

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING FOLLOWED BY REGULAR ACTION MEETING  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
December 5, 2016

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on December 5, 2016, in the District Board Room, at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Scott E. Congdon, President  
Ms. Irene Boyle, Vice President  
Mr. Bob Feather  
Mrs. Tina Hollenbach  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. Stephen Pirritano  
Mr. Ron Rudy  
Mr. Robert Sanna  
Mr. Marty Sullivan

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Joseph Jones III  
Dr. Gloria Hancock, Ed.D.  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger  
Mr. Paul Meehan

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**

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

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

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**BOARD REORGANIZATION MEETING**

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Burns called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**Roll Call**

A roll call indicated that a quorum of directors was present and the meeting was duly convened.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Burns requested those in attendance join in the salute to the flag.

**Announcements**

None.

**Reorganization of the Board of School Directors**

a) **Nomination of Temporary President**

Mrs. Burns opened the floor for nominations for Temporary President for the reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Congdon nominated Ms. Boyle. Mr. Sanna nominated Mr. Morris. Mr. Morris respectfully declined. There were no other nominations. Mr. Congdon moved that nominations for Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

A roll call tally indicated that Ms. Boyle was elected Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors by a vote of 9 ayes, and 0 nays.

**b) Election of President**

Ms. Boyle opened the floor for nominations for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Sullivan nominated Mr. Congdon. Mr. Morris nominated Mr. Rudy. Ms. Boyle moved that nominations for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. Mr. Congdon seconded the motion. The Board unanimously moved that nominations for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed.

Ms. Boyle requested a roll call. The roll call tally indicated that Mr. Congdon was elected President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors for 2017, by a tally of 5 votes for Mr. Congdon, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Hollenbach, Mr. Pirritano, and Mr. Sullivan) and 4 votes for Mr. Rudy (Mr. Feather, Mr. Morris, Mr. Rudy, and Mr. Sanna.)

**c) Election of Vice-President**

Mr. Congdon opened the floor for nominations for Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Congdon nominated Ms. Boyle and Mr. Rudy nominated Mr. Morris. Mr. Congdon moved that nominations for Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. The Board unanimously moved that nominations for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed.

Mr. Congdon requested a roll call. The roll call tally indicated that Ms. Boyle was elected Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors for 2017, by a tally of 5 votes for Ms. Boyle, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Hollenbach, Mr. Pirritano, and Mr. Sullivan.) and 4 votes for Mr. Morris (Mr. Feather, Mr. Morris, Mr. Rudy, and Mr. Sanna.)

**Other Board Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Anthony Sposato, business owner, resident of Middletown Township, voiced his support for the MaST Charter School. Mr. Sposato stated that although it will be an initial financial burden on the district in the long term money will be saved by lowering salary costs, vacation, sabbatical costs, and pension obligations. Mr. Sposato said if MaST is welcomed into Neshaminy it will raise the standard of education for students and the long term benefit to the community far out way the short term effects.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mills, thanked Don Harm for his invaluable service to the community. Mr. Rodos expressed his dissatisfaction with the food service in the high school in relationship with staff treatment. He stated that the service provided to staff members is almost non-existent. Mr. Rodos mentioned that the heating and air conditioning in the high school needs to be refurbished. He concluded by saying that he is disappointed that some members of the Board are still part of a group that are consistently opposed to any attempt by the district to improve matters.

Deb Harker, resident of Middletown Township, expressed support for the MaST Charter School in Neshaminy. She stated that the Charter Appeal Board in Harrisburg voted unanimously in favor of the charter school recognizing that MaST offers a unique educational opportunity. She is disappointed that the district continues to appeal the charter school's application. Ms. Harker asked the Board to stop wasting taxpayers' money and allow MaST Charter School to begin instruction in the fall.

**Board Comment**

Mr. Morris welcomed Ms. Boyle and Mr. Congdon to the Vice-President and President positions respectively.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Feather seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Condon adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

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## REGULAR ACTION MEETING

### Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

### Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jones advised the Board on the following:

- District Artwork displayed for the month is from Pearl Buck Elementary.
- Neshaminy Newsletter updated electronically.
- Neshaminy school's food drive over the holiday season.
- Third-graders receive Rotary dictionaries.
- Congratulations to the Neshaminy HS Drama 'Roadies' on their performances at the Pennsylvania State Thespian Conference, which wrapped up Saturday, December 3rd, in York, PA.
- NHS select choir will be appearing on stage with the Impractical Jokers for their Christmas Live Show on December 10th.
- Update on winter sports.
- Congratulations went out to varsity soccer player Maggie Daeche who was picked by the Philadelphia Inquirer, Soccer Player of the Year.
- Board Docs for Board agenda meetings.
- Mr. Meehan gave a presentation update on the Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Feather stated that it was an educational experience to interact with everyone involved.

### Master Motions

#### **1. Motion: Appointment of Solicitor**

Mr. Congdon presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, The School Board Policy #100 requires during the month of December that the Board of School Directors appoint a solicitor for a one year term;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of School directors reappoint the law firm of Begley, Carlin & Mandio as Solicitor of the Neshaminy School District in accordance with its fee letter.

Mr. Feather seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays.

Mr. Profy thanked the Board for the vote of confidence, on behalf of Begley, Carlin & Mandio, and said that they look forward to serving the Neshaminy School District for the upcoming school year.

#### **2. Motion: Approval of Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors must adopt and publish a schedule of Public Meetings for 2017;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the 2017 School Board Meeting Calendar be adopted by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays.

**3. Motion: Approval of Policy Revisions**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, in order to keep district board policies updated and current, revisions of select policies are recommended by the administration to the Policy Committee for review; and

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

**WHEREAS**, after review by the Policy Committee, the District is ready to recommend:

- Revised Policy #501 - School Entrance Age, and
- Revised Policy #512 - High School Diploma;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby approves the revised policies #501 and #512.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays.

**4. Motion: Overnight Trips**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, according to Board Policy #618, trips extending overnight are permitted by authorization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors only;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby approves the following overnight trips:

- Neshaminy High School Wrestling Team to the Wrestling tournament, December 20 - 30, 2016 - Governor Mifflin High School, Shillington, PA
- Neshaminy High School Boys and Girls Track Team to the State Indoor Track Championship, February 24 - 25, 2017 - University Park, PA.

Mr. Hollenbach seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays.

**5. Motion: Petition to Allow for Appeal of the MaST Charter School Decision**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, MaST-Neshaminy did, on October 18, 2012, submit an Application with the School Board to establish a charter school within the District that would focus on providing science, technology, engineering and mathematics to students in grades kindergarten through 12; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors held public hearings on November 29, 2012, and February 11, 2013, on the charter school application of MaST-Neshaminy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of School Directors did, on March 18, 2013, adopt a Resolution with Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in support of its denial based upon three reasons:

- (1) Lack of demonstrated sustainable support for the charter school;
  - (2) Failure to identify a suitable facility; and
  - (3) Failure to demonstrate that MaST-Neshaminy would be a model for other public schools;
- and

**WHEREAS**, MaST-Neshaminy filed an Appeal with the Charter Appeal Board (CAB) which did, on January 6, 2016, grant MaST-Neshaminy's Appeal and directed the District to issue MaST-Neshaminy a charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District did, on January 14, 2016, file a Petition for Review of the action of CAB to the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, and said Court did, on November 10, 2016, enter an Order affirming January 6, 2016, Order of CAB directing the School District to issue MaST-Neshaminy a charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the School District desires to petition the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for an allowance for appeal of the November 10, 2016, Order of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District approve and authorize the filing of a Petition for Allowance of Appeal to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania from the November 10, 2016, Order of the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania; and

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Officers and Solicitor of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute such other documents and to perform such other acts as said Officers and Solicitor that, in their discretion, are deemed necessary and desirable to effectuate the intent of this Resolution.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris commented that he supports the Charter School application because he believes in giving parents and students more choices in education.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated that the motion passed by a vote of 7 ayes, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Hollenbach, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Rudy, Mr. Sanna, and Mr. Sullivan) and 2 nays, (Mr. Feather and Mr. Morris).

#### **Other Board Business**

None.

#### **Public Comment**

None.

#### **Board Comment**

Mr. Pirritano congratulated Mr. Congdon and Ms. Boyle on their election to the executive positions of the Board. He also thanked Mr. Harm for all his help and hard work while serving the district. Mr. Pirritano said his professional assistance was invaluable and he will be missed very much.

Mr. Sullivan congratulated Mr. Congdon and Ms. Boyle and he thanked Mr. Harm for his support and service and said he will be greatly missed. He wished everyone happy holidays.

Mr. Rudy congratulated Mr. Congdon and Ms. Boyle on their elected positions and looks forward to a productive year ahead. He also thanked Mr. Harm and wished him well.

Mrs. Markowitz responded to Mr. Rodos's comments about the Food Service for staff and said due to recent changes there may have been some problems, which have been worked out.

Ms. Boyle thanked the Board members for their votes of confidence. She also thanked Mr. Harm for all his help with the Policy Committee.

Mr. Congdon thanked the Board members for their support and congratulated Ms. Boyle for her re-election to Vice President. He thanked Mr. Harm for all his hard work and professionalism and wished him well.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Condon adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Board Reorganization Meeting and Regular Public Board Meeting Minutes of the Neshaminy Board of School  
Directors (cont') December 5, 2016

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Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary