

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
November 11, 2013

PURPOSE

The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order by the President, Mr. Edward E. Hartman, at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 11, 2013, in the Administration Office Board Room.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, Mr. Raymond J. Follweiler, Jr., Mrs. Lauren A. Ganser, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mr. Gregory S. Williams, and Mr. Edward E. Hartman (8)

Members absent: Mrs. Natalie J. Green (1)

Non-members present: Mr. Jeffrey Bachman, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Ms. Emily Bevans (Jr. Rep.), Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Nathaniel Czarnecki (Sr. Rep.), Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. John Hrizuk, Mr. Michael Michaels, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mrs. Karen Nicholas, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. Paul Rearden, Jr., Mrs. Tanya Simms, Attorney Charles Stopp (District Solicitor), and Mr. Robert Vlasaty.

VISITORS

Approximately twenty visitors attended the meeting, in addition to Terry Ahner, reporter for The Times News.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha that the minutes of the regular school board meeting held on October 14, 2013 be approved and ordered filed.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS

Mr. Vlasaty introduced Mrs. Gina Orr, High School Student Council advisor. She introduced the officers for student council and the president, Jamie Miller, gave a brief overview of events they held and that are planned for the rest of the school year. Mr. Hartman thanked the students for coming and welcomed them to come to any meeting. Mr. Hartman also announced that the Fall play, The Odd Couple, will be presented November 15-17, 2013.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Lehigh Career & Technical Institute – Mr. Fedorcha reported that there is no JOC meeting in November.

Legislative Reports – Mr. Williams reported that he thanked Senator Argall, via email, for his resolution to evaluate the costs and savings associated with consolidating health care plans for public school employees.

Lehigh Carbon Community College – Mr. Green announced that Lehigh Carbon Community College has hired Brian Kahler as interim Vice President for Finance and Facilities. Mr. Green thanked our administrators and staff for all of the work they do, sometimes without a lot of help and support due to budget constraints. Mr. Green added that he has been selected to be on the search committee for the new President of the college.

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Ms. Emily Bevans and Mr. Nathaniel Czarnecki distributed their written student representative report and verbally reported on its contents

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Stopp announced that home addresses, agency designated emails, and agency designated telephone numbers of public employees are all permissible under the Right to Know Act. Attorney Stopp shared a resolution regarding post issuance compliance for the current bond issues. Mrs. Molitoris stated that the resolution will be on the January board agenda.

Federal and Other Programs Update – Mrs. Karen A. Nicholas announced that this Wednesday, November 13, 2013, is the Barnes and Noble parent involvement event. Once again there will be raffle prizes and cookie parties awarded to the classrooms with the most students in attendance. In addition, this year we have partnered with Chick-Fil-A and if the parents buy a meal, the child's meal will be free. This event is held to get our students excited about books and reading.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Frantz reported that they are actively working on next year's budget.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Michaels announced that American Education Week is November 18-22, 2013. Mr. Michaels thanked the parents, the School Board, the teaching staff and the support staff for their dedication to the children of this district and he encouraged the board members to visit the buildings to see the great things happening in our district.

Mr. Michaels announced that Brandywine Transportation has been outstanding and very accomodating to the needs of the district. Mr. Michaels stated that we have not had any complaints and they are always eager to work with us to better their service.

Mr. Michaels reminded board members that Monday, December 2, 2013 is the next School Board meeting beginning with a holiday dinner at 5:30 PM at the Middle School Annex, followed by the Reorganization meeting in the Board Room at 7:15PM. The Regular School Board Meeting will follow at 7:30PM.

Mr. Michaels stated that on the agenda this evening is the Early Retirement Incentive Plan that is always written in the affirmative. It is up to the Board of Education to decide if they are willing to offer it.

Mr. Michaels recognized Mrs. Lauren Ganser who has served on this board for twelve years. She served one year as the President and four as the Vice President. Mr. Michaels thanked Mrs. Ganser for being an advocate for the students and the citizens of this community.

Mr. Greg Derr did a School Safety and Security presentation for the board. He showed a substantial list of projects that have been done since 2008 as well as a few that are being considered for the future. Mr. Michaels added that we have several teams going to different safety and security conferences that are bringing back ideas so we can be better prepared. Mr. Derr invited the board members to tour the buildings.

Mr. Green questioned the showing of identification to enter the buildings. Mr. Michaels stated that it was on the recommendation of the State Police, FBI and Homeland Security.

PERSONNEL

Mrs. Ganser made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Kulp, that the Board of Education approves the following personnel items:

Family
Medical
Leave

Approve the request of employee #4700 to take a twelve week Family Medical Leave beginning on October 28, 2013 for his own health reasons. Employee will be using accumulated sick days in conjunction with the family medical leave. Employee plans to return to his current position upon release from his attending physician.

Interpreter
Services

Approve Diana Beltran to act as a Spanish Interpreter on an as needed basis for the district. Ms. Beltran will receive \$30 per hour for this service and will receive a minimum of one hour of compensation per session.

Co-Curricular
Appointments
2013-2014

Julie Wagaman* Assistant Softball Coach \$2,990.49
*Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items

Co-Curricular
Volunteers
2013-2014

Nick Hosford* Assistant Wrestling Coach
*Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items

Substitute-
Instructional

Approve the following substitute teachers for the 2013-2014 school year at the 2013-2014 substitute teacher rates as approved on the Supplementary Personnel Salary Schedule:

Annette Benedetto* – CLIU Guest Teacher
Jo Lynn Gazo* – CLIU Guest Teacher
Ines Heuser* – CLIU Guest Teacher

PERSONNEL
(cont.)

Seth McLaughlin* – CLIU Guest Teacher
 Roobhenn Smith* – CLIU Guest Teacher
 Patricia Sottolano* – CLIU Guest Teacher
 Randy Utsch* – CLIU Guest Teacher
 *Pending Verification of Missing Personnel File Items

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**CONFER-
ENCES**

Mr. Distler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the Board of Education approves the following conferences:

Allison Chruscial – Pennsylvania School Counselors Association 58th Annual Conference – School Counselors: Collaborating for Student Success – December 5-7, 2013 – Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$335.00, Lodging: \$126.54 – Total Approximate Cost: \$461.54 – Funding: High School Guidance Budget.

Sheila Lanshe – Pennsylvania School Counselors Association 58th Annual Conference – School Counselors: Collaborating for Student Success – December 5-7, 2013 – Lancaster Host Resort and Conference Center, Lancaster, PA – Registration: \$335.00, Lodging: \$126.54, Travel: \$48.00 – Total Approximate Cost: \$509.54 – Funding: High School Guidance Budget.

Karen Nicholas – 2013 SAS Institute: Resources for Improving School Effectiveness – December 8-10, 2013 – Hershey Lodge, Hershey, PA – Registration: \$100.00, Lodging: \$277.50, Meals: \$25.00, Travel: \$79.10 – Total Approximate Cost: \$481.60 – Funding: Curriculum and Instruction Budget.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

POLICY

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approves the following policy items:

Non-Resident Students Approve the request of the parents of a fifth grade student and a seventh grade student who are moving into Slatington Borough, to allow their students to enroll in the Northern Lehigh School District in accordance with school board policy #202.

Mrs. Ganser questioned how long the residents have to move into the district. Mr. Michaels added that we are following policy #202 which allows them 60 days.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

NAY: None (0)

**NEW
BUSINESS**
ERIP
2013-2014

Mr. Fedorcha made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Williams, that the Board of Education approve to adopt an Early Retirement Incentive Plan for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis for the 2013-2014 school year.

YEA: None (0)

NAY: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp,
 Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)

Motion defeated.

FINANCIAL

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

Financial Reports

General Fund June, July, August, September, and October
 NLMS Student Activities Account months of August and September
 NLHS Student Activities and Scholarship Account months of August and September

FINANCIAL
(cont.)

List of Bills Approve the Following List of Bills:
 General Fund month of October & November 2013
 Food Service month of October 2013
 Refreshment Stand month of October 2013

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

Portnoff Agreement Delinquent Tax Collector RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves the addendum to the agreement with Portnoff Law Associates, Ltd. to be the delinquent real estate tax collector for the 2013 tax year.

Resolution NC Tax Claim Bureau Approve the resolution directing Northampton County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent taxes on behalf of Northern Lehigh School District as presented.

Resolution LC Tax Claim Bureau Approve the resolution directing Lehigh County Tax Claim Bureau not to collect delinquent taxes on behalf of Northern Lehigh School District as presented.

Salary Schedule 2013-2014 Approve the 2013-2014 Northern Lehigh District Salary Schedule as presented

Mr. Green questioned Item C for exonerations as to whether the number of undeliverable bills was always that high. Mrs. Molitoris explained that yes it is generally that high as it takes a few months after the initial bills are sent out in July.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
NAY: None (0)

INFOR-
MATION

Minutes of the Lehigh Career & Technical Institute Joint Operating Committee meeting held on September 25, 2013 were distributed.

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit #21 Board of Directors meeting held on September 16, 2013 were distributed.

RECOG-
NITION OF
GUESTS

Mrs. Ganser read a prepared statement in which she reflected on her tenure as School Board Director. While disappointed that her term has come to an end, she is honored to have had the privilege of serving as a board member and she extended her best wishes to the current board. In conclusion, she added that in the words of Mike Michaels, "don't tell me what you can't do, tell me what you can do."

ADJOURN-
MENT

Mr. Follweiler made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Fedorcha, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors is adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Fedorcha, Mr. Follweiler, Mrs. Ganser, Mr. Green, Mrs. Kulp, Mr. Williams, Mr. Hartman (8)
NAY: None (0)

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Williams
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Edward E. Hartman