

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

REGULAR BOARD MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
June 26, 2014

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in a Regular Board Meeting on June 26, 2014 in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr., Performing Arts Center at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott E. Congdon, President
Ms. Irene Boyle, Vice President
Mr. John Allen
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Mark Shubin via Skype
Mr. Anthony Sposato

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Gloria Hancock
Mr. Don Harm

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS: Approximately 100 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

1. **Call to Order**

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3. **Announcements**

None.

4. **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- Scott Downie, Principal Architect at Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., gave a Power Point presentation on Neshaminy School District's facility improvement and consolidation.

5. **Public Comment**

Gillian McGoldrick, Neshaminy High School student, resident of Penndel, stated that she and the other editors of the Playwickian are confused by many aspects of Policy 600. She said that it is restrictive for the editors and they do not understand why it is necessary to delay the review process by 10 days, because it is not really practical in the 24 hours news cycle that we currently live in.

Jack Haines, Neshaminy High School student, resident of Langhorne, took issue with several items within Policy 600. He asked that the list of items be amended or deleted. Mr. Haines said he thinks that the differences between the editors of the Playwickian and the Board are not irreconcilable and a solution is possible.

Reed Hennessy, Neshaminy High School student, resident of Langhorne, asked the Board to enter negotiations to find a compromise about Policy 600. He expressed concern that all the publicity about this matter is casting a negative light on the Neshaminy community.

Matt Schafer, attorney at Levine, Sullivan, Koch, and Schulz, the law firm representing the student editors of the Playwickian, stated that there are issues that have violated the First Amendment of the student editors and the Board must reconsider Policy 600.

Angie Manning, New Jersey teacher, resident of Langhorne, said that in July of 2013 a petition of over 1,300 signatures was presented to the Board asking for a referendum regarding school consolidation and it has been ignored. She expressed her intense disappointment in the lack of action on an issue that is so important to the Neshaminy community.

Tim Sauritch, teacher at Samuel Everitt Elementary School, spoke passionately about the consequences of closing neighborhood elementary schools for a short term effect, while ignoring the end result. Mr. Sauritch said he considers the students, parents and staff of his school are people he considers to be family. He said that closing community schools means that property values plummet, businesses suffer, people move away and the community deteriorates. He urged the Board to reconsider taking this disastrous step.

Melody Katz, Neshaminy parent, resident of Langhorne, commented that the administration would not tolerate the publishing of a widely acknowledged racist term; therefore, the term "Redskins" should also not be tolerated. She said the students are choosing not to print this word because they are highlighting an offensive term they see as a problem and should be subject to examination. Ms. Katz said they are not hurting anyone by refusing to print a word.

Donna Boyle, nanny, resident of Langhorne, respectfully asked the Board to rethink about the term "Redskin." She mentioned that the "Redskin" name is disparaging and should be retired with honor and dignity and Neshaminy should follow suit as other organizations nationwide are now doing.

LeAnn Hartpence, Neshaminy parent, resident of Langhorne, asked the Board to approve the consolidation plan so the project can move forward. She said that the past has shown that children adapt to change and they will continue to learn and be fine.

Cathy Cartwright described how offensive the term "Redskin" is to her and her family as Native Americans. She said other offensive racist terms are not used as mascots or names for school newspapers, so teams should not bear this offensive name as well.

Barton Cartwright, Native American from Oklahoma expressed that the term "Redskin" makes him feel unwelcome and offended. He said Native Americans are still here and will continue to be and he asked the Board to understand how they feel about this term.

Pete Spera, retired, resident of Langhorne, spoke about outsourcing support staff positions saying that it simply will not work efficiently. He said he has many years of business experience and outsourcing always results in costing the company more money in the end. He urged the Board to reconsider and volunteered to sit down with Board members to lend his expertise and advice on the matter.

Reita Bakshi, Neshaminy parent, resident of Langhorne, stated that she is in favor of the consolidation proposal and she urged the Board to move forward with the plan. She said our district needs to make the necessary changes to bring our buildings up to standard. Ms. Bakshi also thanked Mr. Pirritano for his dedication to this project and to the Neshaminy School District saying that he always makes every effort to address the concerns of the community.

Maureen Nelson, insurance agent, resident of Forsythia Gate, said that it would be the wrong decision to close Samuel Everitt Elementary School, because it would have a negative effect on the children and the

community. Ms. Nelson said that neighborhood community schools are far more advantageous than the super-sized schools that are proposed to replace them. She voiced her concern about property values decreasing due to vacant buildings and implored the Board not to close the neighborhood schools, which mean so much to the Neshaminy community.

6. Items for Approval Tonight

a) Overnight Trips

Mr. Harm submitted the following trips for approval:

1. Neshaminy High School to National FBLA Conference, Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee - June 27 - July 3, 2014

Mr. Sposato made a motion to accept said trip.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

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

b) Personnel Report

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the Personnel Report. (See attached copy)

Mrs. Cummings made a motion to accept said report.

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

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

c) Approval of ESCO Auditing Firm

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the Approval of ESCO Auditing Firm.

Mr. Pirritano made a motion to accept the recommendation of Reynolds Inc., as the ESCO Auditing Firm.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Tawanka Elementary School Project

Mr. Allen read the following motion:

RESOLUTION FOR TAWANKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

The Board of Directors of the Neshaminy School District hereby adopts and approves for the new Tawanka Elementary School Project the following:

- Reaffirmation of the Architectural Services Agreement with Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. for the Project subject to such modifications deemed necessary and appropriate by the Superintendent and Solicitor, subject to ratification by the Board of School Directors;
- Reaffirmation of the Construction Management Services Agreement with Reynolds Construction Management, Inc. for the Project, subject to such modifications deemed necessary and appropriate by the Superintendent and Solicitor, subject to ratification by the Board of School Directors;

- Engagement of RBC Capital Markets, LLC. to perform financial analysis for the Project, and to present to the Board of School Directors financing alternatives for the Project;
- Engagement of Public Financial Management, Inc. as the financial advisor to the Board of School Directors for the Project;
- Taking by the Superintendent with and upon the advice of the Solicitor of such action as necessary to initiate and pursue process for the Project required by Act 34 of 1973 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly – Section 7-701 of the Public School Code of 1949, as amended.

Resolution adopted this 26th day of June, 2014.

Attest:

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: _____
Scott E. Congdon, President, Board of School Directors

Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated that the motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, Mr. Sposato) and 3 nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Rudy).

Motion: Revised Policy 600 - Publications and New Policy 811.1 - Social Media: Communications with Students

Ms. Boyle read the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, revisions and 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:

Revised Policy 600 – Publications

New Policy 811.1 – Social Media: Communications with Students

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve revised Policy 600 and new Policy 811.1 as recommended by the School Board Policies Committee.

Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes and 1 nay, (Mr. Morris.)

Motion: Toshiba Business Solutions 5 - Year Copier Lease

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

WHEREAS, Neshaminy School District has issued a request for proposals for a 5-Year Copier Lease, and has received proposals from eight (8) vendors of copiers; and

WHEREAS, a Committee consisting of the Business Administrator, Director of Purchasing, Director of Information Technology and Finance Manager have made an extensive review and testing of the copiers with the new technology required by the School District; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has recommended to the Board of School Directors that the School District accept the proposal for the 5-Year Copier Lease received from Toshiba Financial Services for the copier manufactured by Toshiba Business Solutions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement dated June 26, 2014 between the School District and Toshiba Financial Services in the form presented at this meeting, and authorizes and directs that the Superintendent, Business Administrator, and Solicitor execute such documents and take such action as required to effectuate the Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement for the 5-Year Copier.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

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

7. Public Comment

Beth Connolly mentioned that consolidation can be a positive thing because it gives more opportunities for better education and newer state-of-the-art schools. Ms. Connolly also said that originally, the intention of using the name Neshaminy was to honor the Native Americans of this region; however, if it has become so controversial, perhaps it is time to compromise and bring honor back to the district. Ms. Connolly concluded by saying that outsourcing simply does not work.

Donna Boyle said she does not understand the decision of the Board regarding the name "Redskins." She stated that this is not showing respect and she pleaded with the Board to do the right thing and change the name.

Steve Rodos, retired, Villages of Flowers Mills, said that consolidation is a roadmap for progress. He said that the status quo means doing nothing, which is unacceptable. He urged the Board to move forward and reposition Neshaminy out of its current state of "paralysis by analysis."

Cathy Cartwright, resident of Yardley, urged the Board to put the subject of consolidation to a referendum. She said the people of the district should have a say in this matter. Ms. Cartwright also stated that the cost of construction is always rising, so the current bids cannot be relied on to remain the same.

Michelle Palmer, retired, resident of Middletown Township, said she doesn't understand why the Board is hesitant to put the consolidation issue to a referendum. She said the community should be heard on this important issue and it should not be decided by the Board alone.

Felicia Goodman, Neshaminy support staff employee, resident of Bensalem, said that it is widely known that outsourcing does not work. She said the in house support staff is much more than just bus drivers. They are known to the children and trusted by parents. Ms. Goodman said that they do not deserve to lose their jobs and the Board should realize that outsourcing may appear to initially save money, but it costs more down the road.

Pete Spera, retired, resident of Langhorne, said that with all the important issues and decisions that are facing the Neshaminy School District, he does not understand how so much emphasis can be put on fighting over the school mascot name. He said it is time to compromise and eliminate the name "Redskins."

Joe Blasch, former Neshaminy Board member, resident of Lower Southampton, said consolidation will save the district money and the Board should move forward with the plan. He also said that the Board should come up with a plan in which every student, particularly average students, will have an opportunity to excel and succeed.

Matthew Cordero said that the reasoning to save money, which is behind the consolidation plan, is understandable, but there is more to it than saving money. He said it will jeopardize the safety of students, especially elementary children, and destabilize their security and confidence. He urged the Board to reconsider.

Drew Russo, resident of Forsythia Gate, voiced his opposition to the vote for consolidation. He said this should go to a referendum because the taxpayers should be heard.

Cecelia Ridge, Neshaminy employee, resident of Levittown, expressed dismay at the recent decisions by the Board regarding consolidation and the proposed outsourcing.

Angie Manning, New Jersey teacher, resident of Langhorne, asked if it is accurate that if construction costs exceed \$50 million then a referendum is in order. She asked, once again, why is this matter not going to a referendum.

8. Future Topics

None.

9. Board Comment

Mr. Allen said no Board member wants to close a school, but there are certain financial realities that must be addressed. He said the decision is not an easy one, but it is the Board's fiscal responsibility to take a step in the right direction for Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Shubin said the purpose of consolidation is to improve the education and not for the sole purpose of saving money. He said the idea is to reduce operating expenses so the money can go towards better educational programs and investing in improving things for the children. He said it is time to move forward.

Mr. Sposato stated that the easiest decision would be to do nothing and ignore these hard decisions, but that would not be the responsible thing to do. He said that he truly understands the concerns and the passionate feelings regarding the consolidation issue, but things must change in order to make Neshaminy a first rate school district.

Mr. Morris thanked Reynolds and Associates for the reports. Mr. Morris said he thinks that renovations of the buildings are the best way to go instead of closing schools. He said that consolidation and school closings can have a negative effect on the community such as decreased property values in certain areas. Mr. Morris also said he is vehemently against moving the 5th graders to middle school. He said he wants to preserve the innocence of these younger children and it is wrong to move them to middle school.

Mrs. Cummings asked Mr. Morris if he has any statistics on whether property values decreased when Neshaminy Middle School and Tawanka were closed. She said she does not believe the closing of these schools had an adverse effect on the homes in that area.

Mr. Profy said the amount of the bond is immaterial. He said a Board can borrow any sum of money and there is no maximum that would require a referendum.

Mr. Pirritano said Neshaminy schools must be managed more efficiently and the district must be moved into the future. He said a great school district attracts new families and maintains home values and this is the goal for Neshaminy. Mr. Pirritano said that the matter has been thoroughly studied and the Board is doing its due diligence on the recommendations of the administration and the extensive studies.

10 Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Allen seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 9:46 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

ELECTIONS OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: June 26, 2014

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
FROM: MR. ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

CODE: R - Resignation S - Sabbatical
L - Leaves O - Other
M - Maternity T - Transfer
A - Adoption SL - Sick Leave

<u>CERTIFIED (ADDITIONAL ASSIGNMENTS)</u>							
NAME	REPLACING	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	APPROVAL DATE	2014/15 ANNUAL SALARY*
1. Brad, Denise	Prior	Special Education Mid- Level English	MED in Spec. Ed., Trenton State BS in Spec. Ed., West Chester	12 Yrs. Spec. Ed/ Various Schools 7 Yrs. Dept. Chair, Spec. Ed.	Department Chair/Special Ed., Poquessing	6/26/2014	\$3,000
2. Brown, Thomas	Prior	General Science	BA in Finance & Mgmt, Temple	21 Yrs. Science, Nesh.Middle/Poq 9 Yrs. Dept. Chair/Science	Department Chair/Science, Poquessing	6/26/2014	\$3,000
3. Lesser, Brooke	N. Taalib-Din	H&PE	BS in Phys. Ed., E. Tennessee State	9 Yrs. Spec. Ed., Poquessing	Department Chair/H&PE, Poquessing	6/26/2014	\$3,000
4. Marte, Sharon	Prior	English	BS in Sec. English, Temple Univ.	20 Yrs. English, Poquessing 1 Yr. Dept. Chair, English	Department Chair/English, Poquessing	6/26/2014	\$3,000
5. Palkovics, Louis	Prior	Social Studies	Masters Equivalency BA in Political Science, University Of Rochester	21 Yrs. Soc.Stud. Poquessing 11 Yrs. Dept. Chair/Social Studies	Department Chair/ Social Studies, Poquessing	6/26/2014	\$3,000
6. Presner, Mary	Prior	Math	M in Educ. Psychology, Temple BS in Math, Temple	17 Yrs. Math, Poquessing 9 Yrs. Dept. Chair/Math	Department Chair/ Math, Poquessing	6/26/2014	\$3,000

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Langhorne, Pennsylvania

ELECTIONS OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD June 26, 2014

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
 FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

CODE: F - Full Time A - Apprentice
 P - Part Time G - Grandfathered
 T - Transfer R - Resignation
 SL - Sick Leave O - Other\

SUPPORT STAFF CHANGE OF CLASSIFICATION								
NAME	NUMBER CONSIDERED	REPLACING	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	APPROVAL DATE	HOURLY RATE	ANNUAL SALARY	DAYS/ HOURS
1. Freedman, Susan	2	J. Cunningham (R)	From: Secretary 10 Mos. C&I To: Secretary 12 Mos. C&I	P/G F/G	6/26/2014	\$23.24 \$23.24	\$34,813 \$42,459	214/7 261/7

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Langhorne, Pennsylvania

CORRECTION TO SUPPORT PERSONNEL

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

FROM: Robert Copeland, Superintendent

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD June 26, 2014

CODE: F - Full Time A - Apprentice
 P - Part Time G - Grandfathered
 T - Transfer R - Resignation
 SL - Sick Leave O - Other

<u>SUPPORT STAFF</u>								
NAME	NUMBER CONSIDERED	REPLACING	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	EFFECTIVE DATE	HOURLY RATE	ANNUAL SALARY	DAYS/ HOURS
1. Kelly, Joan	10	S. Wszalek	From: Bookkeeper Long Term Sub To: Bookkeeper Permanent District Office	P/A	7/1/2014	\$18.55	\$23,651	5/255

RC/la

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

ADDENDUM

ELECTIONS OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
 FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD June 26, 2014

CODE: F - Full Time A - Apprentice
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 T - Transfer R - Resignation
 SL - Sick Leave O - Other

NAME	NUMBER CONSIDERED	REPLACING	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	APPROVAL DATE	HOURLY RATE	ANNUAL SALARY	DAYS/HOURS
1. Doorley, Linda	5	D. Durante (T)	From: Clerk Typist, Purchasing To: Secretary, Purchasing	P/G F/G	6/26/2014	\$21.16 \$23.24	\$22,429 \$42,459	5/212 7/261

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

ADDENDUM

RESIGNATION/LEAVES OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: June 26, 2014

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

CODE: R – Resignation
L - Leave O - Other
M - Maternity T – Termination

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	REASON GIVEN	EFFECTIVE DATE	SERVICE AT NESHAMINY
1. Barnett, Mindy	Bookkeeper/General Fund	R	Resignation	7/7/2014	20 Years

Langhorne, Pennsylvania

ELECTIONS OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD June 26, 2014

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

CODE: F – Full Time A – Apprentice
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SUMMER SUPPORT

Danielle Foster	-	Cleaner
Eugene Frohlich	-	Bus Washer
Breanna Leedom	-	Cleaner
John McMaster	-	Cleaner
Amy Oxley	-	Cleaner
Daniel Plunkett	-	Bus Washer
Patti Stetson	-	Cleaner
Shelley Vingless	-	Cleaner

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

2014 SUMMER SCHOOL STAFF*
ADDITIONS

NAME

SUBJECT/POSITION

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Calderbank, David | Summer School Teacher |
| 2. Gerber, Kelly | Jump Start |
| 3. Haas, Bridgett | Jump Start |
| 4. Kopp, Mark | Elementary Summer School Teacher |

* All employment is tentative based on enrollment.

Neshaminy School District
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

ELECTIONS OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD June 26, 2014

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

CODE: F – Full Time A – Apprentice
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SUMMER BUS AIDES

Loretta Cronin
Pam Kaechele
Ruth Ann Foster
Michelle Minnich
Gail Gallagher
Donna Jackson
Diane Klemick

SUMMER CLEANER

Nicholas Godorecci