

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

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

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on March 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
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
Ms. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mr. Bruce Wyatt

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

OTHERS: Approximately 5 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

No announcements.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Student Representative Report

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

- Spring Drama show is scheduled for the first weekend in May
- Sophomore Dance is scheduled for April 7th in gym three
- Spring sports teams have started and are looking good

- Winter sports are completed and many teams finished well
- Student Council will hold March Madness towards the end of April
- Funds are being raised for the Memorial Garden. A concert and dance were held which raised \$500 towards the Garden and an Ice Cream Social is planned for May. Overall \$2,506 was raised to date. The goal for the Garden was to raise \$6,000. The location for the garden will be in a center point (courtyard) in the newly constructed high school.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the January 24, February 14, and March 21 public meetings. Mrs. Barrett suggested the following amendment be made to the February 14 meeting on page 25 to read "All schools met Annual Yearly Progress and sixteen out of seventeen requirements were met by the High School." Upon motion of Dr. Spitz and seconded by Mr. Koziol, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the January 24, February 14 meeting as amended and March 21 public meetings.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson had no report. Mr. Bowman provided the following update on the Superintendent search. Mr. Bowman advised that the Board recently sent out a survey to random community members and employees within the school district. The consultant advised that the response to the survey was very low. Applications are now being accepted for the position and will continue to do so through the beginning of next week, and at that point meeting dates will be set for reviewing the applications and scheduling interviews.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- January, 2006 and February, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – January, 2006 and February, 2006
- Investments for Approval
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-2) which includes 7 transactions and subtransactions
- Personal & Per Capita Tax Exonerations for January, 2006 totaling 513 exonerations and February, 2006 totaling 189 exonerations

Mr. Bowman moved the January, 2006 and February, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, Check Registers for January, 2006 and February, 2006, Investments, Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-2) and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for January, 2006 and February, 2006 be approved. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, investments, budget transfer report and personal and per capita tax exonerations.

Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bid:

Bid No. 07-01 General School Supplies

Bid Amount: \$148,843.63

The bid is for various classroom and office supplies for use throughout the district for the school year 2006/2007.

Mrs. Blasch moved the bid be approved and Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the bid.

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
- 2005/2006 Recommended Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries

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

Mrs. Cummings moved the personnel report be accepted. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report.

Motion: Approval of Summer School Programs 2006

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District has operated a successful summer school program for 48 consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, in recent years had operated completely on a self-sustaining basis via student tuitions; and

WHEREAS, the following programs have been discussed with the Neshaminy Board of School Directors:

- Secondary Summer School (Enrichment and Make-up)
- Summer Fine Arts including Art, Dance, Instrumental Music, and Summer Stock

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the request to operate summer programs for the 49th year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that students residing in Neshaminy School District be given first preference for program involvement and related program activities.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Proposed School Calendar 2006-2007

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, each year the Board of School Directors must establish an official school calendar for the coming year; and

WHEREAS, the six participating school districts of the Bucks County Technical High School strive to establish a common school calendar; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors reviewed the proposed calendar at the March 14, 2006 Public Work Session; and

WHEREAS, the proposed calendar was forwarded for comments to each of the employee bargaining groups.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt the attached school calendar for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of the BCIU #22 Programs and Services and Instructional Materials and Research Budget for 2006-2007

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Program and Services and Instructional Materials Budget for 2006 – 2007 in the amount of \$1,913,500 with our district share to be \$108,961.

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Election of Board Member to Intermediate Unit Board

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

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

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

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors has received notice from the Intermediate Unit that Dr. William H. Spitz has been nominated to serve on the IU Board to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Carol Drioli, which the term expires on June 30, 2008, and he is eligible to succeed himself without limitations as to the number of terms or another representative from the school district may be nominated.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors appoint Dr. William H. Spitz to serve as the representative to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Board of Directors.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Response to the Auditor General's Audit for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2002 and 2001

Mr. Eccles presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office has completed an audit for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2002, and 2001; and

WHEREAS, the audit included a Recommendation that the District should implement procedures to periodically perform a "background check" on existing school bus drivers after employment, even though such background checks are performed before employment in full compliance with state laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors formally responds to the Pennsylvania Auditor General's Office with the attached documentation, and that the Board clearly states that it is in full compliance with existing laws and board policies on this matter.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED however, that the Board also wishes to refer this matter to its Board Policies Committee to consider implementation of a more regular review

of school bus driver background checks after employment, and that this review also apply to any employee who has direct contact with children.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of High School Traffic Impact Study

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors has embarked on a long term renovation and construction plan for the Neshaminy High School; and

WHEREAS, the Board has been granted approval for the High School plan of land development by the Middletown Board of Supervisors, conditional upon the completion of a Traffic Impact Study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the proposal from Gilmore & Associates, Inc. to complete the Traffic Impact Study, in accordance with the specifications from the Township, at a cost of \$22, 120 (proposal attached).

Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson advised that two additional grants were received in January, 2006 which brings the total to date up to \$1.9M. The district received notification that it will receive \$10,000 from the PA Department of Education on a competitive grant for least restrictive programming in the special education program.

Mrs. Barrett questioned how many students were English Second Language. Mr. Wilson advised that over 200 students. Dr. Costanzo advised that summer camp is provided for ESL students and a parent program is also in place. Services are there, however, attendance is not what the district would like it to be.

Other Board Business

Mr. Wilson advised that Graduation will take place on June 14, 2006.

Ms. Boyle inquired regarding the Suicide Task Force meeting which took place at the Technical School. Mr. Wilson advised that a representative was not present; however, Neshaminy is well beyond the introductory phase that the Tech School is presently discussing.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Board Comment

Mr. Bowman commended Mr. Paradise and Dr. Muenker for the hard work and dedication these gentlemen have displayed on the High School Project. When it was time for someone to step to the plate these two gentlemen did same and took the project by the reins.

Mr. Eccles provided the following statement regarding the high school project:

“Over the last few weeks the district has received a letter from the Township with sixty-three points that they found deficient in either the architect’s drawings or engineer’s drawings. In projects of this scope, having spoken to the district’s architects and engineers, probably thirty to thirty-three of those points are normal. There are a number of points that we needed to address and the district worked as quickly as we possibly could, and one of the biggest issues was a traffic study. The Board voted upon instituting a Traffic Study. Middletown Township requested same and we also have an issue with the modular units. The district is addressing those as we speak. The district feels that it has worked on this project for approximately five years and we are coming down to the wire to get the project going. We certainly need both governmental bodies to work together and get through this. It is imperative that the community also knows that the district has met and is working on any of those points that have been raised by the Township. I have been in contact, almost on a daily basis, with either Mr. Paradise or Dr. Muenker, and/or Mr. Wilson in reference to those points. We are working diligently to make sure that there is no hold up on this project. It is true that the state has requested that we complete the Traffic Study and that they receive a letter from the township stating such. As we speak, it is in motion. Again, we are working as diligently as we can. After five years of planning the district has listened to the public, the project has gone from a brand new high school to a renovation, public input over the five years, and it is only fair that the public know what is going on with the project. The project is not stopped. The project is moving forward. If there are delays we are working as quickly and efficiently to meet all of the requirements. Any delay in this project will run the taxpayers over a half million dollars per month, plus fees. Substantial amounts of money are involved in this. As with any large project, concerns will arise. Hopefully, the two governmental bodies can work together and this project can be kept on track and budget. “

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion with eight ayes. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary