

NORTHERN LEHIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes

Slatington, PA
December 1, 2020

PURPOSE The regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh Board of School Directors was called to order virtually, via Google Meet, by the President, Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha, at 7:08 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

ROLL CALL Members present: Mr. Robin T. Distler, Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr., Mrs. Michelle M. Heckman, Mrs. Gale N. Husack, Mr. Robert J. Keegan, Jr., Mr. Robert L. Kern, Jr., Mrs. Donna M. Kulp, Mrs. Michele L. Martineau, and Mr. Gary S. Fedorcha (9)

Members absent: None

Non-members present: Mr. Matthew Link, Dr. Tania Stoker, Mrs. Susan Bahnick, Mrs. Jill Chamberlain, Mr. Greg Derr, Mrs. Michele Dotta, Mrs. Rhonda Frantz, Mr. Bryan Geist, Mr. David Hauser, Mr. Eric Hill, Mrs. Sherri Molitoris, Mr. Scott Pyne, Mr. James Schnyderite, Attorney Keith Strohl (Solicitor's Office), Mr. Robert Vlasaty, Ms. Paige Craddock (Jr. Rep.) and Mr. Aidan Williams (Sr. Rep.)

VISITORS Approximately one hundred and forty-seven visitors viewed the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES Mrs. Kulp made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Distler, that the minutes of the regular board meeting held on November 9, 2020, be approved and ordered filed.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

SPECIAL BOARD REPORTS

Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit - Mrs. Husack reported that the monthly meeting was held on November 16. CLIU is going through the same thing as our district with Covid cases and closing classrooms; each and every day is a changing environment. They made an update to one of their Early Intervention classes, if they are at a school they are still in-person. However, if they are at a daycare or something out of their normal routine, they are taking those as virtual as a precaution to some of the uptick of Covid. In the coming months, we'll look to approve the 21-22 operating budget. This will require board action. They have been shared with all superintendents that make up the IU. Some of the changes are an increase in medical, increase in PSERS numbers, and salary increases. The good news for our district is we should not see an additional contribution increase. Based on our current demographics and the current students attending, we should see a slight decrease next year. There is a December meeting virtually.

Lehigh Career and Technical Institute - Mr. Fedorcha reported that there was no November meeting. The December meeting will be held next Wednesday. However, a committee of the whole was held in November where we received our audit, which was an excellent audit. They began their budget process. We will be looking at that as a board this coming January. The school has been closed down twice because of Covid. One was a few days and the other was a week. They are back in session again and moving along as well as they can.

Legislative Report - Mrs. Heckman reported that the general assembly finished the 2021 state budget. The first half was completed in May. Education remained largely flat. There were a few bills passed under the general assembly but were not signed by the Governor yet.

**SPECIAL
BOARD
REPORTS
(cont.)**

Lehigh Carbon Community College - Mr. Green reported that LCCC is working on their budget. At this time, Northern Lehigh may get a reduction, not significant, till it's all said and done. Classes are mostly still remote with a few students coming to class. One change being made, they were actually having in-person board meetings, they will be going to all virtual meetings for December and at least January.

Student Representatives to the Board Report – Mr. Aidan Williams reported that American Education Week was held the week of November 16. Thank you cards were sent out to all educators in the schools. Since student council will be unable to go to Peters Elementary for Elementary Aide Day, student council members have recorded videos of themselves reading Christmas stories to be streamed to the students throughout December. Still holding the Toys for Tots drive up until December 15. There are three boxes this year at the high school.

Ms. Paige Craddock reported that the football team played their final game of the season on Saturday, November 21 against Palisades. While unfortunately they lost the game, they made it all the way to the end of playoffs. The fall play Night of Murder and Mystery will be able to be streamed from December 4 through the 6. The cost is \$5.00 per viewer.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Strohl reported that he was going to report on House Bill 1737 which may have been one of the new legislations. However as of this morning, PSBA reported that the Governor had vetoed House Bill 1737. The bill was meant to limit liability for businesses and other organizations who did not act with malice or gross negligence with regards to Covid.

Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Stoker did not have a report.

Business Manager's Report – Mrs. Molitoris did not have a report.

Superintendent's Report - Mr. Link shared that the generosity of the Northern Lehigh community never ceases to overwhelm us. Mrs. Bahnick shared with the administrative team that an anonymous donor donated \$1,000 to the Backpack Buddies program. That's the program we use to support our families with the greatest need for food stability. We have a team that gets the bags ready and they go home with the children either on a Tuesday or a Friday.

Mr. Geist, Athletic Director, has shared that Mr. Tom Kichline and the Matheson Gas Company provided a donation of a wireless microphone system for the Bulldog Stadium. Mr. Geist commented that Mr. Kichline is a football official and he really enjoys coming to Bulldog Stadium. A lot of times we have TV coverage and with officials, they're making calls on the field and sometimes the signals are misunderstood. In this case, he wanted to make a donation through his company and asked if we had ever looked into wireless microphones. Mr. Geist reached out to the IT department. Mr. Kichline asked for a quote and IT was able to do that. The quote was around \$2700. The equipment was purchased. We will be able to put the microphone on the "white hat" official and they'll be able to make calls from the field. This will also be used during track and field to put on the "orange jacket" guy. It was a great donation and we thank Mr. Kichline and Matheson Gas for making it happen.

Mr. Link notified the Board and the community that the Northern Lehigh School District Attestation Statement has been signed by Mr. Fedorcha and himself on November 25 and it's been posted to the website as required. It's also been embedded into the Health & Safety Plan. This is the order that came out from the Department of Health, Secretary of Health, Dr. Levine, supported by Acting Secretary of Education, Noe Ortega. We had to attest that we were going to do the things that were in our Health & Safety Plan and follow the updated face covering order. If we meet the criteria to close schools based on positive cases within a 14-day period for a particular school building, we must close. If we did not sign the order, because Lehigh County is already in a substantial designation criteria, we would have had to immediately close. We're hopeful that we can keep going as long as we can in the hybrid model.

Executive
Session

An executive session was held at 6:00 p.m. virtually via Google Meet to discuss personnel and legal issues.

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

Resignation M. McDermott Accept the resignation of Mark McDermott from his position as Long Term Substitute teacher, effective December 4, 2020.

Family Medical Leave Approve the request of employee #0110 to take a family medical leave of absence beginning on November 9, 2020, until cleared by physician to return to work up to twelve (12) weeks.

Yearbook Stipends Approve a stipend in the amount of \$550 for creating the Peters Elementary School Yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. Stipend to be funded by the Peters Elementary School budget.

Approve a stipend in the amount of \$650 for creating the Slatington Elementary School Yearbook for the 2020-2021 school year. Stipend to be funded by the Slatington Elementary School budget.

Co-Curricular Appointment 2020-2021	Kayla Perkowski	Peters Elementary Yearbook	\$550
-------------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------------	-------

Co-Curricular Volunteer 2020-2021	Jason Schneck*	Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach	
	*Pending Verification of Personnel Items		

Substitute Cafeteria Motion to appoint the following individual as substitute cafeteria worker for the 2020-21 school year at the 2020-2021 substitute rate as approved on the Supplemental Personnel Salary Schedule:

Wendy Brown*
***Pending Verification of Personnel Items**

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

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

Board Policy Second Reading Approve school board policy #340 - Employees - Responsibility for Student Welfare, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #705 - Property - Facilities and Workplace Safety, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #803 - Operations - School Calendar, as presented after second reading.

Approve school board policy #907 - Community - School Visitors, as presented after second reading.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

(A) NEW BUSINESS

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

ERIP for 2020-2021

Approve to develop an Early Retirement Incentive Plan, for all eligible professional employees, on a voluntary basis, for the 2020-2021 school year.

Roll Call.

YEA: None (0)

NAY: Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

Motion denied.

(B) NEW BUSINESS

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

Updates to Health & Safety Plan

Approval of the updates to the Northern Lehigh School District Health and Safety Plan related to the Attestation Statement Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts as posted on the NLSD website and within the NLSD Health and Safety Plan.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

FINANCIAL

Mr. Keegan made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Kern that the Board of Education approves the following financial items A. through E.:

Reports

Approve the Following Financial Reports:
General Fund Account months of July and August, 2020 (Audited)

List of Bills

Approve the Following List of Bills:
General Fund months of November & December, 2020
Cafeteria Fund month of November, 2020

Per Capita Abatement/Exoneration

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

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 2021, to be paid from the Superintendent's budget.

Fund Balance Designation June 30, 2020

Approve to designate Fund Balance ending June 30, 2020 as follows:

Committed Fund Balance:	
Health Insurance	\$ 803,867.00
PSERS Increases	\$ 1,985,947.07
Total Committed:	\$ 2,789,814.07

Assigned Fund Balance:	
Assigned Current Yr Usage	\$ 207,023.00
Technology	\$ 981,342.00
1:1 Computer Laptop Ins	\$ 75,000.00
Replacement Equipment	\$ 1,390,415.00
Long Range Maintenance	\$ 1,865,586.33
Slatington Elementary SA	\$ 8,334.70
Peters Elementary SA	\$ 28,239.24
Refreshment Stand:	\$ 24,987.45
Total Assigned:	\$ 4,580,927.72
Unassigned Fund Balance:	\$ 2,194,614.00
Restricted Fund Balances:	
High School Scholarship:	\$ 126,813.56
Slatington Elementary Student Actv:	\$ 1,088.91
Total Restricted Fund Balances:	\$ 127,902.47
Nonspendable:	\$ 49,917.77
Total Fund Balance:	\$ 9,743,176.03

Roll Call.

YEA: Mr. Kern, Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

INFOR-
MATION

Minutes of the Carbon Lehigh Intermediate Unit 21 Board of Directors meeting held on October 19, 2020, were distributed.

Mr. Fedorcha wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah and hopefully a very, very, very good 2021, Happy New Year everyone.

ADJOURN-
MENT

Mr. Keegan made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Martineau, that the regular meeting of the Northern Lehigh School District Board of School Directors adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Roll Call.

YEA: Mrs. Kulp, Mrs. Martineau, Mr. Distler, Mr. Green, Mrs. Heckman, Mrs. Husack, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Kern, and Mr. Fedorcha (9)

NAY: None (0)

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale N. Husack
Secretary

ATTEST: _____ President
Gary S. Fedorcha