the issue of how to best reduce the property tax burden on the Commonwealth homeowners.

Federal and Other Programs -- Mrs. Lynne B. Fedorcha  
Mrs. Fedorcha distributed a written report to board members and spoke about Title I and Title V.

Superintendent's Report -- Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr.  
Dr. Sham reminded the board that the October 7 school board meeting will be held at the Lehigh Career and Technical Institute in Schnecksville.

The third day enrollment report for 2002-2003 was distributed to all board members.

Dr. Sham reviewed the Goal Areas and Action Plans for 2002-2003 school year.

Dr. Sham reported that the fire alarm went off (unplanned due to a burned-out ballast) in the Slatington Elementary School and the building was exited in a little over one minute.

Executive Session An Executive Work Session was held at 7:00 p.m. preceding the meeting to discuss personnel and negotiations issues. There was another Executive Session held after the meeting to discuss negotiations.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Child Rearing Leave Of Absence Theresa Kokinda Approve the request of Theresa Kokinda, middle school math teacher, to take a Child Rearing Leave of Absence during the 2002-2003 school. Barring any unforeseen complications, she is requesting permission to begin using 48 of her 52 sick days on or about November 15, 2002 and return to her teaching assignment on or about February 5, 2003.

Salary Adjustment Acknowledge the following teacher who has completed the requirements per the Collective Bargaining Agreement that would entitle him to a salary increase for the 2002-2003 school year:

Jason Graver  
From: 4B \$35,800.00\*  
To: 4B+24 \$36,400.00\*

\*2001-2002 salary to be adjusted when a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is ratified.

Department Chairperson Approve to appoint Michelle Raber as the Wellness/Fitness/Nurse Department Chairperson for the 2002-2003 school year at a stipend of \$1800.00.

Substitutes Instructional Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2002-2003 school year at the substitute teacher rates of \$70.00 for 1-10 non-consecutive days; \$80.00 for 11-20 non-consecutive days; and \$90.00 for 21+ non-consecutive days:

Erica Ritter – Elementary  
Michael Mengel – Elementary

Non-Instructional Approve to employ the following substitute instructional aide/secretary for the 2002-2003 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour: Grace Reppert – Instructional Aide/Secretary

Approve to employ the following substitute cafeteria workers for the 2002-2003 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:

Grace Reppert  
Hazel Miller

Approve to employ the following substitute custodian for the 2002-2003 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour: Hazel Miller

MS Administrative Detention Supervisor Approve to appoint Lewis Kern as the Administrative Detention Supervisor in the middle school. He will work two days a week from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. throughout the 2002-2003 school calendar year that warrants detention coverage. Salary will be \$16.00 for each day worked.

Senior High Administrative Detention Supervisor Approve to appoint Lewis Kern as the Administrative Detention Supervisor in the senior high school, effective September 10, 2002. He will work two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. throughout the 2002-2003 school calendar year that warrants detention coverage. Salary will be \$24.00 for each day worked.

Resignation Debate Advisor Accept the resignation of Scott DeLong from his position of Debate Advisor for the 2002-2003 school year.

**PERSONNEL**

(Con't.)

Professional Contract According to Article II-1108, subsection (b) of the School Code: "A temporary professional employee, initially employed by a school district on or after June 30, 1996, whose work has been certified by the district superintendent to the secretary of the school district, during the last four (4) months of the third year of such service, as being satisfactory, shall thereafter be a "professional employee" within the meaning of this article." Therefore, it is recommended to approve "professional employee" status as per the school code for the following teacher, who has satisfactorily completed three years of service to Northern Lehigh School District:

Scott DeLong

Amend Motion For Special Area Contact Stipend Approve to amend the motion, made on September 9, 2002, and change the stipend for Special Area Contact Persons from \$1200.00 to \$1400.00.

ROLL CALL: YEA: Mr. Cox, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles, Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard, Mr. Fedorcha (8)  
NAY: Mr. Dorshimer (1)

Motion Carried

Substitute Saturday Detention Supervisor A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve to appoint Frank Dibilio as the Substitute Saturday Detention Supervisor for the middle school and senior high school. He will work as needed; working Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. throughout the 2002-2003 school calendar year at a salary of \$50.00 for each Saturday worked.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, Mrs. Escott, Mrs. Ganser, Mrs. Geronikos, Mrs. Giles  
Mr. Green, Mr. Newhard (8)

NAY: None (0)

ABSTAIN: Mr. Fedorcha (1) Conflict of Interest

**POLICY**

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

Conferences Approve the request of Robert Cox to attend the PASA/PSBA "School Leadership Conference 2002" in Hershey, PA from October 1-4, 2002. Expenses include \$255.00 for registration, \$43.00 for meals, \$329.85 for lodging for a total cost of \$627.85.

Approve the request of Dawn Mayer to attend the Keystone State Reading Association's Annual Conference at Seven Springs from October 20-22, 2002. Expenses include \$130.00 for registration, \$25.00 for meals, \$136.00 for travel, \$246.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$537.00 and will be funded through Title I funds.

Approve the request of Rose Lee Goldberg to attend the Keystone State Reading Association's Annual Conference at Seven Springs from October 20-22, 2002. Expenses include \$130.00 for registration, \$25.00 for meals, \$10.00 for miscellaneous fees, \$246.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$411.00 and will be funded through Title I funds.

Approve the request of Brian Geiger, to attend a PA Association of School Business Officials Transportation Conference in Grantville on October 24 and 25, 2002. Expenses include \$220.00 for registration, \$94.00 for lodging, \$54.50 for travel for a total cost of \$368.40 and was included in the 2002-2003 budget.

**POLICY**

(Con't.)

Approve the request of Debra Bealer, to attend a PA Association of School Business Officials Transportation Conference in Grantville on October 24 and 25, 2002. Expenses include \$250.00 for registration, \$94.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$344.00 and was included in the 2002-2003 budget.

Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich, to attend a PA Association of School Business Officials Elements of School Finance Conference in Allentown on September 25, 2002. Expenses include \$115.00 for registration, \$27.00 for travel for a total cost of \$142.00 and was included in the 2002-2003 budget.

Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich, to attend a PA Association of School Business Officials Hands On Look At The AFR Conference in Grantville on November 22, 2002. Expenses include \$115.00 for registration, \$30.00 for travel for a total cost of \$145.00 and was included in the 2002-2003 budget.

Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich, to attend a PA Association of School Business Officials Negotiations For Business Officials Conference in Grantville on December 11, 2002. Expenses include \$115.00 for registration, \$27.00 for travel for a total cost of \$142.00 and was included in the 2002-2003 budget.

Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich, to attend a PA Association of School Business Officials Benefits Administration Conference in Grantville on November 13, 2002. Expenses include \$115.00 for registration, \$30.00 for travel for a total cost of \$145.00 and was included in the 2002-2003 budget.

Field Trip Approve to authorize the following field trip: October 4, 2002 -- Slatington Elementary 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students – Franklin Institute – Philadelphia, PA.

NLMS Student Approve the Northern Lehigh Middle School Student Activities Account Fund  
Activities Statement for the month of August 2002.  
Fund Statement

Marching Band Approve the request of the Northern Lehigh High School Marching Band to travel to Florida and  
Trip perform at Disney World in the spring from April 14, 2003 through April 19, 2003. There will be no cost to the district for this trip.

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 by Mrs. Geronikos, with a second made by Mrs. Ganser, that the Board of Education approve the Northern Lehigh School District Goal Areas and Action Plans for the 2002-2003 school year as presented.

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 Mrs. Giles, with a second made by Mr. Cox, that the Board of Education

approve the following financial items:

General Fund Bills Approve payment of General Fund bills for the month of August 2002.

### **FINANCIAL**

(Con't.)

Middle School Change Orders Approve middle school change orders G-6, G-7, G-8 and G-9 in the amount of \$22,991.19 for Hollenbach Construction, Inc., and change order P-3 in the amount of \$8,902.36 for JBM Plumbing, Inc. and enter into contract for these change orders upon approval of PA Department of Education PLANCON I.

Tax Assessor Legal Ad Authorize the Secretary to publish a legal advertisement notifying every resident or inhabitant within the territorial limits of the Northern Lehigh School District attaining eighteen (18) years of age, and every resident or inhabitant in said school district to notify the proper assessor within twelve (12) months of his or her becoming a resident or inhabitant, in accordance with the School Laws of Pennsylvania, Section 680, as amended August 16, 1972, Act 138. The assessors to contact are as follows:

#### **Borough of Walnutport**

Christine Simock – Borough Secretary  
Walnutport Borough Building  
417 Lincoln Avenue  
Walnutport, PA 18088  
(610) 767-1322

#### **Washington Township**

Dianne Frantz – Township Secretary  
Washington Township Municipal Building  
P.O. Box 27  
Slatedale, PA 18079  
(610) 767-8108

#### **Slatington Borough**

Ronald Klevenhagen  
NLSO Earned Income Tax Office  
125 South Walnut Street  
Slatington, PA 18080  
(610) 767-9845

Amend Agreement With Statewide Tax Recovery Adopt the amended delinquent tax collection agreement with Statewide Tax Recovery to include the collection of delinquent earned income tax. This contract will now include the collection of delinquent per capita, occupational taxes, and earned income taxes. There are no additional costs or fees to the district for this service. The collection fee schedule and the burden of payment remains the same as in the previous agreement. Please note that Statewide Tax Recovery will be utilized to effect payment from chronic non-payers who continually ignore repeated verbal and written notices from the Northern Lehigh School District Tax Office.

Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a \$27.00 2002-03 real estate tax refund to Robert P. Buffton, 422 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Slatington, PA 18080. Mr. Buffton is due a refund because he incorrectly paid the gross amount of the tax due when the payment was in fact made within the discount period.

Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a \$1,381.35 refund to William Hude, 3480 Main Street, Slatington, PA 18080. Mr. Hude is due a refund because he and his mortgage escrow company both incorrectly paid the same bill.

Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a \$3,315.67 refund to Hometown Abstract Inc., 3021 College Heights Blvd., Allentown, PA 18104. Hometown Abstract is due a refund because they and First American Real Estate both incorrectly paid the real estate tax bill for the year.

### **FINANCIAL**

(Con't.)

Real Estate Tax Refund Approve a \$2,592.54 refund to Carl D. & Cynthia A. Moyer, 6118 Oakwood Lane, Slatington, PA 18080. The Moyer's are due a refund because they and their mortgage company both incorrectly paid the real estate tax bill for the year.

Purchase SAT Workbooks Approve to allow students enrolled in the SAT class to purchase the Barron's SAT verbal workbook for \$13.00 and place the money into a fund that allows for replacement of workbooks next year. This money would also make it possible to provide students with updated practices; also the SAT format will change in 2004 with the elimination of the analogy section

Amend Motion A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the Board of Education approve to amend the previous motion and remove the request to approve the Northern Lehigh School District audit report for the Earned Income Tax Office and the Occupational Privilege Tax Office for fiscal year ended June 30, 2002 and refer it to the Finance Committee for review.

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)

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

A thank you letter was received from the Northern Lehigh Tennis Club for resurfacing the tennis courts.

### **INFORMATION**

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Lehigh Carbon Community College Board of Trustees meeting held on August 1, 2002.

Mrs. Geronikos reported that she attended the middle school open house and she wanted to commend the staff and administration for the great job they are doing and for all of their hard efforts to make this transition a huge success.

### **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Sandra Hopkins – Peters Elementary Teacher – Read a statement asking the board to make a reasonable settlement of the teacher's contract as soon as possible.

Sandra Becker – Middle School Teacher – Asked that the board consider a quick and speedy settlement of the teacher's contract.

Bobbi Shupp – High School Teacher and Advisor of the Future Business Leaders of America Club invited the board to visit the club's school store.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Dorshimer, with a second made by Mr. Newhard, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 8:30 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