

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

May 13, 2008

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on May 13, 2008, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President  
Mr. Frank Koziol, Vice President  
Mr. Joseph R. Blasch  
Ms. Irene Boyle  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis  
Mr. William D. O'Connor  
Dr. William H. Spitz  
Mr. Ritchie Webb

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Paul J. Kadri  
Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise  
Dr. Sandra Costanzo  
Dr. Geeta A. Heble  
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan

**SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

**OTHERS:** Approximately 120 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**

None.

**Board Recognition**

Mr. Kadri introduced Ms. Jennifer Lentine, Senior at Neshaminy High School named Teen Volunteer of the Year by the Bucks County YWCA. This is a celebration of heart and compassion. Jennifer stated that she is honored and very proud to receive this award. Jennifer is proud of the work that she and other Neshaminy CARES students have done through the Neshaminy CARES program under the advisor, Ms. Drake. In addition, Jennifer has had the opportunity to volunteer at her church and her favorite volunteer hours have been spent at Sunrise at Laurel Vale which is an Alzheimer's community. This fall Jennifer will be attending Holy Family University where she plans on continuing to volunteer until she earns her degree in elementary and special education. The rewards of volunteering and the smiles on people's faces are priceless.

Ms. Drake advised that she is very proud to be here this evening representing the Neshaminy CARES program and being able to honor Jen Lentine who is the epitome of Neshaminy CARES students. In the past four years Neshaminy has had two students named Teen Volunteer of the Year for Bucks County. What is special for Neshaminy is that every district requires volunteer work for graduation project requirements; however, our students do same because they choose to do same. Teenagers are genuine, caring individuals and they are wonderful examples of teenagers throughout the district.

**Student Representative Report**

Ms. Heather Pine provided the following student representative report:

- Girl's Soccer Team is at the top of the District 1 playoffs
- Boy's Volleyball made the playoffs
- Senior Prom will be Memorial Day weekend
- Fine Arts week at Neshaminy Middle starts May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Dance Team will be performing on Thursday

**Public Comment**

Mr. Joe Keefe, member of the Neshaminy High School Swim Team, stated that the swimmers are appreciative of the work being done at Poquessing. Hopefully, some things can be taken into consideration. The cost for swimming is expensive for the team members.

Ms. Kasey Campbell, Feasterville, PA, senior at Neshaminy High School and former captain of the High School swim team. Ms. Campbell has been a part of the Neshaminy core team for ten years. Swimming has played a huge role in Ms. Campbell's life and shaped her into the person she is today. Being part of the swim team has taught her more than just what is learned in the pool. The importance of discipline, leadership, commitment and dedication have been learned. Ms. Campbell has experienced the agony of defeat and the joys of success. Ms. Campbell has made friends that she could not live without. These are all tools that she will take with her when she leaves Neshaminy. Due to swimming she has earned tuition money for the fall. Ms. Campbell would like to see future teams experience the joys of success. She takes pride in her team, but the facilities are hard to take pride. It is discouraging to hear other teams speak about the Neshaminy facilities. The new timing system and record board have greatly improved the look of the deck but there still remain issues that have not been addressed when it comes to the health and well being of the swimmers. The lingering air quality at Poquessing has a negative effect. Practice is difficult when the air quality is poor. Gagging and vomiting are often caused by the air quality. With renovations under way Ms. Campbell is asking the Board to address the issues of air quality, safety and storage on the pool deck, handicapped accessibility and diving accommodations that future teams will have an equal chance at all the meets. Neshaminy swimmers are hardworking and successful athletes who greatly appreciate the sport and a safe facility.

Ms. Sam Kaleck, Southampton, PA, student at Neshaminy High School and captain of the 2008-09 swim team. The renovations are not enough to keep the program at the standards needed to compete with other schools. Ms. Kaleck advised that they are grateful that they are being recognized, but the pool standards are not up to expectations. Diving, handicapped accessibility, ventilation, ceilings, and storage. It is embarrassing to the swimmers to see other teams walk onto the pool deck and make a joke out of our team. Other kids at school don't even take swimming seriously. This is due to the fact that where the team swims. Kayaks and canoes should not be falling on relay teams as they are about to compete. A shed or room would be necessary to store these items. The team goes into a meet with a 13 point deficit because they simply cannot attract one diver. Diving boards and a coach are not offered. Handicap accessibility is a necessity. Ms. Kaleck's grandmother is in a wheelchair and cannot come see her granddaughter swim. We have pride in our team. We have passion in swimming.

Ms. Christina Lyson, Feasterville, PA, was a captain of the swim team last year. Ms. Lyson thanked the Board for putting out the money for a timing system and score boards. The team is very grateful. The team has extreme pride. In order for Neshaminy pride to continue certain things need to be taken care of. The changes would help all swimmers on the pool deck, air ventilation, storage, lack of space, handicap accessibility, etc. These things are greatly important. Hopefully, you will take this into consideration and thank you for acknowledging us as a team.

Ms. Paula Miller, Levittown, PA, advised that she would like to commend Neshaminy Swim Program as an elite program managed by highly qualified coaches. Through Neshaminy CORE the children of Neshaminy participate in competitive swimming. This year a large group of parents and swimmers traveled to Penn State for a swim meet. We are here to voice our concerns regarding the inadequate ventilation. As members of the SAL league the team is required to host swim meets. It is embarrassing at how stagnate the air can be during the meets. Sometimes it is hard to catch your breath. During a high school meet a visiting swimmer collapsed. Surely a program that benefits our children to this degree should have a facility with the same high standards. Thank you for your consideration.

Ms. Terri Campbell, Feasterville, PA, stated that she has been involved with Neshaminy CORE Swimming and booster board for the past ten years. CORE pays the second highest rent fee in the area. 95% of its participants are Neshaminy residents. The high rental has raised the cost of the CORE program making it difficult for some students to participate. Swimming requires year round training to compete successfully. Ms. Campbell is aware that the board is money conscience and has fiscal responsibility. The three pools are outdated, energy inefficient and in need of repairs. Upon asking the coaches no one has contacted them regarding their opinions regarding the pools. Why would they not be asked and listened to. Ms. Campbell would certainly consider these men valuable resources. These pools are in need of repair. Please spend the money wisely and well. Correct the appropriate problems at Poquessing. Why is it being refurbished without diving, proper ventilation, storage space or deck space? Do the right thing for the students.

Robert Feather, Levittown, PA, stated that he is a former booster board president for the swim team. Mr. Feather was around when discussions took place about renovating the high school. Mr. Feather can't believe that the Board would not have chosen to build a new high school instead of renovate with less disruption to the students. Mr. Feather's daughter holds the 400 relay freestyle for the high school. She is proud of same. Money is tight. Many repairs are needed. Mr. Feather's daughter still coaches swimming. All after school programs provides a medium for the children to stay out of trouble. Without the swim team some students would not be where they are today.

Mr. Mike Keefe, captain of the 2008-09 swim team, stated that the air quality of the pool deck is extremely poor. Training is cut short due to the situation. Students have collapsed and paramedics had to be called. More storage space is required. Mike appreciates getting recognized. The swim team has done a lot for him.

Mrs. Jodie Keefe, Bluebell Avenue, stated that she is proud of her two boys on the swim team and it has changed their academic standing. Both are on the honor roll. Consider the future condition of the pool, but also consider the impact this sport has on the community, turning out responsible young adults. It would be a shame if the poor condition of the pool would deter future students from participating in the sport.

Mrs. Marilyn Keefe, Old Lincoln Highway, stated that her daughter swam on the team 40 years ago. Nothing has changed. Something should be done. It is time to do something.

Mrs. Barb Perugini, Cleft Drive, stated that she has four children involved in the Neshaminy aquatics program and CORE program has the concern of the storage on the pool decks. It is an embarrassment to the team. During family swim night small children are climbing on the canoes. What will happen to protect the equipment during renovations so it is not damaged? The team is grateful for all that has been done, but people need to be advised what will be done.

Mrs. Catherine Pilarski, Bruce Road, stated that her granddaughter is a swimmer for the high school. Because of the poor air quality at Poquessing Mrs. Pilarski has not been able to watch her. Consideration needs to be taken for the handicapped. The kids are great.

Mr. Solis Basen, Villages of Flowers Mills, Langhorne, PA, spoke regarding the budget and calculated savings due to the retirement of staff. This will only be a band aid. Savings are necessary and this same problem will occur next year if something is not done. More concentration needs to be placed on the savings. Board members must use their conscience and get the budget line with no false presentations.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mills, Langhorne, PA, stated that he can not adequately follow students and family members who are passionate about school activities in which they believe. They say it all, and they say it best. Mr. Rodos researched the PA Department of Education website regarding transportation subsidy payments paid to the districts. Hopefully, Neshaminy takes advantage of same. Also, the state provides science equipment for science programs in the elementary schools. Mr. Rodos also learned that in the full day supplemental guide it speaks about implementing a full day kindergarten program which demonstrates a shift in thinking of kindergarten as an introduction to formal schooling, to thinking of kindergarten as a social, emotional and academic foundation for future learning and success in school. Mr. Rodos once again urged the Board to implement full day kindergarten. Mr. Rodos feels that the Department of Education sets a low standard for whatever they do. The PSSA should be the least the student needs to pass in order to graduate. Failing the PSSA means no diploma, but graduation is in each district's authority.

Mr. Bob Mintzer, stated that he is a retired design engineer and has done some swimming pool ventilation design. The design of the ventilation system is a very complex process and the equipment necessary to perform adequate pool ventilation is not inexpensive and operating same is also not inexpensive because of the buildup of chlorine and other gases in the pool area you need to produce a substantial amount of outside air which needs to be heated or cooled. Distributing the air properly is necessary so the velocity is not very high. The design of the pool ventilation system cannot be done as an afterthought. Ventilation must be taken into consideration. The space for the equipment must be provided. Chlorine buildup is an issue. The company, Environmental Tectonics, manufactures the equipment and could offer support.

Mr. Paradise addressed some concerns and issues regarding the Poquessing pool. Mr. Paradise advised that this is not a building under construction or new school; this is a forty year old school and pool. It will never be a 2008 pool. Unfortunately, the pools are all old and these issues have been addressed to some degree and what should be done regarding the aging pool issue. Money was spent to improve the ventilation system at Poquessing. It is better than it was. It is not state of the art. To compare same to a new facility, it certainly cannot compare. The bid this evening will affect the cantilevering of pool deck wall over the pool deck and address a new scupper system, filtration and chemical system, etc. Operating costs need to be reduced. Forty year old buildings and schools need to have money spent on them.

Mr. Paul Minotti stated that the pool was built in 1966 at Poquessing and was not built for some of the needs today. Three forty foot storage trailers were purchased, one for each middle school, which had canoes for their storage. Evidently, this storage space is not being utilized. They need to be taken off the pool deck and put away. The Board had allocated \$5.5M and the pool pack was not accepted at that time. The ventilation system has been tested. It meets the standards of 1966. The balancer reports, air quality tests were performed and the standards of 1966 when it was built are met. Mr. Minotti stated that upgrades have been made.

Board discussion ensued regarding pool renovation and new construction at the high school which was estimated to cost \$8M. Further discussion took place regarding diving wells, handicap accessibility, etc.

Mr. Paradise stated that by not approving the bid this evening, the work will not be able to take place during the summer months; hence the Administration cannot suggest keeping the pool open. This is a critical step which needs to occur and the opportune time is this summer.

Mr. Webb stated that air quality needs to be safe for the students and spectators. Further, the equipment on the pool deck needs to be placed in the proper storage areas.

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Kadri advised that the Governor's School has accepted Kevin Cope, a Neshaminy High School student, who has been selected to participate in the program.

#### **Superintendent's Presentation on the Budget Process**

Mr. Kadri provided Board members with a true and correct copy of the 2008-09 Proposed Final Budget. Also, Mr. Kadri presented a power point presentation regarding the budget process. A true and correct copy of said presentation is attached hereto and made a part hereof. (See Attachment A).

Mr. Paradise advised that in accordance with Act 1 the Board must approve this evening a Proposed Final Budget and Mr. Paradise directed Board members to page 25 which is a summary of the general fund expenditures which reflects the last three years. Mr. Paradise advised Board members to review the 2008-09 Proposed Final Budget Reconciliation Sheet.

Mr. Kadri advised that health benefits are being reviewed as to an area in which funds could be saved.

The total gap remaining as of this date is \$2.9M. Mr. Kadri advised that on June 3<sup>rd</sup> there will be a presentation of the Final Budget and on June 16<sup>th</sup> the Board will approve the Budget which will be submitted to the State.

Mr. Kadri advised that the Board will receive an update on Fridays as to the progress in reducing the \$2.9M.

Mr. Paradise noted that taxpayers are probably questioning why the need for a 4.4% increase. Reasons:

- Revenues are down due to economic conditions (real estate collections, investment income, etc.)
- Trying to live within our means, by reducing the amount of savings that are being utilized within the budget development.

Dr. Spitz is concerned that the capital reserve fund contribution of \$500,000 has been removed. Mr. Paradise advised that the fund currently contains \$2.7M. Mr. Webb agrees with Dr. Spitz and \$2.7M is not a lot of money for a district of this size and removal of this \$500,000 should be a last resort.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the April 23, 2008 public meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Blasch and seconded by Mr. Koziol the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 23, 2008 Public Meeting.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- April, 2008 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – April, 2008
- Investment Summary
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations – April, 2008

Mr. O'Connor moved the April, 2008 treasurer's report, subject to audit, check register, investments, and exonerations of personal and per capita tax be approved. Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

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

#### **Bids/Budget Transfers:**

Information distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for Board approval:

#### **Bid No. 09-01 General School Supplies**

Bid Amount: \$182,497.54

The bid is for various classroom and office supplies for use throughout the district for the school year 2008-2009.

**Bid No. 09-02 Athletic & Physical Education Supplies**

Bid Amount: \$86,814.84

The bid is for supplies for physical education programs and various team sports for the school year 2008-2009.

**Bid No. 09-17 Poquessing Pool Renovation**

Bid Amount: \$364,800.00

The bid is for pool renovations at Poquessing Middle School. Repairs to correct the pool deck that is cantilevered out over the crawl space and not supported on the pool wall, allowing water to enter the joint between the deck and pool wall. Also requires a new scupper system and piping, new filtration and chemical system, some deck replacement and regrouting of existing tile deck and pool.

Mr. Webb made a motion to table the Poquessing Pool Renovation bid at this point. Mr. Koziol seconded the motion. Mr. Webb stated that he is for the renovations; however, he would hate to spend \$364,000 and then find out that the air exchange system is not adequate. Find out what those costs might be to improve same.

Board discussion took place as to whether it would be possible to hold off on the bid and have more research done on the HVAC work. Board discussion ensued as to whether it would be wise to jeopardize the project at this time.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to table Bid No. 09-17. The roll call tally indicated that the motion failed by a vote of four ayes (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Eccles, Mr. Koziol and Mr. Webb) and five nays (Mr. Blasch, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. O'Connor and Dr. Spitz).

Mr. Eccles stated that he was concerned that these issues were not brought to light at an earlier time, especially in light of the fact that a vote on said bid was necessary at this time.

Dr. Spitz questioned Item #3 on the Budget Transfer Report regarding text books. Dr. Costanzo advised that this is not included in the budget for this upcoming year.

The Board unanimously approved Bid No. 09-01, Bid No. 09-02 and 09-17 and Budget Transfer Report No. 08-06 (Working Copy).

**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

Dr. Muenker recommended the approval of the personnel report for certified and support personnel.

Mr. Blasch moved the Certified and Support personnel reports be accepted. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports.

**Motion: Appointment of Treasurer**

Mr. O'Connor presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, each year during the month of May the board must elect a Treasurer to serve for the year beginning July 1, 2008.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Joseph V. Paradise, Business Administrator be appointed Treasurer of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors for the above term, beginning, July 1, 2008.

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

**Motion: New Policy #554 and Revision of Policy 552**

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, new policies are recommended by the administration to the Board Policies Committee for review; and

WHEREAS, recommended policies meet the requirements of Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, after review by the Board Policies Committee the District is ready to recommend:

New Policy #554 – Student Code of Conduct and Rights

AND, WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, revisions are recommended by the administration to the Board Policies Committee for review, and

WHEREAS, recommended policies meet the requirements of Federal law, and

WHEREAS, after review by the Board Policies Committee, the District is ready to recommend:

Revised Policy #552 – Student Attendance

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said Policies be revised and approved by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mr. O'Connor seconded same.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

**Motion: Approval of the 2008-09 Proposed Final Budget**

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors did, on January 22, 2008, adopt the 2008-09 Preliminary Budget of the School District in accordance with Act 1 of 2006, and made same available for public inspection as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors prepare a Proposed Final Budget at least thirty (30) days prior to the adoption of the Annual Budget, and to make the Proposed Annual Budget available for public inspection at least twenty (20) days prior to the date set for the adoption of the Final Budget; and

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the President of the Board of School Directors certify to the Pennsylvania Department of Education that the Proposed Annual Budget was prepared, presented and made available for public inspection using the uniform form furnished by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors has received and reviewed the 2008-09 Proposed Final Budget of the School District in the required form, and desire that same be made available for public inspection as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2008-09 Proposed Final Budget presented at this May 13, 2008 Public Meeting of the Board of School Directors be made available for public inspection, and be made available for duplication to any person on request, beginning on May 19, 2008, and that the President of the Board of School Directors is authorized to issue the certification to the Pennsylvania Department of Education required by Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors will approve the 2008-09 Final Budget of the School District at a Public Meeting to be held on June 16, 2008 at Maple Point Middle School District Offices, Board Room, 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road, Langhorne, PA.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. O'Connor stated that with everything that is going on in the district at the present time Mr. Kadri and his cabinet have done a wonderful job getting the Proposed Final Budget to this point.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**Federal Programs**

Mr. Kadri stated the application for the Classrooms for the Future has been submitted.

**Future Topics**

None.

**Other Board Business**

Mr. Webb questioned how the Act 1 credit was to be shown on the tax bill. Mr. Paradise advised that a Resolution in June, 2008 will be read regarding this matter. Neshaminy taxpayers will receive \$3.5M of the \$612.9M state wide. A complicated formula will be followed and only approved homesteads or farmsteads will be eligible.

Mr. Koziol inquired about random drug testing and legal counsel has advised that it is fine to have random testing performed. Mr. Koziol would like the policy committee to revisit that item.

Mr. Eccles thanked the swim team for their comments. Mr. Eccles further advised that the best and brightest at Neshaminy will be honored at the High School on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Also, Carl Sandburg will hold its top 10% recognition on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA, stated that at this evening's meeting the Board was working in harmony and unity. Many items were accomplished and it reflects. Mr. Basen thanked everyone on the Board for their cooperation. Mr. Basen thanked Mr. Kadri and his Administration for a job well done and their efforts.

**Board Comment**

Mr. Blasch attended the Classroom of the Future presentation. The accomplishments are unbelievable. The technology is fabulous.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. O'Connor moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary