

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
February 18, 2014

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on February 18, 2014, in the District Board Room, at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott E. Congdon, President
Ms. Irene Boyle, Vice President
Mr. John Allen
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Mark Shubin

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Mr. Anthony Sposato

OTHERS: Approximately 25 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- Neshaminy High School senior, Megan Schafer, was named 2013 - 2014 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Soccer Player of the Year.
- Carl Sandburg's 8th grade Business, Computer and Information Technology students take a "Slice" and listen to "Professional Advise" during their business luncheon with the owners of Aquilone's Cucina.
- Seven students from Mrs. O'Neill's art classes, have been recognized by the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards for their accomplishments in the visual arts.
- Our Lady of Grace field usage.

Mr. Allen made a motion to accept the field usage at Our Lady of Grace.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Public Comment

Della Jenkins, a representative for Pre-K for PA, invited the public to an open house on Thursday, February 27th, at the Middletown Municipal Building in Langhorne, at 7:00 p.m. She stated that the organization is a nonpolitical campaign to advance dedicated state financing for voluntary high-quality pre-kindergarten programs designed to assure that Pennsylvania's children enter school ready to learn and prepared to succeed.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of January 28, and February 4, 2014 Board minutes. Upon motion of Mrs. Cummings and seconded by Mr. Pirritano, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of January 28, and February 4, 2014 Board minutes. (Mr. Sposato 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:

- January, 2014 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – January, 2014
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for January, 2014
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) - 14-4

Mr. Pirritano moved the January 2014, Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for January, 2014, the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for January 2014, and Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) - 14-4 be approved. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked on Page 28, check number 204193 for DSI Medical Services Inc., for drug testing, if that was for pre-employment.

Mrs. Markowitz stated she would look into that and get back to him.

Mr. Morris asked on Page 34, check number 204317, for Workhealth, for drug and alcohol testing, if that was also for pre-employment.

Mrs. Markowitz stated she would look into that and get back to him.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato 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 plus addendum

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

Mrs. Cummings moved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports, the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report, and the Addendum be approved. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked why the addendum to the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report on page 46, was not voted on at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Copeland stated that it could be a number of reasons, one being that the coaches may have been hired at a later date or someone could have resigned and a coach was needed to fill that position.

Mr. Pirritano asked why there were no explanations of the codes listed.

Mr. Copeland stated that is how it has been done, but the code key can be added.

Mr. Morris asked who was in charge of the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report.

Mr. Copeland stated that Mrs. Hinterberger was the person who puts the agenda together for the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Motion: Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 - 2014 - 2015 Budget

Mr. Shubin presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District is one of the thirteen school districts in Bucks County that utilizes the services of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District contributed to the support of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit; and

WHEREAS, the School Code requires that the Intermediate Unit budget be presented and acted upon by the Board of School Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Program & Services and Instructional Materials Research Services Budget for 2014 - 2015 in the amount of \$1,717,224 with our district share to be \$103,817.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin asked Mr. Copeland to give a brief explanation on the district's obligation to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22.

Mr. Copeland gave an explanation on the district's obligation as one of the thirteen school districts in Bucks County that utilizes the services of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Motion: Revised 2013 - 2014 School Calendar

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, due to inclement weather on December 10, 2013, January 3, January 22, February 3, February 5, February 6, and February 13, 2014 which closed schools for our K-12 student body, school will now be in session on March 5; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, it is necessary to revise the calendar in order to meet the minimum state child accounting and attendance regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors approves the attached revised school calendar.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Pirritano asked Mr. Copeland to explain about the days now in session in April.

Mr. Copeland stated that the information is on the website. He said that the four days that were originally scheduled as no school for students and/or no school professional development for teachers will now become instructional days for staff and students. The four days that now will become instructional days are March 5, April 14th, April 15th and April 16th and the 17th will become a staff day for those teachers who needed an exchange day.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Motion: Election of Member to the Intermediate Unit Board

Mr. Morris presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 is governed by an Intermediate Unit Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District has duly elected a board member to participate on the Intermediate Unit Board, and Neshaminy's participation is critical to the operation of the Intermediate Unit, as well as the services afforded the Neshaminy School District, and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors has nominated Susan Cummings to serve on the IU Board. Her term expires on June 30, 2014 and her new term for re-election will be for the 2014 - 2017 three year renewal term. She is eligible to succeed herself without limitations as to the number of terms or another representative from the school district may be nominated.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors appoint Susan Cummings to serve as the representative to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin thanked Mrs. Cummings for serving on the BCIU Board.

Mr. Congdon thanked Mrs. Cummings for serving on the BCIU Board.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Motion: Adoption of the 2014 - 2015 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Congdon presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 1 of 2006, the Board of School Directors has received a Proposed Preliminary Budget for the 2014-2015 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Preliminary Budget was made available for public inspection on form PDE-2028 effective January 28, 2014; and

WHEREAS, in order to further comply with Act 1, the Preliminary Budget must be adopted by the Board of School Directors on or before February 19, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Act 1 further provides for "referendum exceptions", which must be submitted to and approved by the Pennsylvania Department of Education on or before March 6, 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2014-2015 Preliminary Budget is adopted in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and it shall be made available for public inspection as required by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School District shall apply to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for exceptions specified under Act 1 as per the attached summary.

Neshaminy School District 2014-15 Preliminary Budget ACT 1 Provisions			
	Dollar Amount	Percent of Current Millage	Mill Equivalent
Allowable Tax Increase by Index	\$ 2,366,174	2.10%	3.1 mills
Exceptions as Permitted by ACT 1 from PDE			
School Construction	\$ -		
Special Education	\$ 876,116	0.70%	1.1 mills
Retirement Contributions	\$ 1,145,731	1.00%	1.5 mills
Exceptions as Permitted by ACT 1 from Court of Common Pleas			
Emergency or Disaster	Not applicable		
Court or Administrative Order	Not applicable		
Conditions Posing Immediate Threat	Not applicable		
Total Allowable Exceptions	\$ 2,021,847	1.70%	2.6 mills
Not yet approved by PDE			
Legal Allowable Tax Increase	\$ 4,388,021	3.80%	5.7 mills
Note: These amounts are just estimates and the figures might change slightly. The official forms were not on the state website as of February 11, 2014.			

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mrs. Markowitz gave an overview on the budget.

Mr. Shubin asked what the total PSERS obligation is.

Mrs. Markowitz stated that it is about \$8.5 million dollars.

Mr. Shubin stated that, in the past, we asked for the community's suggestions and ideas for saving money and would like that to continue.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Federal Programs

Mrs. Markowitz advised the Board that the total amount of Federal Grants is \$1,585,039.00.

Mr. Morris made a motion to accept Federal programs.

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Public Comment

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mills, reiterated his suggestion that the cost of transportation, per student, be significantly reduced so the saved revenue can be used towards full-day kindergarten. Mr. Rodos asked if Neshaminy receives any Access Reimbursement from the Federal government for occupational/speech therapy for qualifying students.

Ms. Bakshi, resident of Langhorne, asked what is the maximum required number of school days for children each calendar year. She also asked if there are any plans to make up the hours of educational time that have been lost due to delayed openings because of inclement weather.

Other Board Business

Mr. Profy recommended the mutual agreement towards the settlement and release of the contract with Reynolds's Construction Management Inc., for the new Tawanka Elementary School.

Mr. Morris made a motion to accept Mr. Profy's recommendation.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Mr. Copeland asked Mr. Devlin to explain the process of Access Reimbursement. Mr. Devlin stated that the district does collect some funds from the Federal government based on the services provided, e.g., OT services, speech services, and physical therapy services provided through the Intermediate Unit. He said the district aggressively pursues the funds, although it has been a challenging process.

Mr. Copeland stated that the extra half hour work day has helped to make up for the hours lost due to delayed openings. At this late time in the year, nothing can be done about the loss of morning kindergarten sessions; however, this will be taken into consideration going forward when determining emergency allocation plans. Mr. Copeland deferred the question of school days to Mr. Devlin.

Mr. Devlin advised that as of June 19, 2014 all students will have accumulated 183 accountable days of school, which is more than the minimum required days by the state.

Mr. Pirritano made a motion to have a special meeting of the Board of School Directors to be held on February 24, 2014 at 7 p.m., in the Board Room at the Maple Point Middle School, for the purpose to consider and to act upon the authorization of the holding of a Public Hearing and the publication of a Notice of Public Hearing for the closure of an elementary school of the School District and the taking of such other action as many lawfully come before the Special Meeting.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Pirritano stated that the purpose of this meeting is that it gives the Board the opportunity to take advantage of a timeline that is still available this year.

Mr. Profy explained that the purpose of the meeting on February 24 is to discuss whether or not there will be a hearing to initiate the closing of an elementary school. He also explained that the motion before the Board at the present time is whether or not to have that special meeting on February 24.

Mr. Morris asked if the school proposed to be closed will be named at the meeting on the 24th.

Mr. Profy confirmed that the school will be identified at the February 24 meeting.

Ms. Boyle voiced her concern that the motion was brought up without any prior information or notice.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Sposato was not present.)

Mr. Congdon read the following Special Meeting Call:

Scott E. Congdon, President of the Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District, herewith calls a Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors to be held on February 24, 2014 at 7 p.m., in the Board Room at the Maple Point Middle School, 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road, Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047, for the purpose to consider and to act upon the authorization of the holding of a Public Hearing and the publication of a Notice of Public Hearing for the closure of an elementary school of the School District and the taking of such other action as may lawfully come before the Special Meeting.

Board Comment

Mr. Shubin stated that he attended the Neshaminy Educational Foundation Meeting and he asked the community to become involved in this foundation because there are excellent things being done for the students. He suggested that the Board should make the community aware of the organization to help to promote fund raising and to develop an appreciation of the success of the group.

Mrs. Cummings asked if the meetings for the Neshaminy Educational Foundation are flexible to include evenings as well as daytime meetings.

Mr. Shubin said he will ask if the meetings can be made to accommodate both time frames for flexibility.

Mr. Pirritano announced that an Ad Hoc Committee meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. on February 19, 2014 in the Maple Point Board Room and all are invited to participate. Mr. Pirritano also thanked the support staff for helping the administration to accommodate the work days.

Mr. Morris encouraged the public to attend the Ad Hoc Committee meeting because many important issues will be discussed.

Mr. Allen read a letter from the Bensalem High School Assistant Principal and the Athletic Director to Neshaminy's Athletic Director, Tom Magdelinkas, commending Neshaminy's Varsity Basketball Coach, Jerry Devine, and the team for their show of sportsmanship during a recent game involving the participation of special needs student, Kevin Grow. Mr. Allen said the coach and team's conduct displayed a very proud moment for the Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Congdon said the Board will look into the issue of reducing transportation costs per student. He also encouraged the public to attend the Ad Hoc Committee meeting and reminded everyone that the decision on school closings is still in the future and we must go through the correct process in order to reach an informed decision.

Adjournment

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Condon adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary