

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
January 14, 2014

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on January 14, 2014 in the District Offices Board Room at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Scott E. Congdon, President  
Ms. Irene Boyle, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. Stephen Pirritano  
Mr. Ron Rudy  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger  
Mr. Don Harm  
Mr. Anthony Devlin

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mr. Mark Shubin

**OTHERS:** Approximately 30 persons from the public, staff and press

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

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**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**3. Announcements**

None.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- Neshaminy High School participating in Salvation Army's Jammin' For Jammies Campaign.
- Poquessing Middle School announces formation of "The Poquessing Interact Club."
- Schweitzer's Thanksgiving Food Drive.
- Walter Miller Change for Change in the Philippines.
- Spanish and French National Honor Society Induction.
- Congratulations went out to Janet Dougherty for being named 2013 BCIT Educator of the Year.
- Neshaminy High School students work on "Hour of Code: muscle identification game."
- Business, Computer and Information Technology students at Maple Point participate in a Worldwide "Hour of Code" event to celebrate computer science education week (Dec. 9th - 13th).
- Poquessing Middle School students participate in the "Hour of Code."
- Playwickian Editor Gillian McGoldrick receives Widener University High School Leadership Award.
- The Poquessing Middle School Holiday Fund and Ferderbar Elf Fund have been able to assist 60 families and 120 students in the community this year.
- 2013 Neshaminy School District Property Tax Assistance Program begins January 2014.
- Author David Kusher will visit Neshaminy High School January 15, 2014.
- Neshaminy School Board seeks applicants to fill vacancy in Region 2.
- Neshaminy High School FBLA Regional winners.
- Neshaminy High School Interact Club spreads the giving spirit.

- Congratulations went out to Anna Le who won second place in the Patriots Penn Contest.
- Congratulations went out to the boy's football team who came one game away from going to Hershey.
- Maple Point students will be partnering with area schools for the MLK Day Service Projects at Our Lady of Grace gym on January 20th.
- Langhorne Rotary will host a pasta buffet January 20th, from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

#### **5. Public Comment**

None.

Mr. Profy stated that at this time a motion would be in order to accept Mr. Ritchie Webb's written resignation from the Neshaminy Board of School Directors effective January 6, 2014.

Mr. Pirritano made a motion to accept Mr. Webb's written resignation from the Neshaminy Board of School Directors effective January 6, 2014.

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously accepted said motion by a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays. (Mr. Shubin was not present.)

Mr. Congdon presented Mr. Webb with a plaque from Neshaminy School District recognizing him for his outstanding service to the students, staff and community of the Neshaminy School District from 2003 until 2013.

#### **6. Items for Approval Tonight**

##### **a) Overnight Trips**

Mr. Harm submitted the following trips for approval:

1. Neshaminy High School Girls Track Team to Penn State - February 28 - March 1, 2014.
2. Neshaminy High School Dance Team to Orlando, Florida - April 11 - 14, 2014.
3. Neshaminy High School Future Problem Solvers Club to Rome, Florence, and Venice, Italy - March 26 - to April 4, 2015.

Mr. Pirritano asked if the students are allowed to go off on their own.

Mr. Pimble stated that they are in small groups, but are monitored very closely.

Mr. Pirritano asked if there are payment plans.

Mr. Pimble stated that EfTours is flexible with multiple payment options for families and also has a chip-in website that Grandparents or Godparents can put money into an account in lieu of birthdays or Christmas gifts.

Mr. Congdon made a motion to approve the three overnight trips.

Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously accepted said motion by a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays. (Mr. Shubin was not present.)

##### **b) GIS Demographic Study**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors deems it necessary to undertake a GIS mapping of the district to assess enrollment boundaries for the elementary and middle schools.

WHEREAS, Spiezele Architectural Group, Inc. and Civil Solutions have detailed a proposal for consideration by the Board per the attached document.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors herewith approves the proposal for services to provide GIS mapping capability for the district and authorizes and directs that the Administration of the School District take all action required to implement the proposal.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked if we had a selection of companies to pick from.

Mr. Copeland stated that they went with the recommendation from the architect.

The Board unanimously accepted said motion by a vote of 7 ayes and 0 nays. (Mr. Shubin was not present.)

**7. Items for Approval at the January 28th Public Board Meeting**

**a) School Director Recognition Month**

Mr. Copeland stated that at the January 28, 2014 Public Board Meeting there will be a proclamation made to honor the School Directors of Neshaminy.

**b) Term of Bucks County Technical School Authority Representative**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that at the January 28, 2014 Public Board Meeting there will be a motion presented for the approval of an appointment to the Bucks County Technical School Authority.

**c) Appointment of Board Member to Fill Vacant seat in Region 2**

Mr. Copeland stated that applications will be accepted for the vacant seat in Region 2 until January 24th.

**d) Proposed Preliminary 2014 - 2015 Budget**

Mr. Copeland stated that at the January 28, 2014 Public Board Meeting the Resolution Authorizing 2014 - 2015 Proposed Preliminary Budget will be voted on.

**e) Bids/Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that there were no bids and there was one Budget Transfer (Working Copy) 14 - 3 with five transactions and numerous sub transactions, which will be an agenda item at the January 28th, Public Board Meeting.

**8. Committee Reports**

**a) Board Polices**

Ms. Boyle stated that no date has been set as of yet.

**b) Educational Development**

Ms. Boyle stated that no date has been set as of yet.

**c) Finance/Facilities**

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that the next meeting has been scheduled for January 21st.

**d) IU Board**

Mrs. Cummings informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 21st, which is the Board Recognition evening where the Wow students will be hosting a spaghetti dinner.

**e) Neshaminy Education Foundation**

Mr. Shubin was not present.

f) **Technical School**

Mr. Morris stated to the Board that the last meeting was the reorganization meeting and at that meeting the new directors were introduced.

g) **Technology**

Mr. Shubin was not present.

h) **Ad Hoc Facility Use Update**

Mr. Pirritano informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 21st, at 7 p.m.

**9. Public Comment**

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, said he would like to see four items included in the preliminary budget discussions. He mentioned full-day kindergarten, computer education in elementary schools and a change in the senior graduation project. He suggested that the senior graduation project be targeted more towards community service. The final item he cited was the cost of testing and materials for testing.

Leann Hartpence, homemaker, resident of Langhorne, asked how long it will take to get results of the GIS study. She stated that it is important to keep watching the bond market because the district greatly needs money for needed building repairs.

**10. Future Topics**

None.

**11. Agenda Development for the January 28th, Public Board Meeting**

None.

**12. Board Comment**

Mr. Copeland said, in answer to Ms. Hartpence's question, the GIS report should be available within 2-3 weeks time.

Mr. Morris thanked Mr. Webb for his assistance to the community over the years.

Mrs. Cummings said that the senior graduation project has been a topic of discussion for many years and she agrees that a change is needed.

Mr. Copeland said that he will be happy to look into the matter to determine what improvements can be made to the project.

Mrs. Markowitz stated that they are studying the bond market on a regular basis.

Mr. Pirritano thanked Mr. Webb for his service. Additionally, he agreed that a community service project for graduating seniors would be very beneficial. Mr. Pirritano said that managing the schools efficiently is a main priority and the Ad Hoc committee is dedicated to finding a solution and giving the appropriate recommendations to the Board regarding the study.

Ms. Boyle thanked Mr. Webb for his help and guidance throughout the years.

Mr. Congdon voiced his support for the full-day kindergarten concept. He also said that he agrees that computer education in the elementary schools is very important and this will be looked into as well as the senior graduation project. He reiterated that the bond market is being looked at and will continue to be discussed at the finance meetings.

**13. Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary