

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(PUBLIC MEETING)
April 26, 2005

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on April 26, 2005, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Dr. William H. Spitz, Vice-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
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 10 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.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Danielle Cope provided the following report:

- AP Testing will be taking place at the High School
- History Club Trip to Boston is scheduled for May 20th
- Spring Sports are doing well
- Student Council March Madness was a great success

Public Comment

Mr. Kevin Yeingst, Feasterville, PA stated that he read in the newspaper that the Bucks County Technical School budget was going up and the Neshaminy portion of that would be \$3M plus. Mr. Yeingst questioned whether the Tech School Budget and the Charter School Funds would count against the school budget or is that an exemption if Act 72 was enacted, and if it is not, then what happens at Neshaminy? Does Neshaminy start cutting back on some of its own programs? Since these budgets continue to rise every year, that is why the Neshaminy budget continues to increase. Mr. Yeingst stated that some seniors have approached him regarding usage of the pools. Seniors from Lower Southampton go to Morrisville High School to use their pool during the day. The cost is \$3.00 to use the pool. Mr. Yeingst questioned whether Neshaminy could look at opening up the pools in the morning from 7-9 or 8-10 on certain mornings for seniors to use for therapeutic reasons.

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA noticed that the agenda this evening did not contain a vote on Act 72. Mr. Basen worked all week creating a sign. Mr. Basen noted that for over a decade this state has been telling us that there would be real estate tax relief. We have gotten nothing. Mr. Basen noted that Act 72 is a little bit of hope after all these years. Mr. Basen urged the Board to try Act 72!

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA stated that the Board will be making very important decision regarding the buildings in the upcoming months and years. The high school renovation plan and Neshaminy Middle will be two schools which are involved. Mr. O'Connor is concerned that the district may be using static numbers provided to the district by PA Department of Education. Mr. O'Connor directed the Board to look at the numbers projected by the PDE as it clearly states that those numbers are based upon live births in the community. The PDE has no ability to forecast growth in an area. Mr. O'Connor noted that the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission provided a study showing that between 2000 - 2030 they are projecting over 20% growth in this area, mostly in Middletown Township. Clearly the PDE numbers are in one direction and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission numbers going in another direction. Mr. O'Connor mentioned that the Delaware Valley report has participating in it the County Commissioners from all the counties in this area, including Bucks County. Mr. O'Connor contacted the Bucks County Planners and they stated in their opinion the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's numbers are usually very accurate and considered gospel. Mr. O'Connor is concerned that the district is not using these numbers when planning for the buildings in the future. Mr. O'Connor left twelve copies of the report for the members of the board.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson announced that Kelley Bradin was given the YWCA Bucks County Teen of the Year award as a volunteer. Mr. Wilson noted that Kelley is a great student and still finds time for volunteer work. Mr. Wilson further noted that he has received over thirty e-mails about the April 8th Jazz Festival at Carl Sandburg Middle School. The students played with jazz professionals. Mr. Wilson noted that the public is commending the district for supporting the fine arts.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls noted that in the April 12, 2005 minutes under Item 5, Items for Discussion, paragraph 4, references the Local Tax Abatement Act 511, and there should be a correction made. It should read the Local Tax Enabling Act 511.

Mrs. Barrett also noted that on page 27 she was referring to Act 71 being challenged and not Act 72. Mrs. Barrett requested that it be changed accordingly.

Upon motion of Mrs. Jowett and seconded by Mr. Bowman, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 29, 2005 and April 12, 2005 Public Meetings.

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

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

Mr. Bowman moved the March 2005 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the March 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.

Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for approval:

Bid No. 06-08 Science Supplies

Bid Amount: \$12,769.60

The bid is for various supplies for the instruction of science curricula district wide for the 2005 – 2006 school year.

Bid No. 06-09 Bituminous Concrete Paving, Resurfacing and Repair

Bid Amount: \$76,550.00

The bid is for paving repairs at Neshaminy High School, Poquessing Middle, Neshaminy Middle and Lower Southampton Elementary.

Bid No. 06-11 Classroom & Art Aids

Bid Amount: \$34,663.71

The bid is for classroom and art supplies for the 2005 – 2006 school year which includes: paints, drawing paper, brushes, markers, yarn, cloth and other arts and crafts materials for classroom use.

Bid No. 06-12 Swimming Pool Timing Systems & Scoreboard

Bid Amount: \$26,055.00

The bid is for a swimming pool timing system and scoreboard for Poquessing Middle School.

Bid No. 05-31 Electrical Service Upgrade at Everitt Elementary School

Bid Amount: \$55,595.00

The bid is for upgrades of the building electrical system at Samuel Everitt Elementary School.

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

Dr. Spitz questioned Bid No. 06-12 and why the district was taking the higher bidder. Mr. Paradise replied that the system is a Colorado Timing Systems product which is the premier product in the industry. The low bidder was offering products that were not equal in quality. Mr. Paradise further noted that the Colorado Timing Systems also provides other features not offered at the other systems. Streamline Aquatic, Inc. will be installing the Colorado Timing System for the district.

Mrs. Jowett questioned why Colorado Timing Systems was not installing their own product. Mr. Paradise noted that the district went directly to the manufacturer when inviting bidders.

Ms. Drioli showed concerned that this is a 2006 budget item and the district may not be able to pay this bill if the district would need to go to referendum. Dr. Spitz noted that it would not affect this year's budget.

The Board unanimously approved the bids.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Wilson 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

Mr. Wilson requested approval of the personnel report as presented.

Dr. Spitz moved the personnel report be accepted. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report.

Motion: Approval of the IU Special Education Contracted Services for 2005-2006

Ms. Drioli presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District is required by law to provide special education and related services to children from pre-school through age twenty-one; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of our students have severe mental and physical disabilities for which we do not operate programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the contract for special education services with Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22 for the 2005-2006 school year.

Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson advised that there is no change in the Federal Programs.

Other Board Business

Mr. Profy recommended that the Board approve the following real estate tax assessment appeal of Pike Holding Co., L.P., Tax Map Parcel #22-047-011-002 via fixing the Assessments for the respective Tax Years as follows:

2001	\$219,740
2002	\$211,660
2003	\$262,550
2004	\$262,550
2005	\$193,750

Mr. Profy noted that the 2005 assessment being with the predetermined ratio at 100%.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve the settlement of the real estate tax assessment appeal of Pike Holding Co., L.P. Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Eccles commented that at the last meeting he attempted to bring Act 72 to a vote and at that point and time it was a four to four vote and it was not placed on the agenda. Mr. Eccles feels that it is very important that this board make a statement whether it is in favor of Act 72 or against Act 72. Mr. Eccles noted that there has been comments regarding Act 511 and instituting an earned income tax. Mr. Eccles feels that it is the Board's responsibility to either vote aye or nay on Act 72.

Mr. Eccles requested that a vote be taken as soon as possible.

Board discussion ensued as to whether same should be placed on the agenda at the present time.

Mr. Webb made a motion to amend the agenda to include Act 72 as an agenda item to consider Act 72. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote to amend the agenda. The roll call tally indicated the motion failed with five nays, Mrs. Bostwick, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Mrs. Jowett and Dr. Spitz and four ayes, Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Eccles and Mr. Webb.

Dr. Spitz noted that the Board could consider Act 72 and Act 511 at the next meeting. Mr. Eccles is very concerned about the direction the Board is taking. Act 511 will tax the people on earned income tax and not provide the seniors with a break.

Ms. Drioli stated that she spoke with surrounding districts and they are all not considering opting in at this moment. Ms. Drioli noted that the state legislature has the power to put this Act in place. The state has put the burden on 501 school districts in this state. Ms. Drioli feels the state has set up all the districts to take the fall for their tax reform. Ms. Drioli stated that they are the lawmakers and they have the power to enact same.

Dr. Spitz commented that Act 72 will require a ballot question in 2007 to impose a 1 ½% earned income tax or a similar sized personal income tax. The seniors would then be affected by this by paying taxes on interest, social security, dividends and capital gains.

Mr. Webb noted that any money that would be received from this the school district would keep and it would not be shared with any of the other municipalities.

Ms. Drioli is not sure that Act 72 will benefit the seniors and homeowners.

Dr. Spitz noted that if Act 72 is to be so beneficial to seniors AARP would be encouraging all school districts to pass Act 72. AARP has not taken a position on Act 72.

Public Comment

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA noted that AARP starts at 55 years of age. AARP is staying away from same because between 55-70 are still working people. AARP is also caught in the middle and they are being careful.

Mr. Kevin Yeingst, Feasterville, PA questioned the return rate of an earned income tax.

Mr. Paradise noted that the actual dollar amount would be \$261 or 1/10 of 1%.

Mr. Eccles commented that the Property Tax Relief forms sent into the County exceeded expectations. Many people are looking for relief on property taxes.

Mrs. Walls read a note received from the Soloky family regarding the Neshaminy pools and facilities thanking the Board for its efforts.

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary