

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
(PUBLIC MEETING)  
October 25, 2005

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on October 25, 2005, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President  
Mrs. Sue C. Barrett  
Mrs. June R. Bostwick  
Mr. Jason Bowman  
Ms. Carol A. Drioli  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mrs. Kimberly A. Jowett  
Mr. Ritchie Webb

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. P. Howard Wilson  
Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Dr. Sandra Costanzo  
Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan  
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:**

Dr. William H. Spitz, Vice-President

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

Miss Lauren Ramsey  
Miss Melissa Stack

**OTHERS:** Approximately 27 persons from the public, staff and press

**Call to Order**

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

Mr. Wilson announced that the meeting in November will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> and will be a combined Work Session and Public Meeting.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Student Representative Report**

Ms. Lauren Ramsey and Ms. Melissa Stack provided the following report:

- Hurricane Relief show will be held on Thursday, October 27, 2005 at 7:30 and the proceeds will go toward Hurricane Katrina victims.
- Kaleidoscope of Bands will take place on Saturday, October 29, 2005. The band has won three superiors.
- Homecoming Day went well and the football team beat North Penn. The team is currently 7 and 1 and is in First Place.
- Homecoming Dance, "Black and White Affair" went well and \$2,000 was raised with pin sales.

- Sports Up-Date:
  - ✓ Hockey, Soccer and Golf won championships
  - ✓ Field Hockey will be playing on Wednesday
  - ✓ Soccer will be playing on Thursday
  - ✓ Golf went to states
  - ✓ Brittany Benvenuto placed first in district one
  - ✓ Girls and Boys Cross Country placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the SOL championships
  - ✓ Girls Volleyball district playoffs are being held at Kennett Square tonight

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wilson requested that the Board approve a trip which would allow students to participate in the Youth Lobby Day for the March of Dimes. The students will receive training regarding advocacy, public policy, and public speaking. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year for this trip. Mr. Wilson respectfully requested the Board to consider this trip with the other approvals for this evening.

Mr. Wilson noted that the Suicide Prevention Task Force will have recommendations in November. This Friday at 7:30 a.m. in the High School Auditorium three members of the Suicide Prevention Task Force will be presenting a video that will be presented to the senior class. Also, following the video a workshop will be held for the seniors entitled "Drugs Kill." Mr. Wilson extended an invitation to all Board members to attend on Friday.

Mr. Wilson advised that the Suicide Prevention Task Force report will be made public once the Board members have had an opportunity to review same.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mrs. Jowett, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 27, 2005 Public Meeting. Dr. Spitz was not present.

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report, Bills for Payment, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax** – Mr. Wilson presented the following for approval:

- September, 2005 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Bills for payment Check Register – September, 2005
- Escrow Fund, Capital Project Funds, Investment Funds
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations – September, 2005

Mrs. Jowett moved the September, 2005 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the September, 2005 bills for payment, Budget, Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, bills for payment, investments, escrow funds, and capital project funds, personal and per capita tax exonerations. Dr. Spitz was not present.

### **Bids**

Mr. Wilson presented the following bids for approval:

#### **Bid No. 06-22 Data Collectors**

Bid Amount: \$18,640.49

The bid is for one hundred thirty-five data collectors with software and manuals for Science instruction.

Mrs. Jowett moved the bid be approved and Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the bid. Dr. Spitz was not present.

The Board also unanimously approved the trip to greater Philadelphia for the Youth Lobby Day for the March of Dimes presented by Mr. Wilson earlier.

**Certified and Support Personnel Actions**

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves of Certified Personnel

Dr. Muenker requested approval of the personnel report as presented.

Dr. Muenker further requested the Board's approval for the 2005/2006 Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries for Neshaminy Middle School.

Mr. Bowman moved the personnel report be accepted. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report. Dr. Spitz was not present.

**Motion: Bond Refunding for the Technical School**

Mr. Eccles presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, the Bucks County Technical School Authority has heretofore issued its School Revenue Bonds, Series of 1995, which are currently outstanding in the aggregate principal amount of \$22,105,000, for the purpose of financing capital improvements to the facilities of the School; and

**WHEREAS**, the Authority has executed and delivered a lease with the School Districts sponsoring the Bucks Count Technical School Joint Board, under the School Districts, among other things, agree to pay lease rentals to the Authority adequate to provide the debt service on the 1995 Bonds; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Districts have requested the Authority to refund the 1995 Bonds in order to reduce the interest payable on such debt and to include in the financing additional funds for the construction of an auditorium and related improvements as part of the School facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, in connection with the issuance of the Bonds, the School Districts will enter into a new lease agreement with the Authority, which will replace the 1995 Lease and will provide for the payment of rentals in the amounts sufficient to meet the debt service requirements of the Bonds; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt the attached resolution authorizing the proposed financing program and incurrence of lease rental debt.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz was not present.

**Motion: Amended Articles of Agreement for the Bucks County Technical School**

Mrs. Jowett presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the School District of Bensalem, the School District of the Borough of Bristol, the School District of the Township of Bristol, the District of the Borough of Morrisville, the School District of Neshaminy and the School District of Pennsbury, hereinafter the "Member School District" entered into an Agreement dated the first day of July 1966, and subsequently amended, for the operation of the Bucks County Technical School, hereinafter the "Technical School"; and

WHEREAS, the Member School District wish to amend the Articles of Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the School District of Neshaminy hereby moves to adopt the amended Bucks County Technical School Articles of Agreement as attached this twenty fifth day of October, 2005.

School District of Neshaminy

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Richard M. Eccles, President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anita E. Walls

Ms. Drioli seconded the motion.

Mr. Webb posed questions and concerns regarding Article #10. The Article states that the Joint Committee may appropriate any uncumbered funds at year end to the Capital Reserve Fund. As it stands now the Tech School is not permitted to have a fund balance. The monies would be returned to the sending districts based on the formula. Mr. Webb noted that it almost encourages the Board to over compensate. Mr. Webb encourages Capital Reserve Funds, however, all nine board members would vote to approve the fund as part of the budget. Mr. Webb interprets this as fourteen voting members of the tech school committee would determine how much would be put aside for the Capital Reserve Fund. Technically, Neshaminy may not have a representative present or possibly one representative would be present. Mr. Webb feels that it is not prudent and a poor way of budgeting.

Mr Webb's recommendation to the Board was to pass the Articles of Agreement with the exception of Item #10.

Mr. Profy noted that these are the Articles that have been approved by the four of the six school districts.

Ms. Drioli felt the Articles should be amended since Neshaminy would not have fair representation.

Mr. Bowman noted that other school districts have questioned this issue, in particular, the business managers of the school districts.

Mr. Eccles questioned whether the matter could be tabled until further information could be received.

Mrs. Miller stated that since Bensalem is the district which proposed the changes and each district would have sixty days from the time of receiving notice that would require the remaining districts to take action at the October meeting.

Mrs. Miller noted that it was not the intention of the Joint Board to bypass a budget process. Mr. Webb does not think that this is a prudent way to present a budget.

Ms. Drioli would like to see the Articles rewritten. Mrs. Miller noted that the language could be amended. Mrs. Miller also stated that the Board could this evening approve the parts of the Article which are acceptable, and the section not acceptable would need to be reworked and then it would need to be taken back to the other districts.

Mr. Profy stated that the initial motion would be to amend the motion to provide that the Board approve the proposed Amended Articles of Agreement for the Bucks County Technical High School with the deletion of Article #10. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board voted seven ayes and zero nays. Mrs. Bostwick abstained. Dr. Spitz was not present.

Mr. Profy stated that the Board would now need a motion to approve the Articles of Amendment as amended via the deletion of the proposed Article #10.

Ms. Drioli made a motion to approve the Articles of Agreement as amended. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board voted seven ayes and zero nays. Mrs. Bostwick abstained. Dr. Spitz was not present.

Mrs. Miller, on behalf of the Technical School, thanked the Board for its support this evening.

**Motion: American Education Week**

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

**AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK**

**November 13 – 19, 2005**

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they'll 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 custodians or 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 13 – 19, 2005, as the 84<sup>th</sup> annual observance of American Education Week.

Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz was not present.

**Motion: Contracted Transportation Services for 2005-2006**

Mr. Webb 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 vehicles.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the school district to enter into private contracts for the 2005-2006 school year for the transportation of certain students in accordance with state regulations as follows:

Contract #05-06-02	Lakeside Educational Network	\$32,560
Contract #05-06-01	Middle Earth, Incorporated	87,172
	Total:	<u>\$119,732</u>

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Business Administrator is authorized to sign these contracts on behalf of the school district.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz was not present.

**Federal Programs**

Mr. Wilson advised that five additional grants were received in the month of October for the 2005-2006 Active Federal Programs/Grant Allocations.

**Other Board Business**

Mr. Bowman would like the Board to discuss at the upcoming Work Session the Superintendent Search since Mr. Wilson will be retiring in June, 2006. A committee has been formed and it consists of myself, Mrs. Barrett and Dr. Spitz. The committee unanimously recommends that a search firm is engaged to aid the district in its search for a new superintendent.

Ms. Drioli advised that behind the Tawanka facility there is a current problem with ATV vehicles riding behind the facility. Ms. Drioli requested if the district could post signs forbidding the use of ATV vehicles. Ms. Drioli noted that this would give the police legal enforcement. Lower Southampton is also looking into the situation.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA questioned the transportation of the alternative school children. Mr. Wilson noted that the requirement is 185 days and they are transported via a van.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Jowett moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Bowman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary