

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(PUBLIC MEETING)
August 2, 2005

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on August 2, 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
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Ms. Carol A. Drioli
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

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Jason Bowman
Mrs. Kimberly A. Jowett

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 20 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

Mr. Wilson clarified that the reason for tonight's meeting is to get board approval for PLANCON A which permits Dr. Muenker and Mr. Paul Erickson to meet with Mr. Jim Vogel of the Department of Education in Harrisburg to get the building process started. A final construction number will be declared prior to the Act 34 hearing to be held in the future. Mr. Wilson advised that Mr. Paul Erickson was here this evening to discuss any questions the board may have regarding the sheets e-mailed to board members.

Ms. Drioli inquired whether certain items were being taken out of the configuration. Mr. Erickson advised that the project is presently in the schematic design phase, so as the board makes decisions and discusses the costs, those items can be added back in prior to the Act 34 hearing. Ms. Drioli questioned the air conditioning system and roof, and Mr. Erickson advised that the building will be air conditioned and the first quality roof will be installed.

Dr. Spitz was under the impression that this evening was scheduled to enable the board to discuss the proposed cuts and to allow the public to get some insight as to where the project is at the present and the current issues the board is discussing.

Dr. Spitz requested confirmation that if the board approved PLANCON A and PLANCON B this evening, it would not affect further decision making by the board.

Mr. Erickson further stated that this is what we know today about this project relative to costs and design.

Ms. Drioli stated that failure to vote on PLANCON A and PLANCON B this evening will just slow down the high school project.

Public Comment

Mrs. Marianne O'Connor, Langhorne, PA, stated that the odors within the Maple Point facility are unacceptable. Mrs. O'Connor is aware that there has been much work done to the facility, but she would like to know when this work will be completed so that the odors are not existent when the students arrive. Mrs. O'Connor noted that these conditions are not healthy for the students or staff.

Mrs. O'Connor noted that with regards to the high school everyone is aware that the sky is not the limit. Mrs. O'Connor is very disappointed that this extremely important meeting is not being broadcast to the public. This is a very popular week for summer vacations and it is not able to be seen by the public further down the road. Mrs. O'Connor is very concerned that the board is already talking about "cuts." In order to make this school carry this district into the future a certain amount of dollars need to be spent. Many people will be unhappy, but be careful what you wish for. Just because the new school was voted down, it did not mean that the renovations would come in at a fraction of the cost. Mrs. O'Connor is concerned that "cuts" are already being considered. The bottom line is no one locked into a number. Mrs. O'Connor wants the board to give what is deserved by the students. Mrs. O'Connor is concerned that the building will not be able to expand for any influx in growth population. The public did not vote on a dollar amount to spend on renovations, and the public knew that when they voted down the new high school. Mrs. O'Connor will not stand for certain individuals, because they are worried about getting egg on their face, jeopardize what this district needs. Mrs. O'Connor is alarmed to hear the word "cuts."

Items for Approval

Motion: PLANCON Part A and Part B

Mrs. Bostwick presented the following Motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Department of Education requires certain steps be taken for school district renovations or construction; and

WHEREAS, prior to scheduling an Act 34 hearing, PLANCON Part A and Part B must be approved for submission to the Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves PLANCON Part A and B as submitted for review and recommends its submission to the Department of Education.

Ms. Drioli seconded the motion.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. Two board members, Mr. Jason Bowman and Mrs. Kimberly Jowett were not present.

Other Board Business

Mr. Eccles stated that he agrees with Mrs. O'Connor that the board meeting this evening should have been televised. The objective of this evening was to move forward. Mr. Eccles noted that cuts were mentioned at a workshop; however, this board should not be discussing the school project without it being televised. Mr. Eccles recommended to the board that no further discussions take place until the meeting can be televised.

Mr. Wilson stated that no matter what school board members get elected, they do it to the best of their ability, and the public continues to come out and criticize them. These board members are doing this for nothing. Mr. Wilson noted that these board members are here this evening so that this project is not delayed any further. Mr. Wilson stated that this was not an Act 34 hearing, and the meeting was not scheduled to look at the

building and go over figures. Mr. Wilson noted that the project has been delayed long enough by people giving speeches. Mr. Wilson commended every board member and thanked them.

Dr. Spitz wanted clarification that further discussion regarding the project would take place at the August 23rd public meeting.

Mrs. Bostwick wants the public to know exactly where the project started from and what the reasoning is for the proposed cuts.

Mr. Eccles stated that further discussion would take place on August 23rd.

Ms. Drioli stated that she would like to challenge the Finance Committee to start creatively finding other ways to finance this project and not ways to cut programs. Ms. Drioli would like to see the Finance Committee pursue some outside corporate sponsors of magnitude size.

Adjournment

Ms. Drioli moved the meeting be adjourned and Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary