

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
November 19, 2013

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on November 19, 2013, in the District Board Room, at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President
Mr. Scott E. Congdon, Vice President
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. William Oettinger
Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Mark Shubin
Mr. Anthony Sposato

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Ms. Irene Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings

OTHERS: Approximately 65 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

Mr. Webb announced that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held where personnel and litigation issues were discussed.

Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Copland introduced Rachel Clemens, Neshaminy High School's head soccer coach, who led the Neshaminy soccer team to the state championship. Mr. Copeland also announced that Rachel Clemens was named to the Pennsylvania State Coaches Association as Coach of the Year.

Ms. Clemens thanked her coaching staff, team and the Neshaminy School Board for their support.

The Neshaminy School Board presented each team member with a gift of appreciation.

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- All three Neshaminy High School publications received awards from the Pennsylvania School Press Association,
- Neshaminy High School Dramatics Programs presented "*Almost, Maine.*"
- Business, Computer & Information Technology students visited Reality Fair on class trips.
- Personal & Per Capita taxes are due by December 15, 2013.

- Ferderbar staff hosted 20th Karen Jasper Memorial Elf Fund Spaghetti Dinner on November 14th.
- Administration is taking a look at a new concept at Neshaminy High School of forming academies in special areas, such as, science and mathematics, liberal arts studies, fine and performing arts.

Mr. Webb presented Mr. Oettinger with a plaque thanking him for his years of service to the Neshaminy School District.

Public Comment

None

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of October 8, 2013. Upon motion of Mr. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Shubin, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 8, 2013 Board minutes. (Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present).

Approval of Treasurer's Report, Check Register, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following for approval:

- October, 2013 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – October, 2013
- Investments
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for October, 2013
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) - 14-2

Mr. Pirritano asked if the Summary of Other Investments on page 13, were short term certificates of deposits.

Mrs. Markowitz replied that they are.

Mr. Shubin moved the October, 2013, Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for October, 2013, Investments, the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for October, 2013, and Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) - 14-2 be approved. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Copeland presented the following for approval:

- Elections – Certified Personnel
- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Elections – Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves – Certified Personnel
- Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report

Mr. Copeland recommended the approval of the Personnel Report for Certified and Support Personnel and the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report.

Mr. Congdon moved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports and the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report be approved. Mr. Oettinger seconded the motion.

Mr. Pirritano asked how much bearing do Board member's votes carry when voting on tenure.

Mr. Profy responded that as long as the candidate meets the qualifications they are approved for tenure regardless of the vote.

The Board unanimously approved said reports by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Motion: Contracted Transportation Services for 2013 - 2014

Mr. Morris presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the school district transports public, private and parochial school students in accordance with the applicable state laws; and

WHEREAS, private contractors are sometimes used if it is more practical and less expensive to do so with other than district staff and vehicles.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the administration to enter into a private contract for the 2013-2014 school year for the transportation of certain students in accordance with state regulations as follows:

Contract	Lakeside Youth Services	\$22,734
	TOTAL	\$22,734

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator is authorized to sign this contract on behalf of the school district.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Motion: Neshaminy High School Diploma for Veteran

Mr. Oettinger presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to serve and defend our country, high school students elected to withdraw from school and enlist into the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, because high school diplomas were not awarded to these veterans, "Operation Recognition" had been initiated and the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949 was amended to permit school districts to grant diplomas to eligible veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors allow Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools, to grant and affirm a Neshaminy High School Diploma to William Raymond Miller, an honorably discharged Veteran of the Vietnam War.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Federal Programs

Mrs. Markowitz advised the Board that the total amount of Federal Grants is \$1,584,039.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, asked Mrs. Markowitz if Neshaminy pays the same amount per student to cyber charter schools as they pay to brick and mortar charter schools. Mr. Rodos mentioned that it has been one year since the report on the school consolidation project was initiated and wondered when this project will move forward. He suggested to Mr. Oettinger that he try to get the money, which is owed to the school district from Middletown Township, now that he is a township supervisor. Mr. Rodos concluded with a request to the administration and staff to conduct school wide assemblies and speakers to explain both sides of the issue that was brought up by the Playwickian editorial.

Sacha Afanasieux, CFO of a medical software technology company, resident of Middletown Township voiced his concern regarding the use of Google Apps for Education by Neshaminy schools. Mr. Afanasieux remarked that his concern is with protecting the privacy of the students using these apps and asked the Board if security measures will be put in place to protect said privacy.

Dan Kelly, accountant, resident of Langhorne, asked why courses taken by teachers for horizontal movement that were previously approved are now being denied for reimbursement.

Board Comment

Mr. Oettinger said there are several things that the Board still needs to address, namely the safety of staff and students, the addition of electronic devices in the classroom, implementing full-day kindergarten for all students and the consolidation process to improve the school system. He mentioned that he leaves with a sense of pride in the accomplishments that have been achieved by the Board over the past four years. Mr. Oettinger concluded by thanking his family for their support.

Mr. Morris said that it has been a pleasure working with Mr. Oettinger and he commended him for a job well done on the negotiating team.

Mr. Shubin applauded Mr. Oettinger for his work on the school board and expressed his good wishes in his new position. He also congratulated the Neshaminy Girls Soccer Team for winning the PIAA Class AAA girls soccer championship. Mr. Shubin expressed his regret that some members of the NFT are creating an atmosphere of animosity between the administration, the Board and the teachers. Mr. Shubin said that until the threats and animosity ends there will be no collaboration with this militant group.

Mr. Pirritano thanked Mr. Oettinger for his service to the Board. He congratulated the Neshaminy Girls Soccer Team and the coaches for representing Neshaminy so well. Mr. Pirritano reiterated Mr. Shubin's comments regarding the militant group of the NFT and agreeing that a poor attitude will not accomplish anything.

Mr. Congdon thanked Mr. Oettinger for his service and said he will be missed.

Mr. Copeland congratulated Mr. Oettinger for being elected to the Middletown Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. Markowitz said the cost per student is the same for cyber charter schools as it is for regular charter schools.

Mr. Copeland added that the figures are a formula that comes from the state and administrators have been protesting for years the fact that the legislature insists on funding cyber charter schools equally with brick and mortar schools.

Mrs. Christie said the statement that the students have no expectation of privacy means that a teacher can view or monitor their work on Google docs at any time. The "right to privacy" is within the educational institution.

Mr. Webb wished Mr. Oettinger well in his new endeavor. He said this is the last meeting of the year and the first Monday in December the new members will be sworn in and the Board will reorganize.

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary