

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
October 22, 2013

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on October 22, 2013, in the District Offices 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  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. William Oettinger  
Mr. Stephen Pirritano (sworn in at 7:22 p.m.)  
Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Dr. Geeta Heble  
Mr. Anthony Devlin  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**

Ms. Irene Boyle

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

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

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

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

**Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

None

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- Mr. Copeland introduced Brooke Russell and Mary Brookshaw from Maple Point Middle School.
- Brooke Russell and Mary Brookshaw invited the public to the Veteran's Day Ceremony to be held on November 8, 2013 at Maple Point Middle School.
- Neshaminy High School - Kaleidoscope of Bands.
- Pearl Buck Elementary School hosted a "Purposeful People at Work."
- Business and Community Leaders, Teachers and Professionals go "Hog Wild" at Trumark Financial Credit Union Third Annual Kiss-A-Pig Financial Literacy Fundraiser.
- Neshaminy High School celebrates October Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Rachel Jones, Chris Perugini and Jamin Tharakan to perform with the 2013 NAFME all National Honors Ensembles at the Gaylor Opryland Hotel in Nashville.
- Sandburg Middle School Celebrates 60th Anniversary of Veteran's Day.
- A successful turnout for "Breakfast with the Superintendent" on October 19th.

**Public Comment**

Ray Cancila, resident of Langhorne Manor, stated that he supports keeping the name "Redskins" as the Neshaminy logo. He said that the name has been a longtime tradition representing Neshaminy and he does not want to see it changed. Mr. Cancila remarked that, in his opinion, the name is not offensive.

Paul Kreft, advertising artist, resident of Feasterville, cast his support for Angie Manning to take Mr. Koutsouradis's vacated School Board Director's position. He stated that Mrs. Manning is an intelligent and trustworthy individual whose advocacy on behalf of the students of the district is well known. Mr. Kreft added that Mrs. Manning was in opposition to the NFT during the contract impasse and her focus has always been on quality education for the children of the Neshaminy School District.

Angie Manning, New Jersey public school teacher, resident of Middletown Township, asked for the opportunity to be selected as School Board Director to replace Mr. Koutsouradis. She said that she has sincerely wanted this position for quite awhile.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of September 24, 2013 and October 8, 2013. Upon motion of Mr. Congdon and seconded by Mr. Shubin, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 24, 2013 and October 8, 2013 Board minutes. (Ms. Boyle was not present.)

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

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following for approval:

- September, 2013 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – September, 2013
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for September, 2013
- Investments
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) - 14-1

Mr. Morris moved the September, 2013, Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for September, 2013, and the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for September, 2013, Investments, and Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) - 14-1 be approved. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle was 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. Sposato moved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports be approved. Mr. Oettinger seconded the motion.

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

**Motion: Election of New Board Member**

Mr. Congdon presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Board Member Kim Koutsouradis' resignation effective September 24, 2013 created a vacancy on the Neshaminy Board of School Directors; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to appoint an applicant to fill his term which expires November 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that after considering qualified applicants, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors elects Mr. Stephen Pirritano to fill the unexpired term of Kim Koutsouradis.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

The loyalty of oath of office was administered to Mr. Stephen Pirritano by District Justice John Waltman and Mr. Pirritano subsequently took his seat on the Board.

Mr. Webb presented Mr. Kim Koutsouradis with a dedication plaque for his years of service to the Neshaminy School District.

**Motion: Declaration of American Education Week**

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 12 - 18, 2013

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and,

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and,

WHEREAS, public education employees, be they substitute educators, custodians, teachers, bus drivers or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and,

WHEREAS, public schools are community catalysts, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby proclaims November 12 - 18, 2013, as the 92nd annual observance of American Education Week.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle was not present.)

**Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Profy recommended to settle pending 2012 - 2014 Tax Year Assessment Appeals of Paris Real Estate L.P. as follows:

Paris Real Estate, L.P.

Settlement Assessment

Tax Map Parcel 22-021-066-001

\$429,400.00 -2012 Tax Year Assessment  
\$528,000.00 -2013 Tax Year Assessment  
\$528,000.00 -2014 Tax Year Assessment

Mr. Webb made a motion to accept Mr. Profy's recommendation to settle pending 2012 - 2014 Tax Assessment Appeals of Paris Real Estate L.P.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

Mr. Pirritano asked if this is a settlement in which we expected revenues to be higher.

Mr. Profy responded affirmatively that the recommendation was to settle pending 2012 - 2014 Tax Assessment Appeals.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle was not present.)

Mr. Profy stated that there was a discrimination complaint filed on October 8, 2013, by Donna Boyle, on behalf of Keith Boyle, against the Neshaminy School Board to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Mr. Profy made a recommendation for the Board to authorize him, as solicitor, to defend the school district in these legal proceedings.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve Mr. Profy's recommendation.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle was not present.)

**Federal Programs**

Mrs. Markowitz advised the Board that the total amount of Federal Grants is \$1,297,706.00.

**Other Board Business**

None.

**Public Comment**

Larry Pastor, business executive, resident of Middletown Township, expressed his admiration for Mr. Koutsouradis and thanked him for his service to the Neshaminy School District. Additionally, he congratulated Mr. Pirritano for his appointment to the School Director's position and he feels the right decision was made. Mr. Pastor mentioned that he respects Angie Manning, who is also exceedingly qualified.

Paul Kreft, advertising artist, resident of Feasterville, wished Mr. Pirritano success in his new responsibility and said he has no doubt that the Board will work very hard to move Neshaminy into the future. He cautioned the Board not to be influenced by individuals with political agendas.

Angie Manning, New Jersey public school teacher, resident of Middletown Township, congratulated Mr. Pirritano for his appointment stating that he is a good man. She also mentioned that she is considering running as a write-in candidate in the November 5th election for the other Region 1 seat.

Susie Drake, Neshaminy teacher, resident of Penndel, asked for an update on the assistant principal position for Maple Point Middle School and also the assistant superintendent position that still needs to be filled.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, congratulated Mr. Pirritano for his newly acquired position on the School Board. Mr. Rodos asked for an explanation of the tuition payments that appear on the check register to other school districts.

Leann Hartpence, homemaker, resident of Middletown Township, asked for an update on the school consolidation project.

#### **Board Comment**

Mr. Copeland explained that some of the tuition payments on the check register refer to charter schools and some are for other situations when one of our students is sent to another district for special circumstances. He also stated that the new assistant principal for Maple Point Middle School will begin working in mid-November and the search for an assistant superintendent position will be held in the Spring of 2014. In the meantime, Dr. Gloria Hancock will fill the position of assistant to the superintendent of curriculum and Mr. Don Harm will be the assistant to the superintendent for administration.

Mr. Shubin commended Mrs. Manning for her dedication to the community. He congratulated Mr. Pirritano for his appointment to the School Board. Mr. Shubin also congratulated the teachers, parents and staff and administration of Pearl S. Buck Elementary School and other schools in the district for an excellent performance review by the state.

Mr. Congdon remarked that the two candidates for the School Board position were highly qualified and the decision was not an easy one. He congratulated and welcomed Mr. Pirritano to the Board. Mr. Congdon said he looks forward to the next Ad Hoc committee meeting to begin discussions, once again, concerning the utilization of the district buildings.

Mr. Pirritano thanked Judge Walton, his new colleagues on the Board, and his family for their support. He also thanked Mr. Koutsouradis for his service to the community and said he will do his best to uphold the honor and integrity of the position. Mr. Pirritano said he is honored to be in the company of Angie Manning for consideration of the position and commended her for her dedication to the district. Mr. Pirritano said that his involvement in the school district has been one of the best experiences of his adult life and he is looking forward to working with community members to effect positive changes in Neshaminy.

Mr. Webb said that results of the enrollment study are completed and will be presented at a public meeting in the near future. He also mentioned that a reorganization meeting will be held on December 2, 2013 at which time, a new Ad Hoc committee may be considered.

#### **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 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary