

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
(PUBLIC MEETING)  
November 28, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on November 28, 2006, 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, Vice President  
Mr. Joseph R. Blasch  
Mr. Jason Bowman  
Ms. Irene M. Boyle  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Frank J. Koziol  
Dr. William H. Spitz  
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Paul J. Kadri  
Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Dr. Sandra Costanzo  
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

OTHERS:

Approximately 20 persons from the public, staff and press

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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.

Board Recognition

Proclamation presented to:

Mrs. Violet Sagolla for 40 years of Service as  
Director of Neshaminy Adult Education Program

Motion: Approval of Proclamation for Mrs. Violet Sagolla

Proclamation presented by Ms. Boyle:

WHEREAS, Mrs. Violet Sagolla has faithfully served the Neshaminy Community for 40 years as Director of the Neshaminy Adult Education Program; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sagolla has served the Community with great integrity, dedication, and commitment over those many years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Sagolla has provided a two semester comprehensive adult program full of informative, useful, and fun courses which encouraged life long learning in our Community; and

WHEREAS, such courses included topics in the area of personal finance, foreign languages, physical conditioning, personal enjoyment, and even a high school diploma program; and

**WHEREAS**, due to her extraordinary leadership, this program has been available to our Community for 40 years at no cost to the taxpayer, while even providing income to the School District for the use of our facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Sagolla has recently announced that she wishes to retire after her many years of service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors honor and pay tribute to this dedicated, loyal, and accomplished educator of 40 years who provided a service to community members who chose to take advantage of such opportunities to continue their formal and informal education in a neighborhood setting at a minimal cost.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be included in the minutes of this meeting of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, and the original presented to Mrs. Violet Sagolla with sincere appreciation for her dedicated service.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the proclamation.

Mrs. Sagolla thanked the Board for the Proclamation. Mrs. Sagolla stated that she was overwhelmed and surprised. Mrs. Sagolla advised that the Neshaminy Adult Education Program has met all its financial and legal obligations and has hence been dissolved. Mrs. Sagolla presented a check in the amount of \$10,000 from the Neshaminy Adult Education Program to the Neshaminy Education Foundation. Mrs. Sagolla thanked all the past Boards, staff and Administration that she has worked with over the past 40 years.

Mr. Eccles thanked Mrs. Sagolla for 40 years of service and donating the \$10,000 to the Neshaminy Education Foundation.

Mr. Blasch commended Mrs. Sagolla for her 40 years of service and thanked her for her efforts.

Mrs. Jan Jeske, Levittown, PA, stated that she has lived in Neshaminy since 1969 and as a community member thanked Violet and Joe for all their time and dedication to the District. Mrs. Jeske noted that twice a year a curriculum flyer was sent to all residents of Neshaminy with diverse and wonderful courses. People started new careers because of taking courses at Neshaminy Adult Education. People just became nicer and smarter because of the efforts of Violet. Mrs. Jeske noted that these were in the days when there were no community colleges, satellite schools, or on-line courses. As an Administrator of Neshaminy School District, Mrs. Jeske was always amazed at Violet's organizational skills. Never did the program interfere with the daily program of education, but it always extended the interests of everyone. Mrs. Jeske thanked Mrs. Sagolla for providing life long learning for so many Neshaminy residents.

#### **Announcements**

No announcements.

#### **Public Comment**

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, congratulated Mrs. Sagolla for her forty years of outstanding service to Neshaminy Adult Education. Mr. Rodos addressed the following issues:

1. Full Day Kindergarten classes would be the best investment for the future of Neshaminy School District. Half day kindergarten does not adequately prepare the students for first grade. Any child with developmental delay will be left behind in half day kindergarten. Full day kindergarten may eliminate the pre-first costs that the District currently incurs. Full day kindergarten program will raise the fair market value of homes within the District since a desirable is a key ingredient for fair market value.
2. Installation of seat belts on all school buses.

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA, noted that he would like to see the rebroadcast of the meetings of the Tax Study Commission in April as it gets closer to the primary election in May.

### **Student Representative Report**

Miss Arriel Deluca, Neshaminy High School Student Council, provided the following report:

- Field Hockey advanced to the State quarter finals
- Soccer team became the District 1 Champions
- Winter Ball will take place on December 9th
- National Honor Society will hold a Blood Drive on December 6th
- Holiday Concert will take place on December 5th at 7:30 p.m.
- In school concerts will take place on December 8th & 14th
- Winter sports have just begun and the seasons will open within the next two weeks

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Kadri announced that an Honors and Awards Ceremony took place at the High School for students and parents. Mr. Kadri commended all the Neshaminy sports teams for their efforts throughout the season. Mr. Kadri noted that Breast Cancer Awareness took place at Neshaminy and staff was encouraged to wear pink. Over \$3,116 was raised by the staff of the school district. Four Neshaminy schools were honored for their exemplary physical education programs: Oliver Heckman, Carl Sandburg, Maple Point and Neshaminy Middle. The Finance Office was again honored with the Government Finance Officers Distinguished Budget Award.

Mr. Kadri noted that the Long Range Facilities Plan has received several responses and the Finance and Facilities Committee will receive a presentation from perspective vendors. Mr. Kadri advised that the district has been looking at a software program that will enhance the district's web page presence. At the January meeting a presentation will be provided to Board members regarding same.

Mr. Kadri addressed the issue of the bomb threats made at the high school. Two major incidents took place and messages were found within the high school building. Everyone has been identified who were associated with the two incidents. The bomb threats were not real threats. The appropriate disciplinary procedures are in process and specifics cannot be commented upon at this meeting. Both threats were just pranks and no one was ever in any physical danger. The first priority is the safety of everyone within the school district. The emotional safety of the family is second priority. The district must, however, maintain an appropriate learning environment. There was never any physical danger; however, there was emotional distress. Mr. Kadri noted that it is no longer acceptable, whether you are in an airport or school district or any place where people gather, to joke, find humor or provide actions that may result in threatening people's personal or emotional safety.

Mr. Kadri urged that parents communicate with their children regarding the importance of this issue. Mr. Kadri noted that the best environment for Neshaminy is when everyone can communicate with each other in a respectful way. Dialogue needs to take place within the community regarding these serious issues so that the students can be best prepared for the future.

Mr. Kadri stressed that the schools are safe and Mr. Kadri urged the support of all parents, teachers, and students.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the October 24, 2006 public meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Bowman and seconded by Mr. Koziol, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 24, 2006.

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report, Check Registers, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax**

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- October, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register - October, 2006
- New Investments for Approval
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations - October, 2006 with 198 requests for exonerations
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 07-1)

Mrs. Barrett moved the October, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, Check Registers for October, 2006, New Investments for Approval and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for the month of October,

2006, and the Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 07-1). Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, and investments and Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 07-1).

**Certified and Support Personnel Reports**

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 noted that 2006/2007 Recommended Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries report is also presented for approval.

Mrs. Barrett inquired regarding the change of classification of one hour in the Food Services area. Dr. Muenker advised that it is related to the new breakfast program in the elementary schools. This falls within the Food Services budget which is self funded.

Mr. Eccles requested that the Personnel Report and the Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries report be separated and be voted upon separately.

Mr. Blasch moved the personnel report be accepted. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote on the personnel report. The roll call tally indicated the personnel report passed by a vote of six ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Cummings, and Dr. Spitz) and three nays (Mr. Eccles, Mr. Koziol and Mr. Webb).

Mr. Bowman moved the Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries report be accepted. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries report.

Mr. Kadri announced that Dr. Geeta A. Heble has been selected as Director of Secondary Education for Neshaminy School District. Dr. Heble will take the place of Bruce Wyatt.

Mr. Bowman advised that Mr. Ray Kelly, who was a highly regarded Administrator at Neshaminy for years and currently works at Moorestown School District knows Dr. Heble and Mr. Kelly has stated that Dr. Heble will be a tremendous asset and great fit for Neshaminy School District. Dr. Heble is more than just an Administrator she is an educational leader. Mr. Kelly has great respect for Dr. Heble and she knows how to motivate and move people. Mr. Bowman welcomed Dr. Heble into the Neshaminy family.

**Motion: Neshaminy High School Modified Site Development Agreement**

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the School District is proceeding with the Project designated as Additions and Alterations to the Neshaminy High School, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Project No. 3215 ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Township of Middletown has issued to the School District the Building Permits and other permits required for the demolition and construction required for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the School District has awarded the Construction Contracts for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the School District and Township of Middletown have entered into an Agreement dated

June 6, 2006, pertaining to the Project, which provides, inter alia, that the School District and the Township of Middletown will enter into a Site Development Agreement for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the School District and Township of Middletown intend and desire to enter into a Site Development Agreement pertaining to the land development approvals for the Project in the form annexed to this Resolution as Exhibit "A".

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District approves and authorizes entry into the Site Development Agreement by and between the School District and Township of Middletown, annexed hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A" and that the Officers of the School District are hereby expressly authorized and directed to execute said Site Development Agreement for the Project and to execute such other documents and to take such other action as may be required in connection with or relating to said Site Development Agreement for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute such other instruments and documents and to perform such other acts as said Officers at their discretion deem necessary or desirable to effectuate the Site Development Agreement and the intent of this Resolution and to consummate the Project, including the delegation of the taking of necessary or desirable acts or actions to Administrators of the School District as permitted by law.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mr. Profy stated that the District received a copy of a communication from Gilmore & Associates, Inc., Site Engineer for the School District, that per the agreement and understanding with the Township's Traffic Engineer there has been a pre-application meeting with Penn DOT scheduled for December 15, 2006 at the high school. The pre-application meeting has required that the final design of the road improvements not be made until after Penn DOT approves the concept. Gilmore & Associates is advising that the revised plans will not be submitted much before February 28, 2007. Mr. Profy recommended to the Board that the motion as presented by Dr. Spitz be amended to provide that the not later than date in paragraph 10 of the agreement be changed from December 29, 2006 to February 28, 2007.

Dr. Spitz made a motion to amend paragraph 10, page 6 of the Site Development Agreement to change the date from December 29, 2006 to February 28, 2007.

Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion to amend.

The Board unanimously approved the motion to amend.

Mrs. Barrett questioned the meaning of paragraph 20.

Mr. Profy explained that paragraph 20 makes the terms of the agreement covenants binding upon the land, as well as the school district. Although not required, it is within the power of the Township to record this agreement with the effect that the agreement becomes annexed to the real estate. There is a provision in the agreement that same can be recorded. Mr. Profy noted that paragraph 20 is acceptable to him as Solicitor for the School District.

Mrs. Barrett questioned the providing of evidence in paragraph 19.

Mr. Profy replied that if there is an accident and a claim arises out of the incident the School District's insurance coverage would be applicable. This is not insurance which is separate or distinct from existing coverage of the district. The Township will become additional insured under the School District's policy for this project, and only this project. Mr. Profy advised that this is an acceptable and standard provision.

The Board unanimously approved the amended motion.

Motion: Appointment of Deputy Tax Collector for Middletown Township  
Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Local Tax Collection Law, the Elected Tax Collector for Middletown Township is authorized to appoint a Deputy Tax Collector with approval of the taxing body and the bonding Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors accept the appointment of Paula L. Kearns as Deputy Tax Collector for Middletown Township, in accordance with the request of the Tax Collector. This approval is subject to receipt of confirmation that the Bond secured by the elected Tax Collector shall be applicable to the Deputy Tax Collector named above.

Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion.

Mr. Webb inquired why a Deputy Tax Collector is needed. Mr. Profy advised that the Code for Tax Collection law provides that the duties to be performed by the Tax Collector, collection of the monies, signing of checks, and administrative aspect of the tax collection process can be delegated to a Deputy Tax Collector at the consent of the taxing bodies. This resolution will enable Mr. Kearns to appoint Paula L. Kearns as a Deputy Tax Collector for that purpose.

Dr. Spitz inquired whether there would be any additional cost to the school district. Mr. Profy stated that no additional costs would be incurred by the school district since there is a blanket bond which covers the six tax collectors within the district and all the deputies are covered under the same bond.

Mr. Bowman noted that Paula L. Kearns has already been appointed a Deputy Tax Collector by Middletown Township and Bucks County. Essentially, it will make the office more efficient and beneficial for the taxpayers.

Mr. Koziol stated that Mr. Kearns ran for the position of Tax Collector and should perform the duties of Tax Collector. Mr. Koziol believes that the Board has already voted against the appointment of a deputy tax collector.

Mr. Eccles feels that anything that improves the efficiency of public office towards the public is a step in the right direction. Mr. Eccles feels that it shows a total lack of respect for the district and the Board by not appearing in front of the Board and explaining what it is in reference to. This is an elected official that is asking an elected body to appoint a deputy. Mr. Eccles does not have a problem doing same; however, Mr. Eccles would like to have had the same opportunity that Mr. Bowman had.

Mr. Webb would like to have Mr. Kearns come before the Board and explain the necessity of a Deputy Tax Collector rather than have the vote be split.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote on the Deputy Tax Collector. The roll call tally indicated the motion passed with six ayes (Mr. Webb, Dr. Spitz, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Blasch, and Mrs. Barrett) and three nays (Mr. Koziol, Mr. Eccles and Mrs. Cummings).

#### **Federal Programs**

Mr. Kadri stated that the total amount of grants to date is \$2,068,838.

#### **Other Board Business**

Mr. Blasch advised that there is a request before the Board to give consideration to naming the auditorium at Maple Point Middle School after a former employee and School Board member, Harry Dengler. The Board recognizes that there are many buildings and parts of buildings that have been named by individuals in the past. This request should be submitted to Recognition Committee unless the Board sees otherwise.

Mr. Bowman feels that it is an excellent idea; however, there may be a specific policy in place on how to proceed with such a request. Mr. Blasch advised that the policy states that any building or part of a building can be named after an individual providing that if it is not a unanimous vote there is a two year waiting period before the building or part of the building can be named. If it is a unanimous vote it can be accomplished in less than two years. This specific request is almost two years old.

Mr. Eccles advised that this matter should be sent to Committee for review.

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Marianne O'Connor, Langhorne, PA, just noted that for security reasons she would bring to the attention of the Board that a social security number has been published within the Board packet.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Langhorne, PA, provided his commendation to an under appreciated activity at Neshaminy High School. Mr. Rodos has been a judge for the Southeastern Regional High School Debate League for the past six years. Mr. Rodos has judged all phases of debates, poetry, pros, Lincoln/Douglas debates and Mr. Rodos would like to recognize the abilities displayed by the Neshaminy Debate team and commend them and their coach for the continued high level of performance in their debates.

**Board Comment**

Mr. Koziol stated that County tax is going up, Township tax is going up, the prescription drug plans for seniors are going up as high as 72%, all the existing school contracts have automatic increases built in and \$2.27 a gallon for gasoline is really not a bargain. Every year our accounting department, Mr. Paradise, receives an award for financial reporting. Mr. Paradise is probably one of the best Accounting/Business Managers in the County and probably the state. Usually if Joe says it "You can take it to the Bank". A few months ago when we were doing the budget we were told that most of the budget is made up of wages and benefits. The number was around 80% or more. We were also told that while our student population was going down the number of employees increased year after year. So, we concluded that if we are going to control the budget we must first control the cost of or amount of labor. At that point, I believe we all concurred that we should start reducing the labor force through attrition. How can we ask teachers to accept bigger class sizes when other teachers retire or ask them to sacrifice and start paying part of their hospitalization, or reduce certain curriculum altogether? How can we ask the support staff, the maintenance, the mechanics, the technology aides, and the office employees to accept more of the work load as people leave, if we are not willing to set an example by reducing the administrative staff when the opportunity arises? Mr. Koziol believes that the district has an excellent administrative staff and that positions can be absorbed into our staff.

Mrs. Barrett noted that on December 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the Board room there will be a meeting of the SAGE group. Please contact 215-752-6428 if you plan on attending the breakfast.

Dr. Spitz inquired whether the monthly construction report could be provided to Board members prior to the meeting. Mr. Paradise noted that a representative from Reynolds could come to a Board meeting in January to provide an update on the high school construction project.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary