

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
(WORK SESSION/PUBLIC MEETING)  
January 24, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on January 24, 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  
Ms. Irene M. Boyle  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Frank J. Koziol  
Dr. William H. Spitz  
Mr. Ritchie Webb

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

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

**SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:**

Mr. Jason Bowman

**OTHERS:** Approximately 18 persons from the public, staff and press

---

**1. Call to Order**

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

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**3. Announcements**

Mr. Wilson requested that Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan and Mr. Bruce Wyatt come forward to accept the award for the PSSA for eight elementary schools which were above average on achievement, three of the four middle schools were above average and the fourth middle school, Maple Point, did not make the list, but hopefully will return next year. Mr. Wilson noted that the high school still needs improvements and the district is working diligently.

Mr. Wilson noted a typo error on one of the motions which should read Accreditation for Growth.

Mr. Wilson announced that there is a workshop for the community this evening at Maple Point entitled the Choking Game. The presentation was very well received by the students. The Board is aware and has copies of the Suicide Task Force recommendations. On February 14<sup>th</sup> a short presentation will be given by the members of the Task Force. Mr. Wilson announced that at the high school there will be a "Celebration of Life Week" which is suicide awareness week. A nationally renowned speaker will speak at the high school on Monday, there will be a workshop for faculty and staff, community presentations by the speaker will be given on Monday evening and on Tuesday he will speak to the middle schools. Mr. Wilson invited all Board members and any community members to the workshops. Mr. Wilson further announced that activities are scheduled for the entire week in association with "Celebration of Life Week."

Mrs. Cummings urged that the "Celebration of Life Week" activities should be publicized on the Neshaminy channel and newspapers in order to make as many people aware as possible.

#### **4. Public Comment**

No public comment.

Mr. Eccles requested that the Student Representative report take place at this time.

Miss Lauren Ramsey and Miss Melissa Stack provided the following report:

- Activities for "Celebration of Life Week" are underway. A special thank you to Joe Kelly and the Guidance Department, Ms. Murphy, Dr. Spitz, Dr. Dickler, and Mr. Wilson for all their help with the plans.
- Neshaminy Winter sports teams are reaching the end of season and hope to advance to post season.
- Wrestling has an opportunity to tie for the championship.
- The musical is "Once Upon a Mattress" and will take place on February 8-11<sup>th</sup>.
- Laughing Stock will be held this week.
- Preparations are being made for the annual grade level dances and Junior class trip.
- Student Council will sell conversation card packets on Valentine's Day to students at the high school.

#### **5. Items For Discussion**

##### **a) Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Mr. Paradise distributed copies of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). Mr. Paradise advised that the document is created entirely in-house in the Office of Director of Financial Services. It is a voluntary document and is submitted to both the Government Finance Officers Association International and Association of School Business Officials International and has received the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award every year since 1991. Very few school districts and municipalities make the effort to create and submit such a document, however, Mr. Paradise feels that the recognition it receives encourages strong public support and confidence in the district's financial dealings.

Mr. Paradise noted that the document complies with every federal and state requirement concerning financial reporting of governmental entities, and is also a veritable encyclopedia of financial and statistical information about Neshaminy School District. The document is used by bond underwriters, bond purchasers, banking institutions, and other political institutions when they are seeking information on the financial stability and record keeping of district operations.

Mr. Paradise reviewed the document with Board members.

Mr. Paradise stated that the district is very proud to present this to the Board and Community to heighten the public trust that the district is in excellent financial order. Much credit should go to the Board for always adopting responsible budgets and policies that support and maintain the district's financial health, which reinforces the support we receive from the community.

Mr. Paradise stated that the document has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

Mr. Paradise thanked Mrs. Barbara Markowitz, Director of Financial Services, for a job well done.

##### **b) High School Swap Financing Options**

Mr. Paradise introduced Mr. Michael Lillys and Mr. Jim Losty of RBC Dain Rauscher to discuss the options the district has regarding the current Swaps Financing Plan vs. an Alternative Financing Plan Option.

- a) Proceeding with the Financing Plan utilizing the current interest rate swaps as approved by the District in March 2005; and
- b) Alternative Financing Plan also involving a swap that the District may want to consider undertaking.

Both options have been discussed with the District's Swap Advisor and Swap/Bond Counsel.

**Option 1: Current Swaps Financing Plan**

1. Issue \$70,000,000 variable rate demand bonds (VRDBs) on March 1, 2006.
2. Existing Interest Rate Swaps become effective on March 1, 2006.
  - School District pays fixed rate of 4.196% and receives BMA on \$35,000,000 notional amount of 2006 bonds (the "BMA" swap).
  - School District pays fixed rate of 3.512% and receives 67% of LIBOR on \$35,000,000 notional amount of 2006 Bonds (the "Libor" Swap).
  - Blended swap rate of 3.854% plus support costs of .350% results in estimated all in rate of 4.204%.
3. The Pennsylvania Department of Education is still taking the position that they will reimburse based on the actual debt service expense (not including support costs) and not the swap rate. For purposes of this analysis an assumption of 2.50% (average since 1997) has been used for the variable rate over the life of the bonds. There does not appear to be any movement to currently change this position of the department.

Financial Impact

- Potential losses of approximately \$1,540,000 present value in State reimbursement if VRDB rate averages 2.50% over the term of the issue. If it averages higher then that loss would be reduced (and eliminated if it exceeds the swap rate) and would be greater if it averages less than 2.50%.

Advantages

- Easiest option for Board to execute – continue with agreed upon financing plan, minimal additional approvals required.
- If interest rates increase in the future, swaps would increase in value and could be terminated for a windfall gain; however, VRDB's would then be unhedged.

Disadvantages

- Future credit deterioration of District, bond insurer, liquidity provider or remarketing agent could increase interest costs on VRDBs.
- Liquidity provider agreement may need to be rolled over or replaced, which can result in additional costs.
- Potential loss of State reimbursement if current law isn't changed to permit reimbursement on swap rate instead of the VRDB rate.
- No opportunity to refinance if rates decrease in the future.
- Increased administrative work for VRDBs for the District.
- Interest earnings on Construction Fund proceeds restricted to either swap rate or actual VRDB rate not including .35% support costs.

**Option 2: Terminate Swaps, Issue Fixed Rate Refunding Bonds with Basis Swap on \$35,000,000 (50%) of the Notional Amount of Bonds**

Financing Plan

1. Issue fixed rate bonds March 1, 2006.
2. Terminate swap and make or receive termination payment.
3. Enter into Basis Swap for \$35,000,000 notional amount of Series 2006 Bonds:
  - District pays BMA and receives 67% of LIBOR plus a spread (identical to the terms of the Libor Swap already in place in Option 1 with the exception that School District doesn't pay a fixed rate on Swap but on 2006 Bonds instead).

Assumptions

- State reimbursement based on fixed interest rate of bonds.
- Yield based on fixed interest rate on Bonds.
- Bonds sold with 10 year option call (non-callable also an option).
- Costs of issuance slightly higher.

Financial Impact

- Estimated present value savings vs. Option 1:
  - ✓ 10 year Call - \$950,000
  - ✓ Non-Callable - \$2,000,000

Advantages

- Estimated lower net present value debt service of \$500,000 or \$1,600,000.
- Credit deterioration of District or insurer (no liquidity provider or remarketing agent required) won't increase.
- No potential loss of State reimbursement.
- Conventional fixed rate financing – much easier for District Administration.
- Potential to refinance approximately \$58,000,000 fixed rate bonds when they become callable in 10 years. For example, if the bonds are refinanced ten years from today using today's interest rates; present value savings would be \$1,850,000, which is 3.6% of the net refunded bonds.
- Due to market demands for premium bonds, District will either reduce the principal amount of the planned borrowing while raising the same amount of proceeds for construction costs or issue the same principal of \$70 million and receive \$3.0-4.0 million more in construction proceeds.

Disadvantages

- Board must update Interest Rate Management Plan and enter into new Interest Rate Management Agreement for Basis Swap and pay related expenses.
- Loss of potential termination gain available in Option 1 if interest rates were to increase in the future.

Mr. Eccles was concerned that the recommendations are changing. Ms. Clupper advised that the Board made a decision last year that they liked the interest rates that they could get. This option leaves the district at the same place, but it lowers the exposure of having the larger part of the debt connected to interest rate swaps.

Mr. Webb stated that an Act 34 Hearing has taken place and is everything from the hearing still in tack. If the district chose to do the new option and rates changed, the district could still opt to take Option 1.

Mr. Paradise noted that Option 2 would allow the district to save an additional \$1M. Ms. Clupper is recommending that the district follow through with Option 2 and have less SWAP exposure, more budgeting ease, and more reimbursements by restructuring the debt.

Mr. Eccles referred to an incident in Council Rock whereat the bond issue was competitively bid by 33 firms and Morgan Stanley won the bid and saved Council Rock \$1.5M. Mr. Eccles noted that this district bids everything out and is required by law to bid everything over \$10,000, but yet this district, previous board, decided a \$70M bond without putting it out for bid. This is Mr. Eccles' concern. This district needs to step into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and start bidding on bonds. Mr. Eccles would like the Board to look into a policy regarding bidding of bond issues.

Mr. Webb noted that five members of the Board voted in favor of RBC Dain Rauscher. RBC has now come to the Board with a better option and they should be applauded for their efforts in reworking an existing bond.

Dr. Spitz noted that the Financial Advisor has advised that there are cases where bidding is better and instances where negotiating is better.

Mr. Losty answered questions from board members regarding termination costs, ability to maintain option 1, and underwriter requirements.

Mr. Paradise noted that in the past the district has never had a Financial Advisor and this is an added level of protection at this point.

**6. Items for Approval**

**a) Overnight Trips**

Trip information distributed for the following trips was self-explanatory:

- i. **Neshaminy High School Ski Club Trip – Killington, Vt – January 27-29, 2006**
- ii. **Neshaminy High School Cheerleading Competition – Baltimore, MD - February 3-5, 2006**
- iii. **Neshaminy High School Choral Adjudication and Workshop – Ft. Lauderdale, Cozumel, Key West – April 20-24, 2006**
- iv. **Neshaminy High School – Seventh Annual UNA-USA Model UN Conference, New York City – May 18-20, 2006**

Mr. Koziol questioned the chaperone ratios as to the number of students (girls/boys).

There was Board consensus for the four trips.

**b) School Director Recognition Month**

Mr. Wilson advised that a motion will be made later this evening acknowledging school director recognition month.

**c) Accreditation for Growth**

Dr. Costanzo and Mr. Menio provided the Board with a summary of the Accreditation for Growth. An executive summary of the Accreditation for Growth Validation Team report was provided to Board members. Mr. Menio explained that Accreditation for Growth (AFG) is a unique accreditation process that uses strategic and site-based planning as vehicles for school improvement and growth in student performances.

Mr. Menio stated that Neshaminy High School has been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools since 1984. In 1996 the Accreditation for Growth process was made available to high schools as an Alternative Accreditation Model, and was subsequently utilized by Neshaminy High School.

Objective 1 is to improve Mathematics Skills and Test-taking skills and Objective 2 is to improve English/Reading and Writing skills and Test-Taking skills.

The AFG validation team reported in their preliminary summary that Neshaminy High School meets the twelve standards of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools.

**d) K-12 Textbook List**

Dr. Costanzo provided Board members with the Textbook Listing Guide which has been presented to the Educational Development Committee.

Mr. Eccles inquired how many of the following books were available on-line. Dr. Costanzo stated that she would follow up with the lead teachers to see just how many books were available on-line.

Mr. Koziol questioned copyright dates on certain books. Dr. Costanzo will look into the copyright dates.

**e) Acceptance of the 2004-2005 Audit Report**

Mr. Paradise advised that the Audit report needs to be formally accepted by the Board this evening. If any other Board members would like a copy of the report Mr. Paradise will be happy to provide one.

**f) Authorize Termination of Existing Swap Agreements; Authorize a new Basis Swap Agreement; and Authorize Preparation for Sale & Issuance of Fixed Rate General Obligation Bond Issue, Series 2006**

Mr. Paradise stated that Mr. Jones would review the motion during the public portion of the meeting.

**g) Approval to use Citizens Bank as main depository**

Mr. Paradise advised that the Facilities and Finance Committee has reviewed this item several times and a motion will be made to use Citizens Bank as the main depository for the district. Seven proposals were received from various banking institutions and Citizens Bank has made the district feel very comfortable with its proposal.

**h) Bids/Budget Transfers**

Information distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Paradise reviewed the following bids:

Bid No. 06-24 Boilers (3) for Neshaminy Middle School

Bid Amount: \$419,450

The bid is for three replacement boilers at Neshaminy Middle School. Even though the school may be slated for closure, the heating systems need to be in operation even if the building is to be leased.

Bid No. 06-28 Buy Back of 22 Buses, Conventional

Bid Amount: \$369,600

The bid is for buy back of twenty (20) 78 passenger, conventional buses; one (1) 48 passenger with lift; and one (1) 30 passenger bus for School year 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

Bid No. 06-30 Passenger Bus Purchase

Bid Amount: \$55,022

The bid is for the purchase of one 18 passenger bus with wheelchair lift.

The three bids and Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-1) will be presented for approval later this evening.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wilson announced that Joe Paterno visited the high school and he is still recruiting high school students. One of the high school students has a full scholarship to Penn State.

**8. Committee Reports**

**a) Board Policies**

No report.

**b) Educational Development**

Dr. Spitz advised that a meeting will be scheduled for February 8<sup>th</sup> and preparation for the 2006 PSSA tests will be discussed and an update on a new science book adoption.

**c) Finance and Facilities**

Mr. Webb advised that Citizens Bank will be saving the district \$38,000 in fees alone. The next Finance Committee meeting will take place on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**d) IU Board**

No report.

**e) Educational Foundation**

Mrs. Cummings advised that a meeting is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup> at which time the grants will be awarded.

**f) Technical School**

Ms. Boyle advised that a reorganization meeting took place in December and Mr. Koziol was appointed the Chair.

**g) Technology**

Mr. Koziol advised that a meeting will be scheduled for the beginning of February.

**9. Future Topics**

**10. Agenda Development for the January 24, 2006 Public Meeting**

**11. Other Board Business**

Mr. Paradise advised that two municipalities have increased the occupational tax. Middletown has increased the tax to \$52.00 and Langhorne Borough increased same to \$25.00. Many employers have not made employees aware that it is not Neshaminy School District that has increased the tax. Neshaminy has not levied this additional tax. Municipalities have raised the tax and Neshaminy continues to get \$5.00.

## **12. Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion with eight ayes. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

## **PUBLIC MEETING**

### **Call to Order**

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 8:43 p.m.

### **Announcements**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the November 15, December 5, and December 12 public meetings. Mrs. Walls noted that in the November 15<sup>th</sup> minutes a correction should be made on page 16, paragraph 1 to read October, 2005 and not February, 2005. Upon motion of Dr. Spitz and seconded by Mrs. Cummings, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 15, 2005, December 5, 2005 and December 12, 2005 Public Meetings. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report, Check Registers, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax** – Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- November, 2005 and December, 2005 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – November, 2005 and December, 2005
- Escrow Funds, Capital Improvement Funds, Investment Funds
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for November, 2005 totaling 354 requests for exonerations and December, 2005 totaling 816 additional exonerations

Mr. Blasch moved the November, 2005 and December, 2005 Treasurer's Reports be approved, subject to audit, and the November, 2005 and December, 2005 check registers, Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds and the personal and per capita tax exonerations for November, 2005 and December, 2005. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, investments, escrow funds, capital project funds, budget transfer report and personal and per capita tax exonerations. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Bids** – Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for approval:

#### **Bid No. 06-24 Boilers (3) for Neshaminy Middle School**

Bid Amount: \$419,450

The bid is for three replacement boilers at Neshaminy Middle School. Even though the school may be slated for closure, the heating systems need to be in operation even if the building is to be leased.

#### **Bid No. 06-28 Buy Back of 22 Buses, Conventional**

Bid Amount: \$369,600

The bid is for buy back of twenty (20) 78 passenger, conventional buses; one (1) 48 passenger with lift; and one (1) 30 passenger bus for School year 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

#### **Bid No. 06-30 Passenger Bus Purchase**

Bid Amount: \$55,022

The bid is for the purchase of one 18 passenger bus with wheelchair lift.

Mr. Blasch moved the bids be approved and Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the bids. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**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.

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

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Motion: School Director Recognition Month**

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and**

**WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and**

**WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and**

**WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month.**

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Motion: Accreditation for Growth**

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, Neshaminy High School has elected to participate in the Accreditation For Growth Process; and**

**WHEREAS, a 24 member Accreditation for Growth Planning Team met four times between November 2003 and October 2005 to develop the framework and the strategies for the Accreditation for Growth Plan; and**



**WHEREAS, two action teams representing 24 members of Neshaminy High School and the community cooperatively developed the proposed action plans; and**

**WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors reviewed and discussed the AFG Plan at the Work Session on January 24, 2006.**

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the Neshaminy High School Accreditation for Growth Plan.**

**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 the motion. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Motion: K-12 Textbook List**

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors has in the past approved textbooks that have been submitted by certified staff; and**

**WHEREAS, the textbooks on the attached list were presented for review to the Educational Development Committee on November 29, 2005 in conjunction with a thorough review of the complete K-12 approved textbook list; and**

**WHEREAS, the textbooks on the attached list, and their respective programs, have been presented and discussed with the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the textbooks on the attached list; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the K-12 approved textbook list will be annually reviewed by the Educational Development Committee.**

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Motion: Acceptance of the 2004-2005 Audit Report**

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, the audit for the Neshaminy School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, has been prepared by Hege Kramer Connell Murphy & Goldkamp, P.C., Certified Public Accountants.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2005, be accepted in accordance with Section 24-2408 of the School Code.**

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman was not present.

Mr. Jones addressed Board members and advised that the purpose of the motion and attached Resolution is to authorize the Financing Team to proceed with the actions necessary for a fixed rate long term bond issue for the high school project in an amount not exceeding \$70M.

**Motion: Authorize Termination of Existing Swap Agreements; Authorize A New Basis Swap Agreement; And Authorize Preparation For Sale & Issuance of Fixed Rate General Obligation Bond Issue, Series 2006**

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors had previously on April 12, 2005 taken action to "lock-in interest rates" through the use of an Interest Rate Management Agreement, commonly know as a "swap agreement" to establish a fixed cost of funds for the high school reconstruction program; and

WHEREAS, the Finance & Facilities Committee has reviewed and recommended modifications which would improve the Financing Program even further; and

WHEREAS, the District believes that the modifications to the Financing Program are in its best financial interest because the fixed interest rates on the 2006 Bonds will be lower than the fixed rates under the Swap Agreements and because the Commonwealth reimbursement, under existing policies of the Department of Education, will be higher if the Financing Program is modified as described in that attached resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Resolution be approved and executed as submitted.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board approved the motion with a vote of seven ayes and one nay (Mr. Eccles). Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Motion: Approval To Use Citizens Bank As Main Depository**

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the School District has requested RFP's (Requests for Proposals) from all area banking institutions in order to find a bank that could provide improved services at a lower net cost to the district; and

WHEREAS, the district received a total of 7 proposals which were subsequently submitted to and reviewed by the Business Office and the Board Finance and Facilities Committee; and

WHEREAS, it was the final recommendation of all involved that the most advantageous proposal was received from Citizens Bank.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors approve the move of our main depository accounts to Citizens Bank, and that the Officers of the Board and the Business Administrator be authorized to sign all documents to execute the transfer at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman was not present.

**Federal Programs**

Mr. Wilson reported that the total this year is currently \$1.9M.

**Other Board Business**

Dr. Spitz provided the following information regarding the Superintendent Search. Dr. Spitz advised that the school board has retained the services of Dr. Charlie Scott and Dr. William Vantine to assist in the Superintendent Search to replace Mr. Wilson who retires in June. Four working meetings have been held to date with the board. The Board is interested in considering both internal and external candidates for the position. Parameters for the search have been identified, including concentration in the Eastern United States and the Mid-Atlantic region. Beginning in February advertising will be done in Professional Journals and Bulletins and through other contacts. A set of procedures has been established that will be followed in conducting the search process. All applications of candidates will be held confidential until finalists are selected. A time line has been prepared with the expectation that a new superintendent will be on board by early July. As part of the search process the Board will be seeking input from the both the public and Neshaminy professional and support staff. The Board values the opinions of the residents of this community. Questionnaires will be sent to a random sample of district residents and staff. This will help the Board determine the profile of the candidate to be selected, as well as strengths and needs of the school district. As the Board's public spokesperson for this process, Mr. Bowman will give an update every month at the regularly scheduled public meeting concerning the status of the search.

Dr. Muenker advised that an e-mail was received from Tony Singleton of 4 James Court, Langhorne, PA concerning that the district should have a long term plan to maintain not just the high school that is being renovated and added on to, but also all of the schools. Dr. Muenker advised that a plan is in place and this Board has set aside dollars with that issue in mind. A strategic plan process is also in the makings.

Mrs. Barrett commented that \$500,000 has been set aside for two years to keep the schools in repair. Mr. Webb also noted that a line item for capital improvements in order to put so much money away every year. This board has approved \$25M to go into the improvement of all this district schools.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Lindner, Langhorne, PA, stated that fifteen years ago he created the Neshaminy All Sports Hall of Fame. Coaches got together all sports, including football. Last year 22 people were inducted, this year 17 people were inducted. The recipients must be out of high school six (6) years before being considered. It takes time to search out the recipients. A ceremony takes place at the high school and it is a wonderful evening. Mr. Lindner is disturbed because the district is recognizing athletes and Administration and Board members are not present for the evening. Dr. Bowman and Ms. Murphy take part in the program every year. Mr. Lindner feels that something is wrong. These athletes have given Neshaminy its status and recognition and they represent Neshaminy. Mr. Lindner stated that the Administration does not come to the current Neshaminy games. Mr. Lindner noted that something is missing. Mr. Lindner noted that if the district is hunting for a new superintendent, he hopes that the new person will make the staff more involved with the student's activities.

**Board Comment**

No Board comment.

**Adjournment**

Mrs. Cummings moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary