

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
June 18, 2013

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 18, 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 Congdon, Vice President
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. William Oettinger
Mr. Mark Shubin
Mr. Anthony Sposato

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Geeta Heble
Mrs. Therese Hinterberger
Mr. Anthony Devlin

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

Mr. Kim Koutsouradis

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

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

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 7:07 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 advised the Board on the following:

- Neshaminy High School's Service Learning Club Increases Student Driver Seatbelt Wearing to the Highest Percentage Ever.
- Neshaminy School District Schools Rank in Top 100 in State in First in Math Online Program Students in Neshaminy Celebrate Improved Math Skills and Student Math Achievement.
- 2013 Graduation was a big success.
- Kathy Brewster and Michelle Burkholder gave a presentation on the All-Day Kindergarten Pilot Program.

Mr. Oettinger asked what is the enrollment for kindergarten for 2013 - 2014 school year.

Dr. Rattigan stated that, at this time, the number is 491, which, may increase.

Mr. Oettinger asked how many would be offered the full-day kindergarten pilot program.

Mr. Copeland stated roughly 176.

Mr. Oettinger asked if any consideration was given for additional classes as Hoover has.

Mr. Copeland stated since Hoover is significantly larger, that is why they have two classes.

Mr. Oettinger asked what consideration was given to twins.

Mr. Copeland stated that the committee recommended that no special consideration be given to any one child.

Mrs. Brewster stated that the committee recommended that every child registered would have the same opportunity with no special consideration be given to any one child.

Mr. Congdon asked if children entering kindergarten, who are not ready for full-day kindergarten have any other options.

Mrs. Brewster stated that those parents will have the option whether or not to enter the lottery.

Mrs. Cummings asked whether there is a cut off time to opt out of the program.

Mrs. Brewster stated there is no cutoff date.

- Summary on budget process.

Public Comment

Ed Kern, retired, resident of Levittown, stated he was pleased about the full-day kindergarten program. Mr. Kern reiterated his position on a super-school in the Neshaminy District stating that one region will get the new high tech school, while the other two regions will continue to attend out-dated schools that are in need of repair. He said this will create an elitist group within the district. Mr. Kern said he thinks the matter needs to be re-evaluated or at least put to a referendum.

Kristen Gibboni, nurse, resident of Levittown, said she represents a group of parents who are very concerned about closing neighborhood schools. She stated that when neighborhood schools are closed the level of parental involvement decreases, the children lose a sense of community and there is a problem of what will become of the empty building. Ms. Gibboni said that children become lost in the super-schools and have a feeling of being only a number. She pleaded with the Board to reconsider the decision of school consolidation.

Kristen Waskie, account executive, resident of Langhorne, voiced her opposition to the school consolidation. She said although she understands the need for consolidation, studies show that children in smaller schools fight less, come to school more regularly, feel safer, and are more attached to the school community. Ms. Waskie said that busing also puts students' safety at risk. She asked the Board to find another solution for the community and to put it to a referendum.

Angie Manning, New Jersey public school teacher, resident of Langhorne, mentioned that according to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, keyboarding can only be taught by those with a Business Computer and Information Technology certification. Therefore, if keyboarding is to be taught by Library Science teachers who do not have that qualification it could present a problem. Ms. Manning also stated that many people want a referendum for the school consolidation matter and the Board should remember that if they do not listen to the public it could affect their position at election time.

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, resident of Feasterville, said that in his opinion Policy 104 still falls short because it lacks status quo protection. He stated that any MOU's should include a clause that ends it one day before the expiration of the contract that it was written under. He added that all MOU's should be cataloged and counsel should approve and sign off on all MOU's. Mr. Pirritano remarked that it is not necessary to include the word "attack" in Policy 105. He said there is no way to differentiate an attack from a criticism, so

the word should be eliminated. He said it is only necessary to prohibit obscene, abusive or threatening language from public comment.

Charles Alfonso, management executive, Langhorne, voiced his concern about the qualification of the food services director in the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Alfonso said he disapproves of a food service that is privatized and realizes a profit. He brought up the issue of children whose accounts are in arrears and then provided with a substitute lunch instead of the standard lunch.

Larry Pastor, business executive, Middletown Township, commended Mr. Rodos for his tenacity in leading the cause to support full-day kindergarten in Neshaminy. Additionally, he thanked Mr. Copeland for accomplishing this worthwhile cause. Mr. Pastor agreed that the word "attack" should not be included in Policy 105 stating that the word is vague and indefinable. Additionally, he questioned why we are allowing Policy 104 to be written without the protection against past practice and status quo. He asked the Board to reassess the two policies before approving them.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of May 22, 2013 and June 4, 2013. Upon motion of Mr. Congdon and seconded by Mrs. Cummings the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 22, 2013 and June 4, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes. (Mr. Koutsouradis 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:

- May, 2013 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register - May, 2013
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for May, 2013
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) 13-5

Mr. Sposato moved the May, 2013 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for May, 2013, the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for May, 2013, and the Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy)- 13 - 5 be approved. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports. (Mr. Koutsouradis 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.

Mr. Shubin moved the certified and support personnel actions be approved and Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports. (Mr. Koutsouradis was not present.)

Motion: Approval of Revised Board Policies

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, revisions and new policies are recommended by the administration to the Board Policies Committee for review, and

WHEREAS, recommended policies meet the requirements of Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, after review by the Board Policies Committee, the District is ready to recommend:

Revised Policy 104 – Contracts and Bids
Revised Policy 105 – Debate and Speaker’s Time Limit
Revised Policy 553 – Bullying/Cyberbullying
Revised Policy 1000 – School Visitors

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the revised Policies as recommended by the School Board Policies Committee.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked for an explanation on the word "attack."

Mr. Profy stated that the purpose of the policy is to prevent an unwarranted verbal assault not directly related to the content with a substantive matter in the policy or on the agenda. It goes to a visceral statements made towards someone's character and/or positions on issues outside the bounds of decorum of the meeting.

Mr. Copeland stated that there is discretion built into the code for the chair.

Mr. Profy agreed with Mr. Copeland's statement.

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

Motion: Approval of State Mandated Food Price Increase

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, proper nutrition for school students contributes to health and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, school food lunch programs must meet federal dietary guidelines established by the United States Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, continuing to provide low-cost, nutritionally beneficial school meals to elementary and secondary students is both a health and education objective; and

WHEREAS, schools provide student meals in concert with the federal and state government; and

WHEREAS, the USDA's New Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 mandated increases in

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following student lunch prices will go into effect September 2013:

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$2.25

Secondary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$ 2.75

Secondary Breakfast price will increase to \$1.25

No change in elementary student breakfast price is recommended.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Approval of New Bank Account for the Margaret Perry Still Scholarship

Mr. Congdon presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors approve all bank accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the new account at First Federal of Bucks County. The account for this scholarship previously existed at Wells Fargo Bank.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2012 - 2013

Mr. Morris presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, each year the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with instructions from the Auditor General's Office, must increase its receipts and expenditures budget by the total amount of other programs; and

WHEREAS, this amount represents previously approved federal and other special program receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the total 2012-2013 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$166,340,406. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

Neshaminy School District		
Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2012 - 2013		
Description	District Fund	
	No.	Amount of Revenue
Inclusive Practices Grant	41	929.00
Title I - Carryover	42	1,584.00
Title II, Part A - Carryover	43	21,269.00
PA Accountability Grant	44	4,159.00
Title III - Carryover	45	3,622.00
E.L.E.C.T. Grant - Carryover	47	4,630.00
Trumark Financial Grant	49	5,800.00
Summer P.A.S.S.	50	19,850.00

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Title I - Carryover	52	14,604.00
ACCESS - carryover	53	110,574.00
Title II, Part A - Carryover	54	6,295.00
Title III - Carryover	57	17,154.00
Title I - carryover	58	5,123.00
Jewish Family & Children's Services Grant - Carryover	59	500.00
Progress Monitoring Data Grant - Carryover	62	2,582.00
Title II, Part A - Revision	63	(1,156.00)
Wellness Consumer Center Grant - Carryover	64	676.00
E.L.E.C.T. Fatherhood Program	65	69,484.00
E.L.E.C.T. Grant - Carryover	66	236,053.00
PA Accountability Grant	67	286,333.00
IBM Grant - Carryover	69	8,179.00
Sea World/Busch Gardens Grant - Carryover	72	4,883.00
Grammy foundation/Best Buy Award - Carryover	74	2,000.00
Title I - Revision	75	(25,807.00)
PA Accountability Grant - Carryover	76	52,840.00
Summer P.A.S.S. - Carryover	77	11,309.00
Pre-K Counts Grants - Carryover	79	74,290.00
Challenge Day - Carryover	83	14,098.00
Title II, Part A - Carryover	87	7,061.00
Education Jobs Fund	89	12,583.00
Pre-K Counts Grant - Carryover	90	25.00
Drug Free Schools Grant - Carryover	92	6,000.00
Inclusive Practices Grant	93	5,000.00
E.L.E.C.T. Fatherhood Program - Carryover	94	2,664.00
Title II, Part A - Carryover	95	90,547.00

Title I - Carryover	96	8,450.00
Title III	97	11,678.00
Total Other Program Receipts		<u>1,095,865.00</u>

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2013-2014

Mr. Oettinger presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the district Facilities Department must use the professional services of various firms in order to ensure compliance with the many federal and state mandates concerning school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Department must also use professional consultants/engineers to develop bid specifications for other related facility improvements during the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following list of professional service vendors be accepted for use during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Year End Budget Transfers

Mr. Shubin presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Public School Code of 1949 requires that line item "...sums appropriated to specific purposes in the budget..." not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, under the school accounting system, line items have been determined to be major object levels within specific subfunctions; and

WHEREAS, year-end adjustments by the Business Office and Auditors may cause such line items to be exceeded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with directions from the Auditor General's office, authorizes the Administration to make those necessary budget transfers within and between accounts to prevent any possible over expenditure without exceeding the total budget for 2012-2013.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

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

Motion: 2013 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Mr. Sposato presented the following motion:

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2013, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. Aggregate Amount Available for Homestead and Farmstead Real Estate Tax Reduction. The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2013:

a. Gambling Tax Funds. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$3,591,448.58.

b. Remaining Property Tax Reduction Funds. Funds will also be available during the school year for real estate reduction as a result of undistributed funds from the property tax reduction funds received in 2012-2013. These funds will be added to the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$304.07.

c. Philadelphia Tax Credit Reimbursement Funds. PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$-0-.

d. Other Sources. No funds will be available during the 2013-2014 school year for real estate tax reduction other than the gambling tax funds, remaining property tax reduction funds and Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.) and (c.) of Section 1 of this Resolution.

e. Aggregate Amount Available. Adding the amounts set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.), (c) and (d) of Section 1 of this Resolution, the aggregate amount available during the 2013-2014 school year for real estate tax reduction is \$3,591,752.65.

2. Homestead/Farmstead Numbers. Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

a. Homestead Property Number. The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 17,478.

b. Farmstead Property Number. The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is -0-.

c. Homestead/Farmstead Combined Number. The aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 17,478.

3. Real Estate Tax Reduction Calculation. The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(d) aggregate amount during the 2013-2014 school year for real estate tax reduction of \$3,591,752.65 by the paragraph (2)(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 17,478, before considering the assessed value of approved

homestead and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount, the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$205.50.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$1,360 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 17,473 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$-0-. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$205.50 the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$205.50.

4. Homestead Exclusion Calculation. Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$205.50 by the School District real estate tax rate of 152 mills (.1520), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$1,352, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$0.

5. Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Authorization – July 1 Tax Bills. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$1,352. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$0. For purposes of this Resolution, “approved homestead” and “approved farmstead” shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, 2013 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, 2013 and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills for tax periods beginning prior to July 1, 2013.

RESOLUTION adopted this 18th day of June, 2013.

ATTEST:

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: _____
Ritchie Webb, President

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Local, State and National Contract Participation Authorization for 2013 - 2014

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the District participates in cooperative purchasing agreements with entities under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, Act 57 of May 15, 1998 (Title 62 PA C.S. 1902) known as the "Commonwealth Procurement Code", permits local public procurement units to participate in cooperative purchasing; and

WHEREAS, such contracts are competitively bid and compliant to Pennsylvania laws, and codes; and

WHEREAS, the piggybacking on competitively bid local, regional, state, and national contracts, financially assists the District by increasing its purchasing power through volume leveraging and improved operating efficiencies by streamlining the bidding and purchasing process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator be authorized to participate under contracts with piggyback provisions when it is financially advantageous to the District to order and purchase such materials, supplies, and equipment as needed by the District, and which include these currently available contracts through the following organizations:

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Approval of Fund Balance Commitment for PSERS

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania School Employee Retirement System (PSERS) is a mandatory, multi-employer, pension plan for all Pennsylvania school employees; and

WHEREAS, PSERS is funded by three sources – employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment earnings; and

WHEREAS, investment earnings have been the primary source of funding for PSERS benefits, dwarfing the contributions from both school employers and PSERS active members; and

WHEREAS, because of declining investment income, lower employer funding rates, and increased benefits as required by Act 2001-9 and Act 2002-38, unfunded liabilities have been created; and

WHEREAS, such unfunded liabilities will create significant employer rate hikes in the near future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors commit a portion of the remaining unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013, up to \$3,000,000 towards funding this pending debt. As a result of this commitment, these funds will not be available for any other purpose unless changed by a new commitment.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin asked that the current amount is that the district has set aside for PSERS.

Mrs. Markowitz stated that currently \$6 million dollars have been set aside for PSERS.

Mr. Shubin asked what percentage next year would the district be responsible for.

Mrs. Markowitz stated 16.93%.

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

Motion: Approval of the School improvement Plan for Neshaminy High School

Mr. Congdon presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Neshaminy High School is required to submit a School Improvement Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education as a result of receiving Making Progress status, as designated by the Pennsylvania School System of Assessment; and

WHEREAS, a team of professionals from Neshaminy High School met to develop a comprehensive framework and strategies for a plan for improvement to make progress; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the Neshaminy High School Improvement Plan and authorize the Administration to submit the plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the implementation of the financial components will be dependent upon School Board approval of the annual operating budgets of the Neshaminy School District.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Approval of Agreement with Source 4 Teachers

Mr. Morris presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, The Neshaminy School District is entering into a partnership with the Bucks County IU #22 for the employment of Substitute Teachers, Para Professionals, Support Staff, and Administrators; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of said agreement will be to reduce significantly the overhead, insurance and operating expenses expected to be incurred by the district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the substitute teacher placement agreement with Source 4 Teachers in the form submitted subject to such modifications approved by the Solicitor and Superintendent of Schools.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Adoption of the 2013- 2014 Final Operating Budget

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopted a 2013-2014 *Proposed Preliminary Budget* from the Administration on January 8, 2013; and the Board has reviewed and adopted a Preliminary Budget on February 19, 2013 and subsequently adopted a *Proposed Final Budget* on May 7, 2013, all in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, Notice of Intent to adopt the Budget has been duly advertised as required by law and the budget was also made public throughout the process on PDE Form 2028 as required by law; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors must adopt a *Final Operating Budget* for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt a *Final Operating Budget* of all funds in the amount of \$168,410,455 detailed as follows:

- General Fund in the amount of \$163,652,405
- Capital Projects in the amount of \$1,984,863
- Federal and other programs in the amount of \$2,718,738; and
- Carry-over purchase orders of \$54,449

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Capital Projects Budget will be funded from the capital reserve fund. The federal programs budget will be funded by specific federal grants. In order to fund the general fund budget the following taxes are hereby levied:

1. Real Estate Tax	152.0 mills	(zero increase)
2. Interim Real Estate Tax	152.0 mills	(zero increase)
3. Per Capita Tax - School Code	\$5.00	
4. Per Capita Tax - Act 511	\$10.00	
5. Local Services Tax (formerly OPT/EMS)	\$10.00	
6. Business Privilege Tax	1 mill wholesale, 1.5 mills retail, \$5.00 license fee	
7. Mercantile Tax	1 mill wholesale, 1.5 mills retail, \$2.00 license fee	
8. Real Estate Transfer Tax	1%	
9. Amusement Tax	10%, as amended by current law	

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Appointment Healthcare Dependent Verification Audit

Mr. Oettinger presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors interviewed three companies who perform Healthcare Dependent Verification Audits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors appoints McCloskey Partners, LLC for this audit, subject to the terms and conditions of a contract acceptable to the Superintendent and Solicitor, and that the Board President and Board Secretary be authorized to execute the contract in the name of and on behalf of the Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

Mrs. Cummings asked what date the audit would begin and be completed.

Mr. Webb stated no date has been set specifically, just sometime in the next couple months.

Mrs. Cummings asked if employees would have the chance then to take someone off of their healthcare.

Mrs. Hinterberger stated yes.

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

Mr. Webb made a motion to deny the request of Morrisville School District to open Articles of Agreement to have three seats on the Tech School Board.

Mr. Oettinger seconded the motion.

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

Federal Programs

Mrs. Markowitz advised the Board that the total amount of Federal Grants is \$1,664,152.

Other Board Business

None

Public Comment

Larry Pastor, business executive, resident of Middletown Township, thanked the Board for protecting the taxpayers of Neshaminy from increases and overcoming the financial budget crisis for the past five years. He also cautioned the Board to protect the fund balance to avoid problems going forward. Mr. Pastor asked about the cost of full-day kindergarten and if there are any federal funds for this program. He said PSERS is a crisis that will be hitting the district in the near future and should be discussed at every public board meeting.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, thanked the Board, Mr. Copeland and Dr. Rattigan for bringing the full-day kindergarten pilot program to Neshaminy. He also mentioned that he would like to see foreign language and computer training at the elementary level. Mr. Rodos said he has not heard of any valid reason so far to not go forward with the building of the new super school.

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, resident of Feasterville, also thanked Mr. Rodos for leading the cause for full-day kindergarten. He thanked the entire administration for all their hard work. He asked Mrs. Markowitz if there is any expanded explanation, which covers the retirement expenditures line by line. He also asked for the amended language for Policy 104. He concluded by stating that work should begin on forming a dress code for certified staff.

Charles Alfonso, management executive, Langhorne, said he disapproves of Policy 105 because he thinks it is hypocritical on the Board's side. Mr. Alfonso said the public has a right to criticize any elected Board member and criticism should not be considered as an attack.

Board Comment

Mr. Profy said the following language will be added to Policy 104; the term of any memorandum of understanding or memorandum of agreement shall be one day less than the then existing collective bargaining agreement to which it is applicable.

Mrs. Markowitz answered Mr. Pastor's question by stating that the retirement disbursements are separated on page 19.

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Mr. Copeland said the library teachers in the elementary schools will only be technology support and they will not be teaching keyboarding. He said the PDE approves if the keyboarding is taught by a computerized program as part of the regular elementary in class curriculum.

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary