

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
December 15, 2011

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on December 15, 2011 in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Performing Arts Center at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Vice President
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mr. Scott E. Congdon
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. William Oettinger
Mr. Mark Shubin

ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan
Dr. Geeta Heble
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Anthony Sposato

OTHERS: Approximately 50 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

1. Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

None

4. Public Comment

Steven Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville, expressed his disappointment in the NFT's method of how they propose a settlement to the contract impasse. He stated that their suggestions are impractical and unrealistic. Mr. Pirritano remarked that the District will not deplete their reserves in order to fulfill unreasonable demands. He said that the NFT is more interested in maintaining the status quo, which is more beneficial to the NFT leadership than to anyone else.

Almando Carrasquillo, private investigator, Langhorne, declared that his comments regarding teachers are only directed to those teachers who are not giving 110% to their profession and are not as dedicated and professional as the truly good teachers in the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Carrasquillo also commented that he thinks teachers are entitled to a limited amount of input regarding school curriculum and programs, but they should not have equal say. He said they should only be allowed to offer suggestions where they can be supported by facts and substantiation.

Charles Alfonso, semi-retired, Langhorne, remarked that the Neshaminy educational system has been ruined by the greed of the teachers' union and an impotent administration. He said this is a tragic situation for the students of Neshaminy.

Steve Rodos, retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, stated that the NFT's proposal leaves plenty of room to negotiate. Mr. Rodos said that there is a discrepancy in the amount of employees covered by insurance as reported by the insurance broker and the NFT's reported figures. He asked for an explanation why there are inconsistencies in how many people are covered. Mr. Rodos remarked that he does not think that retired employees should be provided with free health insurance.

5. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Muenker advised the Board on the following:

- The students and families of Albert Schweitzer Elementary School, led by the School Ambassadors and Safety Patrol Officers, collected non-perishable food for needy families in the local area.
- On Tuesday, December 13, students and staff at Pearl Buck Elementary School welcomed Philadelphia Eagles player, Clay Harbor for their "Take an Eagles Player to School Day" assembly. Clay Harbor spoke to students about respect and the importance of getting a good education.
- Carl Sandburg students participated in a Boating Safety and awareness course as part of their physical education curriculum.
- NHS Roadies will present on December 16th, "Here Comes the Bride, There Goes the Groom."

6. Items for Approval Tonight

a) Proposed Preliminary 2012 – 2013 Budget

Mrs. Markowitz stated that Act 1 has several dates during the budget process for budget approvals until the final approval, which is at the end of June. This year another budget must be approved, which is the Proposed Preliminary Budget, which is the starting point on a long journey to approve the final budget in June.

Mrs. Markowitz outlined the reasons for the Proposed Preliminary Budget.

- Lets PDE know that we will **Not** go to Referendum.
- Adheres to PDE's interpretation of School Code 687 that we do not intend to adopt an opt out resolution.
- Gives the community a very early estimate at this point in time.
- Does not commit the Board to expenditures or increases.
- Starts the process to allow the Board to :
 1. Hear community input.
 2. Complete review of budget requests.
 3. Work towards a consensus to meet district priorities/needs.

Motion: Approval of the Proposed Preliminary Budget 2012 - 2013

Mr. Webb read the following Motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with Act 1 of 2006, the Board of School Directors has received a Proposed Preliminary Budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, the School District did on December 2, 2011 publish a Notice of Intent to Adopt Proposed Preliminary Budget of School District as required by Act 1 2006 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, in order to further comply with the Pennsylvania Department of Education interpretation of Act 1 of 2006, the Board of School Directors must adopt a Proposed Preliminary Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2012-13 Proposed Preliminary Budget is adopted in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and it shall be made available for public inspection beginning January 4, 2012, as required by law.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin asked if this budget is a forecasted projection budget.

Mrs. Markowitz affirmed that it is a forecasted projection budget regarding the needs of everyone affected.

Mr. Webb stated that this is a "wish list" of what everyone would like to see in the budget.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays.

Motion: Tax Year 2012 Assessments Appeal

Mr. Profy read the following motion:

TAX YEAR 2012 ASSESSMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED BY THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS AFTER HEARINGS ON THE APPEALS OF THE PROPERTY OWNERS AND THE SCHOOL DISTRICT SOLICITOR, AFTER REVIEW OF THE DECISION NOTICES OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE SCHOOL DISTRICT FILE APPEALS TO THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BUCKS COUNTY FOR THE DECISIONS FROM THE BOARD FOR THE FOLLOWING:

<u>PROPERTY OWNER:</u>	<u>TAX PARCEL NO.:</u>
Summit Center Properties, LLC	21-003-159
Broadband Levittown, Inc.	22-051-204
Flynn 1984 Partnership	22-057-008
Flynn 1980 Partnership	22-057-008-012
BMT Holding Langhorne, LLC	22-057-048-001
Newport Plaza Associates	22-059-030

Upon motion made by Mr. Shubin and seconded by Mr. Congdon, the Board of School Directors unanimously authorized the filing of the six (6) Real Estate Tax Assessment Appeals as above recommended by the School District Solicitor.

Mr. Shubin made a motion to approve Tax Year 2012 Assessments Appeal.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays.

7. Future Topics

None

8. Other Board Business

Mr. Koutsouradis implored the NFT membership to stand up and ask questions before any decision is made to strike. He remarked that the community is falling deeper into recession and no improvement is in sight. Mr. Koutsouradis declared that he has often supported the teachers when it is justified, but he will never justify an action, such as a strike, which will hurt the students.

Mr. Shubin wished all the members of the community a Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah. He asked the NFT to question the wisdom of taking a stance towards pushing for a tax hike considering the socioeconomic nature of the district and community at this time.

Mr. Morris suggested that the question of the head count of employees covered under the proposed insurance plan should be investigated at the source of the NFT's facts and figures. He said that he will look into the matter to get an accurate figure.

9. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Shubin moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Congdon seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary