

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(PUBLIC MEETING)
June 8, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 8, 2006, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Mr. Joseph R. Blasch
Mr. Jason Bowman
Ms. Irene M. Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Frank J. Koziol
Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Ms. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mr. Bruce Wyatt

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

Mrs. Sue C. Barrett

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 30 persons from the public, staff and press

1. Call to Order

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

No Announcements.

4. Public Comment

Ms. Anne Schmidt, Maple Point Teacher, Vice President of Neshaminy Federation of Teachers, stated that the Board is currently considering a 33% reduction in positions of seven of our curriculum leaders. The lead teachers of Art, Business, Computer Information Technology, Health and Physical Education, Music, Social Studies, Technology and World Languages. After my own careful review of these positions I find it unlikely that anyone has considered the impact of the proposed staff reductions upon the programs which benefit our students. As a twenty year veteran of Neshaminy I witnessed numerous Administrative proposals. Yes, some have been reductions, but rarely have I seen proposals that actually reduce opportunities for students or recommendations that have impacted programs negatively. The current proposal would do just that. I urge the Board to carefully examine the role of each of these lead teachers and to weigh the advantages and disadvantages. The financial gain versus academic loss. I ask you to determine whether Neshaminy can afford to move in direction of both academic and leadership reduction. During a time of financial concern and standards based testing do we want to settle for a district standard that reduces opportunities for grant writing implementation, budget preparation, overseeing of curriculum writing and alignment to state standards, networking and negotiating with text book companies, historical agencies, government officials and our local community members. I say no. And after you carefully investigate I believe you will agree. In a district that has been an academic leader do we want to settle for

reductions when it comes to inservicing our staff on state standards, meeting with the Bucks County Advisory Council, participating in local, state and national education conventions, fostering partnerships with St. Mary Medical Center, the Bucks County Department of Health, the American Red Cross, and Gynwedd Mercy College. I say no. And after you carefully investigate, I believe you will agree. In a community that prides itself with participation do we want to settle for reductions in our students opportunities to enter the Bucks County Oral Proficiency Contest, the Summer Fine Arts program, the Future Business Leaders of America Club, the District Music Festival, the Microsoft Office Specialist Testing program, the e-mail exchange with Argentina, our foreign language sister school, the Art Bus program, elementary drug and alcohol prevention activities, middle school CPR and first aid programs, and a high school Red Cross certification. I say no. And after you carefully investigate, I believe you will agree. I don't ever want to settle when it comes to Neshaminy students. Again, I urge you to ignore the rhetoric associated with the lead teacher positions and to truly investigate the impact of the reductions. I am offering to the Board to personally meet with any and all of you to discuss my comments tonight or to provide you with copies of my findings. I am also willing to arrange any necessary meetings that you may want in order to investigate the reality of your proposed reductions. Thank you for your time and efforts on behalf of the Neshaminy community.

Mr. Bill Schieber, Langhorne, PA, stated that on Tuesday evening he had the opportunity along with several of his neighbors from the Villages of Flowers Mill and the Villages of Shady Brook to attend the meeting in support of the memorandum of understanding between the Supervisors and the School Board. I urge you tonight to consider that approval from the School Board's point of view and let's move forward and get this school built. It's time to stop the rhetoric and get the shovels in the ground.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Langhorne, PA, stated that the district's constituents are not the voters but rather the 9200 students in the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Rodos is not enthralled by constant cuts which are making proposals which try to bring the school district up to those standards currently in place in neighboring districts. Today, Mr. Rodos feels we are short changing the students by not funding the entire technology proposals. There are two primary reasons for his statements. The new technology is so needed in Neshaminy School District. Having been a member of the long range planning committee, which plans he urges the board approve later this evening, he has been aware of the kind of status of technology in Neshaminy School District. Mr. Rodos is also aware of where technology should be in the district. Mr. Rodos believes Neshaminy School District is on the bubble. If it does not go forward with this program Mr. Rodos believes that families with school age children will bypass the district when considering a move and go to a better school district. The results will be that the fair market value of real estate will decline. Not a result that the residents have in mind. Mr. Rodos would like to have the Board look at the categories entitled "Other Purchased Services" which flow throughout the budget and see if some of these more than \$10M in other purchased services could be eliminated. Also, as to the agenda books, an article written in the Playwickian stated that 90% of the honor students use the agenda books. It is relatively easy to infer that the more students that use them the more honor students Neshaminy would have. This would lead to higher test scores and raise the overall competency of the students in the district. Mr. Rodos urged that the Board members approve the agenda book expenditure.

5. Mr. Profy advised that the first meeting this evening is a special meeting called for the purpose of considering taking action on matters pertaining to the Additions and Alterations of Neshaminy High School Project. This special meeting was duly advertised in the Bucks County Courier Times on June 5, 2006 and the notice was appropriately posted as required by the School Code and the Sunshine Act of Pennsylvania. There are two matters:

1. Additions and Alterations to Neshaminy High School PA Dept of Education Project No. 3215, #1
2. Additions and Alterations to Neshaminy High School PA Dept of Education Project No. 3215, #2

Motion: Additions and Alterations to Neshaminy High School PA Dept of Education Project No. 3215, #1

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the School District intends to proceed with the Project designated as Additions and Alterations to the Neshaminy High School, Pennsylvania Department of Education, Project No. 3215 ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the School District intends, at this time, to award the construction contracts for the Project; and

WHEREAS, School District and Township of Middletown intend and desire to enter into an Agreement pertaining to the Land Development Approvals for the Project, the issuance of Building Permits and other permits required for the demolition and construction required for the Project and the road improvements to be made by the School District as part of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the School District did, on June 1, 2006, adopt a certain Resolution entitled Neshaminy High School Traffic Study Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the School District after further review and consideration of Traffic Impact Study dated April 28, 2006, and Traffic Engineering Review dated May 24, 2006, and after extensive consultation and discussions with the Township of Middletown, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, has determined that certain recommended road improvements should be made as part of and the end of completion of the Project, and after approval of said improvements by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation ("PennDot").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District approves and authorized entry into the Agreement by and between the SCHOOL DISTRICT and MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP, annexed hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A" and that the Officers and the School District are hereby expressly authorized and directed to execute said Agreement for the Project and to execute such other documents and to take such other action as may be required in connection with or relating to said Agreement for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute such other instruments and documents and to perform such other acts as said Officers at their discretion deem necessary or desirable to effectuate the Agreement and the intent of this Resolution and to consummate the Project, including the delegation of the taking of necessary or desirable acts or actions to Administrators of the School District as permitted by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Resolution of the Board of School Directors entitled "Neshaminy High School Traffic Study Improvements" adopted June 1, 2006, is hereby repealed, rescinded and declared to be null and void and without force or affect.

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Additions and Alternations to Neshaminy High School PA Dept of Education Project No. 3215, #2

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District ("School District") did, on May 9, 2006, receive bids for the construction contracts for the project designated as Additions and Alterations to Neshaminy High School Pennsylvania Department of Education Project No. 3215 ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the School District did, on May 31, 2006, receive bids for a construction contract for Drywall and Acoustical Ceilings Contract 06-37 after a re-bid for Contract 06-37 since no bids were received on May 9, 2006 for the Drywall and Acoustical Ceilings Contract; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires to accept Add Alternates 1, 2a, 3a and 5a and Deduct Alternates 7a, 10a, 13a and 23a; and

WHEREAS, the School District intends to proceed with the Project designated as Additions and Alterations to the Neshaminy High School - Pennsylvania Department of Education Project No. 3215; and

WHEREAS, the School District desires, upon receipt of PDE approval of Plancon F to award the construction contracts for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District approves and awards the construction contracts set forth on the Schedule of Contracts annexed hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A" subject to and conditioned upon PDE approval of Plancon F and that the Officers of the School District after receipt of PDE approval of Plancon F are expressly authorized and directed to execute the construction contracts for the Project and to execute such other documents and to take such other action as may be required in connection with, or relating to, the award and consummation of the construction contracts for the Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute such other instruments and documents and to perform such other acts as said Officers, at their discretion, deem necessary or desirable to effectuate the intent of this Resolution and to consummate the construction of the Project, including the delegation of the taking of necessary or desirable acts or actions to the Administrators of the School District as and when permitted by law.

Exhibit "A"

Neshaminy High School
Prime Contracts for Board Action

No.	Contract Description	Company	Contract Amount*
06-31	General Trades Construction	Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc.	\$20,073,400
06-32	Sitework Construction	P. Bencardino & Co., Inc.	\$ 5,075,000
06-33	Masonry/Stonework Construction	Dan Lepore & Sons, Co.	\$ 8,204,200
06-34	Structural Steel Joist & Deck Constr.	R.C. Fabricators, Inc.	\$ 3,359,000
06-35	Roofing	Waterproofing Technologies	\$ 2,726,274
06-36	Glass & Glazing Construction	JDS Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 1,506,000
06-37	Drywall & Acoustical Ceiling Constr.	Ernest Bock & Sons, Inc.	\$ 3,007,500
06-38	Plumbing Construction	Jay R. Reynolds, Inc.	\$ 3,004,400
06-39	Fire Protection Construction	Apex Plumbing & Heating	\$ 1,559,000
06-40	HVAC Construction	Boro Construction	\$11,070,000
06-41	Electrical Construction	Boro Construction	\$ 6,521,281
06-42	Data Cabling Construction	Summit Data Systems, Inc.	\$ 1,495,000
06-43	Demolition and Asbestos Abatement	Schultz Demolition, Inc.	<u>\$ 1,984,000</u>

TOTAL	\$69,585,055
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* Contract Amounts listed are based on the Base Bid plus acceptance of Alternates 1, 2A, 3A, 5A, 7A, 10A, 13A and 23A.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Koziol thanked Mr. Eccles for his leadership and guidance during this project and all past and current Board members for an outstanding job.

6. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion with eight ayes. Mrs. Barrett was not present. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary