

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
June 29, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 29, 2004, in the Auditorium of the Pearl Buck Elementary 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
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. P. Howard Wilson
Dr. Raymond J. Boccuti
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Mr. Harry P. Jones
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mr. Richard Marotto
Mr. Bruce Wyatt

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

Mrs. Kimberly A. Jowett

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 45 persons from the public, staff and press

Call to Order

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Mr. Wilson asked for a brief moment of silence in memory of Mr. Fred Gerst who passed away on Sunday, June 27, 2004. Mr. Gerst was a long time teacher, coach, school board member for two terms, and the gymnasium is named after Fred Gerst. Mr. Gerst cared greatly about children.

Mr. Wilson announced that Poquessing Middle School wrote a grant and was accepted for \$10,000 for palm pilots for the students at Poquessing to increase learning in technology.

Dr. Spitz made a motion to amend the agenda to consider the motion regarding Facilities Usage Fees. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion to amend the agenda. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Mr. Webb made a motion to table Item No. 2, Facilities Usage Fees. Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion to table Facilities Usage Fees. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Public Comment

Mr. Kevin Yeingst, Feasterville, PA, congratulated Dr. Boccuti on his new position as Superintendent of Jenkintown School District. Mr. Yeingst wished Dr. Boccuti the best of luck and thanked him for all he has

done for the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Yeingst noted that discussions have taken place for a long time regarding the new building. However, what about the teachers that teach in this school district? What will they have to go through in the building they are teaching in? A high level of education is expected of the educators, yet the building and facilities and the technology in the buildings is so poor. Mr. Yeingst noted that the district's elementary schools have no television capabilities. There is no internet, except for the libraries. There is only one computer per classroom with internet capabilities which the home and school purchased. The Home and School in our district does so much. The Home and School at Ferderbar put fans in every classroom, put a T.V. in each grade and spent \$6,000 for new library furniture. This happens through fundraising and events. The Home and School at Ferderbar raised \$25,000 this year and all that money went back into the school. These are the parents who are giving and are in support of a new school. Think about the students if renovations are to take place. What type of quality teachers will be left in the district if they are not provided with the tools they need to provide for the students? Mr. Yeingst commented regarding the building usage fee. Mr. Yeingst stated that members of the Lower Southampton Athletic Association will be providing further comment regarding that issue. Mr. Yeingst noted that the upcoming speakers will provide figures showing how much money the associations give to the district to use the facilities.

Mr. Jerry Grzybowski, Feasterville, PA, stated that he is vice-president of basketball for LSAA. Mr. Grzybowski stated that he has been running the basketball program since 2001. Mr. Grzybowski provided the following information:

2001 season	360 children from 3-12 grades, ages 7-17 327 were Neshaminy School District students
2002 season	396 children - 348 NSD students
2003 season	386 children - 341 NSD students
2004 season	349 children - 308 NSD students

85-90% of children are Neshaminy School District students. Groups are from Trevoise, Feasterville and Oakford. The group pays for Saturday usage at \$28 per hour at Tawanka, Ferderbar and Poquessing.

2001 season	LSAA paid \$8,360
2002 season	LSAA paid \$9,268
2003 season	LSAA paid \$9,291
2004 season	LSAA paid \$8,470

Mr. Grzybowski stated that the association is paying for custodial use. Out of a \$30,000 budget this past winter season one-third went to gymnasiums, one-third for basketballs, trophies, shirts, etc. and the other one-third is for referees. Mr. Grzybowski noted that the association fundraises and has sponsors. Mr. Grzybowski noted that if the amount for usage is raised it would provide a hardship. This past season the association charged \$75.00 per student. Mr. Grzybowski thought that it was on the high end for the surrounding area. Mr. Grzybowski noted that there is no custodial assistance provided to LSAA. They open and close the doors of the building for the association. Mr. Grzybowski concluded that this was a summary of the basketball program. Mr. Grzybowski is concerned from an accounting point of view that LSAA is paying their fair share. Mr. Grzybowski noted that no one is making any money. Everyone is here for the children. Mr. Grzybowski commented regarding the high school that do the project the right way, money well spent will be for new. Most cars pulling into the meeting are new, not from the fifties, sixties, seventies, etc. being restored. They are mostly the latest and greatest.

Mr. Tony Crooks, Feasterville, PA, stated that he is president of the LSAA. Mr. Crooks noted that basketball is a five month sport during the winter and two months during the summer. The association also runs soccer, football, baseball, and cheerleading. All of the activities are adult supervised. Mr. Crooks noted that he has been in the organization for many years and no one has ever been turned away from the organization for lack of payment. If the person cannot pay, they still play. However, the organization usually loses about \$3,000 a year for basketball alone. Fundraising needs to occur, parents put out their time for the children. Mr. Crooks

spoke with Matt Wright, Gene DiGirolamo, and Chief Wiegman from Lower Southampton. They all have the same opinion. Don't let the association die. Seven hundred children kept off the streets year round. The only time the association is closed is when there are no facilities available. This spring baseball, football and soccer had 611 children participating. Mr. Crooks dared to have anyone say that they kept that many children off the streets with adult supervision in this area. However, if the association needs to pay more money, the association will be put out of business. The students benefit from the association. The children go to college on sports scholarships, plus academic because of the good school district. Mr. Crooks noted that the children need to be well rounded individuals. They need to be book smart and street smart. Mr. Crooks asked the district to keep the fees low. Think about the 700 children if the association needs to close its doors.

Mrs. Barbara DeSantis, Langhorne, PA, spoke on behalf of the young ladies in green, the Girl Scouts of Neshaminy School District. Mrs. DeSantis is a taxpayer and has resided in this area for 18 years. Mrs. DeSantis is a volunteer Girl Scout leader for 12 years. Mrs. DeSantis is the servicing manager of the Neshaminy Service Unit and the unit serves the western half of Neshaminy School District. Mrs. DeSantis' area covers Heckman, Lower Southampton, Ferderbar, Poquessing, Neshaminy Middle, and Tawanka. The organization is concerned about the fees that are being proposed. Mrs. DeSantis noted that both units combined serve approximately 850 girls. We are trying to teach the girls to be the leaders of tomorrow, to be independent, intelligent, forthright, and basically good public servants. Mrs. DeSantis noted that her troop has juniors in high school and four of the girls out of a troop of ten are in the top 15% of the class of 881. The highest ranking is 34th in her class. Girls are members of the National Honor Society. Mrs. DeSantis noticed that many of the names inducted into the National Honor Society are former and present members of the Girl Scouts. The school store manager at Neshaminy High School for two years, Lori Real, is a girl scout. Mrs. DeSantis noted that the troops are run on shoe string. Most troops ask for no more than \$1.00 per girl, per meeting for dues. Trips are funded by cookie money. The average group of 10-12 might earn maybe \$700.00. That amount can be spent on one trip. The trips keep the girls interested in scouting. Supplies are given at every single meeting. If the district charges the troop \$10.00 per meeting, the district has wiped out all of the operating budget, minus the cookie money. The troops do not have the funds. The leaders dig in their own pockets to support their troops. Mrs. DeSantis stated that these girls are the female leaders of the next generation. Don't taking scouting away from them because the buildings are being taken away. Mrs. DeSantis noted that the parents are taxpayers and they have put a lot of money into the school district. Mrs. DeSantis does not have a problem paying for the large events, paying exactly what the district is asking, however, on the troop level the groups cannot afford same. Scouting could be wiped out for the children who really need it. Mrs. DeSantis strongly urged the district to consider what is being done for these girls.

Ms. Helene Ratner, Langhorne, PA, thanked Mr. Ritchie Webb and Mr. Marotto for helping with the situation that she was going to speak about. The situation occurred at one of the elementary schools recently where a 5th grade boy needed to decide whether to invite his mother or stepmother to his graduation. Based on the classroom that he is in 60% of the students come from divorced parents. Ms. Ratner does not feel that this is right. No matter what grade you are in, invitations should go out to parents and stepparents. Ms. Ratner thanked Mr. Webb and Mr. Marotto for getting involved and those invitations should go out to both sets of parents. This boy was able to invite both of his parents to attend his graduation. There is a younger brother who also earlier in the year had to go home and say to his stepmother that he could not invite her to an activity because he could only have one invitation. This happened at one school and Ms. Ratner is not aware of what is happening at the other schools. Ms. Ratner feels that both sets of parents need to be included and Ms. Ratner wanted to make the board aware of this situation.

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA, wished Dr. Boccuti good luck. Mr. Lindner thanked all the people who spoke whether it is girl scouts, boy scouts, sports, etc. Your dedication, your time and commitment and any time a person is involved in any such group money is always spent from your own pockets. Congratulations and we hope that there will be more like you in the future. Mr. Lindner does not feel that new is necessary to be outstanding teachers. Mr. Lindner was always one of the highest paid teachers in Neshaminy because of his master's degree plus 40 credits. Mr. Lindner knows the dedication of teachers and you don't need a new building to be a good teacher and to get the job done. Computers are not necessary to get someone's

imagination to think and do. Mr. Lindner congratulated the young on getting money from donations to contribute to the school. Mr. Lindner contributed to his daughter's class at Maple Point. It is wonderful for the community to raise money and donate same to the school.

Mr. Lindner further spoke regarding Mr. Fred Gerst. In 1969, Mr. Lindner's first year at Neshaminy and assistant coach for track, Neshaminy had its first strike. A few teachers stayed inside. Mr. Lindner does not believe in strikes and education once the school year starts. Mr. Lindner would never leave a team once he started no matter what. There were bitter feelings going on. Mr. Lindner did not know Mr. Gerst very well. Mr. Gerst left the picket line and came over and wanted to know why Mr. Lindner was not on the picket line. Mr. Lindner told him that he refused to strike once the school year starts. Mr. Lindner believes in strikes, but not when it comes to kids. Mr. Lindner was not going to leave a team who had a championship game coming up. The head coach walked out and he was not going to leave the students stranded. Mr. Gerst shook Mr. Lindner's hand and became one of his best friends for 35 years. Mr. Lindner persuaded Mr. Gerst to run for school board. Mr. Lindner ran his campaign and he was not an endorsed candidate in the Republication party in Lower Southampton. Mr. Fred Gerst was a giant of a man. Mr. Gerst was a teacher and coach. To watch him teach the students to hit and catch a ball was watching a masterpiece. He was always giving and always willing to contribute to help. Mr. Lindner received a call that Fred had passed away and all Mr. Lindner could think about was 1969, the year the strike occurred and that Mr. Gerst had that guts enough to leave a group of people on strike, come over and ask Mr. Lindner why he was not outside, shake hands, and became a lasting friend. Mr. Gerst wanted to serve the community, stop waste, and do good for the community and good for the students and taxpayers. When Mr. Gerst died on Sunday, the community lost one of the giants in the teaching profession.

Mr. Ray Granadas, Levittown, PA, stated that he is with the Neshaminy Basketball Association which is a small organization that uses Sandburg, Neshaminy Middle, Miller and Everitt's gymnasiums. The group has about 200 children that are kept off the streets the winter months and keep them active instead of sitting in front of video games. The extra costs would be very difficult on the group. The group is growing and is needed in the community. Two years ago the group only had 140 children. Now there are over 200. Consider the value that you are getting for the cost of the gym. Mr. Granadas hoped that the board uses good judgment.

Mrs. Maryann Boyd, Levittown, PA, noted that she could skip her six page speech if the board could answer why the motion was tabled and will it be discussed at a later time regarding the usage fees.

Mr. Webb commented that maybe he was a little over zealous with the finance committee of which he is the chairperson. It was his intention to look under every rock in order to generate monies for this district. Mr. Webb has five children, and a couple were girl scouts, all three were in the Neshaminy Basketball Association. Mr. Webb was one of the founders of the association and got it off the ground. The idea was simply to look at what it was costing the district and what was being charged. The committee tried to look at ways of maybe generating a fee fund that would not hurt the community. In fact, if we would have read what was purposed, there was a statement included that if any financial hardship was created on any specific organization that the organization would be exempt from same. Mr. Webb advised that the intent was to look for ways to generate revenue and get the tax ratables down. It was never the intention in anyway, shape or form to hurt any of the organizations. It was discussed. Mr. Webb noted that it is presently off the table but could not speak that it would be off the table indefinitely.

Mrs. Boyd thanked the board for all the hard work.

Ms. Drioli commented that she would support Lower Southampton Athletic Association 100%. Ms. Drioli looks at the fields as a senior citizen and sees 700 children that are not running through my neighborhood scaring me. Ms. Drioli likes seeing 700 children spending their energy on a field and not terrorizing the neighbors.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson noted that the budget is coming up for approval later in the evening and Mr. Wilson wanted the community to know that when the administration was done working with this budget with all the increases in special education, the class size limitations, the class size limitations at the elementary level, as well as additional requests at the high school, the net number of new positions across the district is one (1). That teaching position is canceled by another cabinet level administrative cut that was made. The net number of new positions in this year's budget for next year is zero. Mr. Wilson wanted the community to know that the district does listen, and does attempt to do everything that is feasible. Contracts need to be lived with and the district will continue to live with them. Mr. Wilson believes that this year the budget is as manageable as possible. The community needs to know that there is a net increase, if you take away the cabinet level administrator, of zero increases in position.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Dr. Spitz and seconded by Mrs. Bostwick, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 25, 2004 Public Meetings. Mrs. Jowett was absent.

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

- May, 2004 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Bills for payment Check Register – May, 2004
- Escrow Fund, Three Capital Project Funds, Several Investment Funds
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations reports for May, 2004

Mr. Paradise noted that the report contains a summary of the 2004 bond issue capital project funds accounts. This will be part of the report until the monies are spent. They are distributed in three different accounts.

Mr. Webb moved the May, 2004 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the May, 2004 bills for payment, Budget, Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds, May, 2004 personal and per capita tax exonerations be approved. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

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

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Wilson presented the following for approval:

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

Mr. Wilson noted that it is recommended that two administrative positions for people who are leaving the district. Mr. Wilson noted that approval is asked for Dr. Louis Muenker who will be the Human Resource Director as well as Assistant Superintendent. Ms. Jacqueline Rattigan who will replace Mr. Marotto as Director of Elementary Education.

Mr. Wilson noted that another quality person is leaving the district and it is not due to retirement. Dr. Ray Boccuti is moving on to another position. The district will miss Dr. Boccuti. Dr. Boccuti has always made tough, fair decisions. Anytime he has recommended a cut, the cut did not affect students. Dr. Boccuti is a major contributor to the fine arts community and program within the school district. There can be no one that will replace Ray, able to fill that particular type of position. He will be missed a lot. Everything he ever

recommended was done with students at heart and costs of the school district. Mr. Wilson wished him well. The district has lost three cabinet members in one swoop. Over 90 years of district office experience. That is difficult to replace. Dr. Boccuti has a wonderful opportunity and the district wishes him well. Mr. Wilson congratulated him on his appointment.

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

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

Ms. Drioli commented that the last couple years of Dr. Boccuti's life at Neshaminy have been extremely difficult and made that way. Ms. Drioli feels that Neshaminy is losing an extremely fine person. A person that Ms. Drioli did not support coming in, but she was wrong. Fortunately, for Dr. Boccuti Ms. Drioli made no attempts to stop same or try to encourage other people to stop it. Other people who have come forward recently have not been as kind to Dr. Boccuti. Ms. Drioli stated that she is very sorry that Dr. Boccuti is leaving the district.

Dr. Spitz also thanked Dr. Boccuti for his 23 years of service to Neshaminy. Dr. Boccuti is a young, energetic and dynamic leader who will lead Jenkintown to great things in the coming years. Jenkintown's gain is Neshaminy's loss. After Dr. Boccuti put in so many years and so many different leadership positions within the district, Dr. Spitz was expecting him to at least be given an opportunity to be considered for the Superintendent's position in Neshaminy in the not to distant future. In Dr. Spitz's view it is very unfortunate that Dr. Boccuti will not have that opportunity due to the actions of a very few people who made it virtually impossible for him to continue in Neshaminy. Dr. Spitz continues to be upset about this; Dr. Boccuti has a lot in front of him. He will continue to look forward to bigger and better things, rather than dwell on the past. Dr. Boccuti will be missed tremendously in Neshaminy School District. Dr. Boccuti is one of the brightest and most innovative educators that Dr. Spitz has met and Dr. Spitz wishes him the best in all his future endeavors.

Mrs. Bostwick added that in the face of any kind of circumstance Dr. Boccuti was always a gentleman.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Ms. Drioli would like an item explained on the check register regarding tuition reimbursement.

Dr. Boccuti thanked the current school board and all the previous boards over the past 23 years that have given him the opportunity to serve the Neshaminy School District. Dr. Boccuti advised that he tried to do the best for students in the various positions that he has held, and he truly appreciates all the opportunities that he has had. Dr. Boccuti congratulated the two cabinet members that have recently retired. They will be very difficult to replace. Dr. Boccuti welcomed aboard the two new cabinet members. Dr. Boccuti noted that two finer people could not have chosen and the cabinet will be very well served with Dr. Muenker and Mrs. Rattigan.

Dr. Boccuti in closing shared that he has always been a parent in Neshaminy, a community member in Neshaminy, and an employee of Neshaminy. Dr. Boccuti is now leaving one of those, an employee of Neshaminy. Dr. Boccuti will remain a parent and community member of Neshaminy. Dr. Boccuti is very confident in those roles knowing that Mr. Wilson is the Superintendent. It is Dr. Boccuti's hope that as Neshaminy proceeds with very important decisions for the future that his recommendation will be the number one consideration in that decision making process. When people have asked Dr. Boccuti his opinion, he will first ask what Mr. Wilson's opinion is. Dr. Boccuti will appreciate his leadership in this district. Dr. Boccuti thanked everyone for the opportunity.

Mr. Eccles thanked Dr. Boccuti and stated that he will be truly missed.

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2004-2005

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the district Facilities Department must use the professional services of various firms in order to ensure compliance with the many federal and state mandates concerning school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Department must also use professional consultants/engineers to develop bid specifications for other related facility improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following list of professional service vendors be accepted for use during the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Lunch Price Increase

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, increases in labor costs, anticipated increases in milk prices and food costs, and the need for continued capital equipment purchases require that additional revenue be generated in order to continue the financial integrity of the food service fund; and

WHEREAS, based on projected participation and sales, meal price increases will generate most of the necessary revenue to maintain the financial integrity of the school lunch program and the food service fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the following meal prices will go into effect September, 2004:

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase from \$1.60 to \$1.70

Secondary "Type A" lunch price will increase from \$2.00 to \$2.10

Student a la carte prices will be increased on an item-by-item basis as required.

Staff a la carte prices will be increased as required to reflect the unsubsidized total cost of each item.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Mrs. Barrett is opposed to raising the school lunch price. By increasing by ten cents the revenues will be increased for Food Services by about \$60,000. In 2002-2003 Food Services lost money. This year so far they may come out okay. Mrs. Barrett would like to see the department level off, not lose money for a year or two and then let's consider an increase. Mrs. Barrett urged the board to think about that. Mrs. Barrett is aware that it is a proprietary fund and supposedly makes money; however, Mrs. Barrett does not feel the increase is necessary. Mrs. Barrett urged the board to vote against this increase.

Ms. Drioli commented that part of the loss suffered by Food Services was reflected by a retirement situation and also reflected capital expenditures that had not been addressed prior to that. It also reflected a situation that became known to this board and which the board took steps to correct.

Ms. Drioli feels the ten cents is in line with other districts. This is the first increase in lunch for many, many years. Should the food service actually suffer great profits, the situation can be addressed in the future. Ms. Drioli is looking at milk increases, gas prices rising. The domino

effect of all things will have an effect on a part of the district that has been told to operate like your own business. They serve a purpose and need and are people from the community who work for food service. Ms. Drioli urges the board to go forward and accept the ten cent increase. Ms. Drioli would hope that it would be increased even a little more, as gas prices, cable, fuel oil, etc. have gone up much more than this.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes (Mrs. Bostwick, Mr. Bowman, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Mr. Eccles, Dr. Spitz, and Mr. Webb) one nay, (Mrs. Barrett). Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Community Aquatics Program

Mrs. Bostwick presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District operates a self-supporting Community Aquatics Program; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and discussed changes to the fee structure in order to cover operating and scheduling expenses, as well as normal "wear and tear" associated with the use of the facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the amended Community Aquatics Program Fees be approved as indicated on the attached sheet.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Bostwick, Mr. Bowman, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Dr. Spitz, and Mr. Webb) one nay, (Mr. Eccles). Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

Under the authority of Act 52 of 1978, The Local Government Unit Debt Act and the Internal Revenue Code, the Neshaminy School District is permitted to borrow an amount of money up to its cumulative cash flow deficit. The District's 2004-2005 cumulative cash flow deficit has been projected to be \$14,990,990. The Business Office has requested quotations from banks and other financial institutions.

I, therefore, move the following:

TO CERTIFY the projected cumulative cash flow deficit at \$14,990,990 for the 2004-2005 fiscal year; and

TO ACCEPT the proposal from Mellon Financial Markets, LLC to purchase for \$14,981,311.85 the Note of the School District in the amount of \$14,965,000 on July 12, 2004, maturing on September 17, 2004, with a stated interest coupon of 2.0% with a net interest cost of 1.39%; and

TO OBTAIN a written legal opinion from the School District Solicitor as to the legality and validity of the Note and other legal matters pertaining to the issuance of the Note pursuant to the proposal from Mellon Financial Markets, LLC; and

TO AUTHORIZE the officers of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Business Administrator, subject to the written legal opinion from the School District Solicitor, to execute the necessary documents for completion and issuance of the Note.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Budgetary Increases for Federal and Other Programs for 2003-2004

Ms. Drioli presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, each year the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with instructions from the Auditor General's office, must increase its receipts and expenditures budget by the total amount of other programs; and

WHEREAS, this amount represents previously approved federal and other special program receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the total 2003-2004 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$141,786,232. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Year-End Budget Transfers

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Public School Code of 1949 requires that line item "...sums appropriated to specific purposes in the budget..." not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, under the school accounting system, line items have been determined to be major object levels within specific subfunctions; and

WHEREAS, year-end adjustments by the business office and auditors may cause such line items to be exceeded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with directions from the Auditor General's office, authorizes the administration to make those necessary budget transfers within and between accounts to prevent any possible over expenditure without exceeding the total budget for 2003-2004.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mrs. Barrett requested an explanation. Mr. Paradise advised that the state accounting system requires that the district may not over expend a major object level within a specific subfunction. The district may not overspend special education salaries and benefits. This motion allows the district to put the monies where the expenditures are and prevent any legal problems and comply with state law.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Consulting Services Proposal

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors wishes to move forward on the Neshaminy High School project; and

WHEREAS, the Board has received data from both BASCO Associates and data from ATS&R; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to obtain an independent opinion and study on the data and plans received from both architects and the needs of the existing facility.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors accept a proposal from PHM Associates, Inc. to provided the above services and report to the Board on or about August 15, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Business Administrator be authorized to sign the agreement upon the review of the Solicitor.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Mrs. Bostwick noted that three studies have already taken place and the best choice was a new school and she does not feel another study is necessary.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Bowman, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Mr. Eccles, Dr. Spitz, and Mr. Webb) one nay, (Mrs. Bostwick). Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Motion: Adoption of the 2004-2005 Budget

Mr. Eccles presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors received a working draft of the 2004-2005 budget from the administration on April 14, 2004. The Board reviewed the budget and made the budget available to the public on May 25, 2004; and

WHEREAS, in accordance, with the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors must now adopt a final operating budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt a total operating budget of all funds in the amount of \$145,815,626 including -

- Carry-over purchase orders of \$333,033
- Federal and other programs in the amount of \$1,530,294; and
- Capital projects in the amount of \$5,612,444

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the capital projects budget will be funded from the remaining proceeds of a previous general obligation Bond Issue. The federal programs budget will be funded by specific federal grants. In order to fund the general fund budget, \$3,800,000 of the fund balance will be utilized and the following taxes are levied:

1. Real Estate Tax	520.4 mills
2. Interim Real Estate Tax	520.4 mills
3. Per Capita Tax - School Code	\$5.00
4. Per Capita Tax - Act 511	\$10.00
5. Occupational Privilege Tax	\$10.00
6. Business Privilege Tax	1 mill wholesale 1.5 mills retail \$5.00 license fee
7. Mercantile Tax	1 mill wholesale 1.5 mills retail \$2.00 license fee

8. Real Estate Transfer Tax	1%
9. Amusement Tax	10%, as amended by current law

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Dr. Spitz questioned the use of the Fund Balance. Mr. Paradise advised that proceeds were taken from the fund balance in order to get the millage rate under 20.

Mrs. Barrett advised that there is a 19.8 millage increase. 11 mills are for the \$25M bond issue which will be using to repair facilities throughout the district. Basically, it is an 8 mill increase. Mrs. Barrett is grateful for that. She wishes it were zero, but it is not. Mrs. Barrett hopes the public will forgive us for the increase. At this point and time it was the best that could be accomplished.

Ms. Drioli noted that as soon as the state reimburses the district for mandates, and the federal government provides funding it will be below zero.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Jowett was not present.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson advised that everything is presently closing out for this school year.

Correspondence

The Board Secretary advised that there was no correspondence.

Public Comment

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA, thanked the Administration, Board, committees, residents pro and con. On behalf of many people the community does appreciate all the work and effort and accepting the comments from the public at the meetings.

Mr. Alden Thorpe, Levittown, PA, commented that the board is under a lot of pressure. However, he would like the board to keep in mind that as the enrollment goes down to reconsider the middle school as an option for closure and bring in \$2M to help some of the other schools. Mr. Thorpe thanked the board for all its work.

Mr. Kevin Yeingst, Feasterville, PA added that the clock used by Poquessing Middle School students for their games was purchased by Lower Southampton Athletic Association. Mr. Yeingst did not say that we need to build new to teach, but in order to keep good teachers it is necessary. Teachers will go to other districts. We do need to have computers because this is the year 2004 and not 1960. Computers are used every single day. The district needs to keep up with the technology in order that our children and future of the district does not fall behind. Mr. Yeingst wants his children to be able to compete with other students in the area and around the country. Teacher moral is low because the building did not go through. Parents are beginning to move out. Many more will move if something is not done.

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA noted that closure of a school must be considered as a well thought out plan. Decisions need to be made whether the high school should be a 10-12 facility or 9-12 facility. Those questions need to be answered before schools are closed randomly. Mr. O'Connor feels that it is not necessary that the board apologize for the budget increase, because most of the increases are due to inflationary costs, contractual obligations, etc. and not the result of additions to staff and programming, etc. An incredible effort was done to bring the budget below 20 mills. Offering the apology takes away from the hard work of the Finance and Facilities committee. An exceptional job was done. Mr. Webb ran the Facilities and Finance with input from various members of the community and an exceptional job was done.

Board Comment

Ms. Drioli noted that any middle school that would be considered for closure would probably be used for swing space for students and the rental income accrued from the closure of such a facility will not happen for a long time.

Mr. Paradise noted that fees for Saturday usage by various groups is not set by the Board but are dollar for dollar reimbursement for staff that comes in for that purpose.

Mr. Eccles thanked all the coaches and parents for coming out and the people who volunteer their time with the non-profit organizations. Mr. Eccles thanked Mr. Finkelstein for contacting people. Mr. Eccles noted that these fees could not be raised for these organizations.

Mrs. Barrett reported that on June 24th Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Mr. Paradise, Mr. Sayre, Principal of Poquessing, Mr. Minotti and herself went to Poquessing and again discussed renovations for Poquessing Middle School. Poquessing is in great need for renovations and reconstruction. Basically, \$5M is allotted to do the renovations. The two cores of classrooms on the first and second floor would be the ones that would be totally renovated, along with a few renovations to the front part of the building. It was discussed that most likely the best way to save money would be to move the students to Neshaminy Middle School which would mean closing it after this coming school year and possibly moving the students of Poquessing to Neshaminy Middle. That way they would not be in the school when the renovations took place. Mrs. Barrett thanked Mrs. Cummings who set up the meeting.

Mrs. Cummings noted that renovations would not be taking place as soon as the following school year and we would also then need to take the steps on deciding with the high school grade configuration of 9-12 or 10-12 and then the utilization of that building. It will be a process and when will be the right time to begin the renovations at the school.

Mrs. Barrett's understanding was that it would begin 2005-2006 if the Board were in agreement.

Dr. Spitz commented that while the information is useful and important for the public to hear, these are decisions that need to be discussed in the Facilities and Finance Committee. There has been no such discussion. Dr. Spitz advised that this is the first he has ever heard of a plan or desire to move students from Poquessing to Neshaminy Middle. Frankly, it does not service well to speculate what this Board may or may not do at this time.

Ms. Drioli agreed that it is a Board decision; however, Ms. Barrett's point is that the three members from Lower Southampton will be driving this and seeing that the renovations are done on the best behalf of the students from Lower Southampton and we will be looking out for their interests as a group.

Mrs. Barrett commented that Carl Sandburg Middle School Jazz Group recorded a CD. It was fun for the students and provided a learning experience. Mr. Paul Morris is the teacher and he should be congratulated on his efforts. Mr. Morris advised that in his 17 years of teaching this is the best jazz band that he has ever had. Mrs. Barrett quoted one of the students in the band: "It is like a really big experience and I learned a lot. Because you have to be very patient and you have to know your music," said Jackie King, age 13 who plays alto saxophone.

Mrs. Barrett further advised that Mr. Jeff Levin who owns the Hulmeville Inn contributed \$900 to make this recording session happen. At the beginning of the next school year the CD's will be on sale for \$5.00.

Adjournment

Dr. Spitz moved the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Drioli seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary