

# NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Board Minutes

Slatington, PA  
October 1, 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 8:05 p.m. on Monday, October 1, 2001, in the boardroom of the Slatington Elementary School.

**ROLL CALL** Members present: Mr. Robert J. Cox, Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer, 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: Mrs. Jane J. Escott (1)

Non-members present: Dr. Nicholas P. Sham, Sr., Mr. Christopher Iacobelli, Dr. Linda Marcincin, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. David Papay, Mr. Robert Mack, Mr. Brian Geiger, Mr. Bernard Rockovich, Atty. Charles Stopp (Solicitor), Ms. Pamela Grammes, Mrs. Doneta Merkle

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

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS** Lehigh Career and Technical Institute -- Mrs. Lynn C. Sechler  
Mrs. Sechler gave a report of the LCTI Joint Operating Committee meeting she attended on September 26, 2001.

Carbon-Lehigh Intermediate Unit -- Mr. Bryan C. Dorshimer  
Mr. Dorshimer highlighted information contained in the CLIU Board Brief which was distributed to all board members.

Committee Reports/And Or Meetings A Policy/Education Committee meeting was held prior to the meeting from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Assistant's Office.

All board members received a copy of the minutes of the Policy/Education Committee meeting held on September 10, 2001.

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

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

Mrs. Joan Varilek, Treasurer of the Northern Lehigh Educational Foundation, gave the Foundation's annual report to the board.

Michael Stoudt, Lehigh Carbon Community College Chief Financial Officer, summarized what is happening with regard to LCCC's purchase of the Portland Place property that is located on Hamilton Street in Allentown.

Dr. Sham announced that on November 5, the senior high school will be rededicated and the school board meeting will be held in the senior high school auditorium beginning at 8:00 PM.

Brian Geiger, Director of Support Services, informed the board that Environmental Abatement Associates tested the caulking that need to be removed around the windows at the middle school and the tests came back positive for asbestos. It will be necessary to have these windows removed and disposed of properly.

**SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS**

(Con't.)

Dr. Sham informed board members about a continuing problem the district has been experiencing with regard to the Walnutport tax collection process.

An Executive Session was held from 7:30 to 8:00 p.m. for personnel issues. There was a short executive session held following the meeting for personnel issues.

**PERSONNEL**

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

Remove Paul Horner From Act 93 Group      Approve the recommendation of the superintendent to remove Paul Horner, Food Services Director, from the Act 93 Agreement and make him a contracted employee, effective October 2, 2001.

Add Jeffrey To Act 93 Group      Approve the recommendation of the superintendent to reclassify Jeffrey Bachman, Assistant Bachman Information Technology Coordinator, as an Act 93 Administrator effective October 2, 2001.

Resignation-Cathy Groller      Accept the resignation of Cathy Groller, English teacher in the senior high school, to become effective when a certified replacement has been obtained for her position. Mrs. Groller has accepted a position at the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit.

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:

- Deborah Fartuch – Elementary
- Cathy M. Minnich – Mathematics – Homebound Only
- Richard R. Rupnik – All Subject Areas -- Emergency Certificate
- John Benson – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Richard Cordova – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Patricia Gober – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Alexandra Harpster – All Subject Areas (Secondary Only) – Emergency Certificate
- Richard Inhoffer – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Leila deJesus – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Joseph Nester – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Marydonna Portonova – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Eveline Roberts – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Luther Smith, Jr. – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate
- Eugene Tanzosh – All Subject Areas – Emergency Certificate

Non-Instructional      Approve the following substitute aide for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:  
Karen DeLong

Approve the following substitute cafeteria worker for the 2001-2002 school year at the substitute rate of \$7.25 per hour:  
Karen DeLong  
Dorothea Curran

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

**POLICY**

A motion was made by Mrs. Sechler, which was seconded by Mrs. Geronikos, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under Policy:

- Board Policies 1<sup>st</sup> Reading-  
Policy 006-  
Meetings
- Approve revisions to Policy #006 – Meetings, as presented, after first reading.
- Policy 108-  
Adoption of  
Textbooks
- Approve revisions to Policy #108 – Adoption of Textbooks, a presented, after first reading.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading  
Policy 222,323  
423,523-Tobacco  
Use
- Approve Policy #222, 323, 423, 523 – Tobacco Use, as presented, after second reading.
- Conferences
- Approve the request of Jason Reinhard to attend Project Alert, a school-based drug prevention program for middle grade teachers, in Norristown on November 13, 2001. Expenses include \$125.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute for one day and will be paid for through Drug Free funding.
- Approve the request of Theresa Kokinda to attend the National Middle School Association conference in Washington, DC on November 1, 2 and 3. Expenses for this conference include \$209.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and has been approved by the district Professional Education Committee.
- Approve the request of Susan Bowser to attend the National Middle School Association conference in Washington, DC on November 1, 2 and 3. Expenses for this conference include \$209.00 for registration plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days. And has been approved by the district Professional Education Committee.
- Approve the request of Laurie Newman to attend the Fifth Annual Eastern PA Special Education Administrators Conference sponsored by the CLIU in Pocono Manor, PA on October 25 and 26, 2001. Expenses include \$18.00 for travel, \$159.00 for lodging, for a total cost of \$177.00.
- Approve the request of Christine Leslie to attend the Pennsylvania Science Teacher Association conference on December 6 and 7, 2001 in Hershey. Expenses include \$45.00 for registration, \$104.00 for lodging, \$15.00 miscellaneous expenses, for a total cost of \$164.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and has been approved by the district Professional Education Committee.
- Approve the request of Theresa Cinicola to attend the Pennsylvania Science Teacher Association conference on December 6 and 7, 2001 in Hershey. Expenses include \$45.00 for registration, \$48.00 for travel, \$104.00 for lodging, for a total cost of \$197.00 plus the cost of a substitute teacher for two days and has been approved by the district Professional Education Committee.
- Approve the request of Christopher Iacobelli to attend a National Organization of Victim Assistance (NOVA) for crisis response team training from October 1-5 and November 5-7, 2001 in Allentown. Expenses include \$100.00 for meals, \$145.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$245.00.
- Approve the request of Dr. Nicholas Sham to attend a Pennsylvania Department of Education Technology Leadership Follow-up Conference on November 29 and 30, 2001 in Hershey, PA. Expenses include \$30.00 for meals, \$79.00 for lodging, \$5.00 miscellaneous expenses for a total cost of \$104.00.

**POLICY**

(Con't.)

Approve the request of Bernard Rockovich to attend a Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials conference in Allentown, PA on November 7, 2001. Expenses include \$115.00 for registration, \$10.00 for meals, \$9.00 for travel, for a total cost of \$134.00.

Approve the request of Jane Escott and Sheryl Giles to attend the Pennsylvania School Boards Association Fast Track Weekend conferences in Valley Forge, PA on November 17 and 18, 2001. Expenses include \$300.00 each for registration, \$36.00 for travel, \$179.00 for lodging for a total cost of \$815.90.

Field Trip            Slatington Elementary School – Grade 5 Students – Philadelphia Zoo – November 2, 2001. Cost of this trip will be paid for by PTA.

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

Homebound         Approve homebound instruction for a 12<sup>th</sup> grade student, Student No. 02-28000, for five hours per  
Instruction           week, effective September 26, 2001 and ending on October 10, 1001.

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

NAY:    None (0)

**NEW**  
**BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Mr. Green, with a second made by Mrs. Escott, that the Board of Education approve the following items listed under New Business:

Resolution --        Approve the following Resolution authorizing the purchase of Portland Place by the Lehigh Carbon  
LCCC Purchase       Community College:  
Of Portland  
Place

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That, in accordance with Section 2.2 of the Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for Lehigh Carbon Community College, following approval by the College's Sponsors, Lehigh Carbon Community College is authorized to purchase the building known as Portland Place, located at 718 Hamilton Street, City of Allentown, County of Lehigh, at a price not to exceed \$3.9 million provided that the annual debt service associated with the purchase of this building shall not exceed the total annual rental payments currently paid to the Allentown Economic Development Corporation.

Northern Lehigh    Approve to add Ara Barlieb as a member of the Northern Lehigh Community Advisory Council  
Community           for 2001-2002 school yea, in accordance with School Board Policy #905. It is understood that the  
Advisory                Community Advisory Council's function is advisory only.  
Council Member

KidsPeace           Approve to authorize the superintendent to execute a letter of agreement for the 2001-2002 academic  
Agreement            year with KidsPeace National Centers, Inc. and Lehigh County Mental Health-Mental Retardation to  
cooperate in the ongoing functioning of the Student Assistant Teams in our district.

Late Filing Fee-     Approve to impose a maximum late filing fee penalty authorized under 72 Pennsylvania  
Walnutport Tax     Statutes Section 5511.25 upon the Walnutport real estate tax collector for his consistent failure to report, by  
Collector              the tenth of every month, the names of taxable properties, the actual amount collected from each property  
owner, the discounts granted for penalties applied, and the total amount of taxes received from all sources.  
The penalty imposed will be \$20.00 per day for the first six days and \$10.00 for each day after. The  
maximum fee for each statement is \$250.00.

**NEW**  
**BUSINESS**  
(Con't.)  
Asbestos  
Change Order

Approve to authorize a change order request from Environmental Abatement Associates, Inc. to have Wyoming S & P, Inc. remove windows and caulking from the Northern Lehigh Middle School and to provide proper notification, documentation, testing, and disposal of removed windows. All work is to be done at a cost of \$295.00 per window.

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

NAY: None (0)

**FINANCIAL**

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

PC Abatements Approve abatement of per capita taxes as presented for the residents that fall within the guidelines.

Refund of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes Approve a refund for overpayment of Walnutport Real Estate Taxes for the property owners as listed for the month of September 2001.

Pay Construction Account Bills Approve payment of bills from the Construction Account, as presented.

Deny Borough Of Slatington Request Regarding Earned Income Tax Office Approve to deny the request from the Borough of Slatington to renegotiate the contract of the Earned Income Tax office collection costs, the cost of the Earned Income Tax Office renovations in the amount of \$17,009.38, and the office space rental cost of \$432.00 per month.

Refund Of Real Estate Taxes Approve a \$1,723.41 refund to Joan Vellafane due to duplicate real estate tax payment made on a property located at 7777 Penn Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Approve a \$1,698.22 refund to Steven and Phyllis Owens, due to fire damage on June 26, 2001 to their property located at 3340 Hill Road, Slatington, PA 18080. The county has reduced the assessed value from \$65,500 to \$25,050 due to the damage.

Exonerate Borough of Slatington Approve the exonerate the Borough of Slatington from having to pay real estate taxes on property they purchased which is located at 516-518 E. Church St., Slatington for a period beginning October 3, 2001 in the amount of \$768.10.

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

NAY: None (0)

**INFORM-  
ATION**

All board members received correspondence regarding T.E.A.C.H. Charter School.

**ADJOURN-  
MENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Newhard, with a second made by Mr. Dorshimer, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Cox, Mr. Dorshimer, 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