

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

REGULAR ACTION MEETING/PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
October 5, 2016

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on October 5, 2016, in the District Board Room, at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Scott E. Congdon, President
Irene Boyle, Vice President
Bob Feather
Tina Hollenbach
Mike Morris
Ron Rudy
Robert Sanna
Marty Sullivan

ADMINISTRATORS:

Joseph Jones III
Gloria Hancock, Ed. D.
Barbara Markowitz
Theresa Hinterberger
Paul Meehan

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Stephen Pirritano

OTHERS: Approximately 175 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

REGULAR ACTION MEETING

Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call indicated that a quorum of directors was present and the meeting was duly convened. Eight members were present; Mr. Pirritano was absent with prior notice.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Congdon requested those in attendance join in the salute to the flag.

Announcements

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jones advised the Board on the following:

- Each month, one school will be featured in an art exhibition in the Board Room at the District Administration offices in Maple Point
- Neshaminy High School hosted the fourth annual [Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation](#) 5K Run & Walk on Saturday October 1
- Thoughts and prayers went out to a Neshaminy family who recently were the victims of a fire that severely damaged their home
- Brielle Ames and Jacob Schweiker from Maple Point Middle School invited Veterans and the community to the Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 10, 2016

Public Comment

Crissie Richardson, Neshaminy sixth grade teacher, resident of Southampton, urged the Board to approve the Fact Finder's Report and settle the contract with the NFT.

Susan Schneider, member of NFT, resident of Levittown, asked the Board to approve the Fact Finder's Report and settle the contract with the NFT.

Megan McHugh, taxpayer and teacher, resident of Levittown, implored the Board to consider teamwork and

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fairness when voting on the Fact Finder's Report and approve the contract with the NFT.

Dan Luongo, Neshaminy High School teacher, resident of Yardley, said he has seen successes and challenges in the district throughout the years. He stated that he looks forward to seeing the district move toward new heights and educational excellence and he urged the Board to accept the Fact Finder's Report as the NFT has already done.

Kylene McCafferty, Neshaminy teacher, resident of Yardley, asked the Board to value their teachers and give them the same opportunities that other districts offer their employees. She pleaded with the Board to accept the Fact Finder's Report and make it possible for her to continue in a district that she loves and wants to work in.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, said that Neshaminy teachers have proven the professionalism that they have brought to the classroom on a daily basis. He pleaded with the Board to accept the Fact Finder's Report for the teachers, the students and the entire district.

Josh Krieger, Neshaminy teacher, resident of Bensalem, stated that Neshaminy is in a positive position and has come a long way in the past several years. Mr. Krieger said that the district has not been attracting many young teachers because of financial concerns for the future. He urged the Board to accept the Fact Finder's Report so Neshaminy can continue on the right path.

Terry Zuschnitt, Neshaminy teacher, resident of Bristol Borough, said that she is a very proud member of the NFT. She said the Fact Finder's Report provides a fair compromise for both sides and she urged the Board to accept the report on behalf of the students.

Deb Harker, resident of Middletown Township, voiced concern that the details of Fact Finder's Report are not provided to the public before the vote is made. She asked the Board to vote no, so that the details will be provided to the public before the contract is decided.

Items for Approval Tonight

Fact Finder's Report

Motion: Fact Finder's Report - Neshaminy Federation of Teachers

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

WHEREAS, The Neshaminy Board of School Directors received, in the matter of the Fact Finding between the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers and the Neshaminy School District, the Fact Finder's report;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The Neshaminy Board of School Directors accepts/rejects the report as issued.

Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

Mr. Feather stated that although he does agree with the report he believes the taxpayers should have an opportunity to see the report first before the Board votes on it.

Mr. Congdon said he has been on the Board for seven years and has witnessed many years of contention between the NFT and the Board. He said during the recent negotiations the team from the Board put much effort into making fair and negotiable offers, but he did not feel the same effort was put forth by the NFT team. Mr. Congdon said it was very disheartening that it became necessary to resort to a third party mediator. He said the Board always has the best interest of the Neshaminy School District at heart and he would like to see the teachers work and cooperate more with the Board so the district can be more unified in the same goals.

Mr. Sullivan said the past is the past and the important issue is what can be done right now in the present. He said his vote will depend on whether the agreement is fair and what is best for Neshaminy.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated that the motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mr. Morris, Mr. Rudy, Mr. Sanna and Mr. Sullivan), 0 nays, and 2 abstentions, (Mr. Feather

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and Mrs. Hollenbach). (Mr. Pirritano was not present.)

Adjournment

Mr. Congdon moved the Regular Action meeting be adjourned and Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Condon adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

2. Items for Approval at the October 25 Public Board Meeting

- a) American Education Week - November 13 - 19, 2016
- b) Building Usage Request for Sunday Facilities from Neshaminy Valley Music Theatre, Inc.
- c) Overnight Trip Requests
 - Neshaminy High School to the PA Association of Student Council's Yearly State Conference, November 10, 11, 12, 2016 - Deer Lakes High School.
 - Neshaminy High School to the Boardwalk Classis Basketball tournament, December 29, 30, 2016 - Wildwood Convention Center.
- d) Special Education Agreement
- e) Budget Transfers

Mr. Congdon stated that items a through e will be agenda items at the October 25 Public Board Meeting.

3. Committee Reports

- a) **Board Policies**
Ms. Boyle advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 6:30 p.m.
- b) **Educational Development**
Ms. Boyle informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 20 at 6:30 p.m.
- c) **Business Operations**
Mr. Congdon advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for November 1 at 6:30 p.m.
- d) **Personnel - Certified (NFT)**
Mr. Congdon informed the Board that the next meeting is October 20 at 7:00 p.m.
- e) **Personnel - Administrative (NDSAA, NASA)**
Mr. Sullivan stated there was no update at this time.
- f) **Personnel - Support (NESPA)**
Mrs. Hollenbach stated there was no update at this time.
- g) **Facilities Ad Hoc Committee**
Mr. Pirritano was not present. Mr. Jones stated that the next meeting is scheduled for October 10 at 6:30 p.m.

4. Representative Reports

- a) **IU Board**
Ms. Boyle advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 7:00 p.m.
- b) **IU Legislative**

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Ms. Boyle stated that there is no update at this time.

c) Neshaminy Education Foundation

Mr. Rudy informed the Board of the various upcoming fundraisers. He also stated that the mini grant applications will be going out to the Neshaminy staff in October.

d) Technical School

Mr. Morris stated that the Board will be evaluating programs.

5. Public Comment

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, thanked the Board for approving the Fact Finder's Report stating that it was a courageous decision.

Deb Harker, resident of Middletown Township expressed her disappointment that the Board voted to approve the Fact Finder's Report and asked Mr. Morris and Mr. Sanna for explanations why they did not vote no so the report could be made available to the public before deciding the contract.

Suzie Drake, Neshaminy teacher and NFT Vice President, thanked the Board for doing the right thing and approving the Fact Finder's Report. She said she thinks great things are ahead for Neshaminy and she is looking forward to moving ahead.

6. Future Topics

None

7. Board Comment

Mrs. Hollenbach said that she abstained from voting on the Fact Finder's Report because there were some budgetary issues that she has questions about. Mrs. Hollenbach stated that still she is happy that the district is moving forward.

Mr. Sanna said he has spoken with his constituents and he voted his conscience to do the best for the district. He feels it is a fair deal and when the facts become available to the public that will be evident.

Mr. Feather said he abstained because he does feel the report should be made public before voting and he has budgetary concerns as well. However, he does think the deal is a fair one and he is happy the report was approved.

Mr. Morris said although there will be sacrifices on both sides, he feels the Fact Finder's Report is fair for everyone and the Board did the right thing.

Mr. Congdon said the transparency is always a concern for him, but he thinks the Board made the right decision in approving the Fact Finder's Report. He said the goal is to make Neshaminy the best district possible and he thinks that by more cooperation between the NFT and the School Board this can be achieved. He urged more teachers to attend public meetings and said he is interested in hearing their thoughts and concerns and with this input Neshaminy can be made a better district.

8. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mrs. Hollenbach seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary