

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
June 3, 2014

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on June 3, 2014 in the District Offices Board Room 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. Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Mr. Anthony Devlin  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger  
Dr. Gloria Hancock  
Mr. Don Harm

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire  
John Torrente, Esquire

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**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:27 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:

- Mrs. Karen Moraes, Poquessing Middle School - Business, Computer & Information Technology Teacher
- Ms. Siri Sammartino, Maple Point Middle School - Business, Computer & Information Technology Teacher

Students presenting their Scratch Projects

Poquessing 6th grade students

- Liz Errico
- Nick Matias
- Nick Tiziano
- Alexandria Ziegler

Poquessing 7th grade students

- Soren Pettit

Maple Point 7th grade student

- Connor Menzel

- Neshaminy takes Seventh at the 2014 Pennsylvania Envirothon Competition

- Rick Evans and Damion Spahr from Reynolds Energy Services, Inc., gave a power point presentation on the facilities program solution for Neshaminy School District.

There was Board consensus for Request for Quotes.

## **5. Public Comment**

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, urged the Ad Hoc committee to move forward with a decision on upgrading buildings. He said there has been more than enough analyzing and studying the issues and now is the time to move forward with a decision.

## **6. Items for Approval tonight**

### **a) Overnight Trips**

Mr. Harm presented the following trips:

1. Neshaminy High school Foreign Language Trip to Quebec, Canada - April 22- 26, 2015
2. Neshaminy High School Instrumental Music Department Trip to New Orleans, LA - April 22 - 27, 2015

Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept said trips.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

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

### **b) Motion: Approval of suspension (furlough) and demotion of staff**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

WHEREAS, The Board of School Directors directed the Superintendent, the Business Administrator and such other members of the School District's Administration team who the Superintendent deemed necessary to undertake various studies related to program requirements, staffing capacities and needs; and

WHEREAS, the School District Officials did conduct such studies and prepared for consideration by the Board, a plan detailing such findings and recommendations to these matters; and

WHEREAS, the Board hereby concurs with the Superintendent's recommendations and authorizes the Superintendent to undertake such measures as are necessary and prudent in order to notify the Department of Public Instruction of the Pennsylvania Department of Education for the recommended courses of action and to undertake such other actions as are necessary to advance the purposes of this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors concurs with the recommendation of the Superintendent to curtail or alter the educational programs in the School District, which will affect a change in the School District's organization.

The Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent of the School District to notify the Pennsylvania Department of Education of the reduction of professional staff to meet the circumstances outlined above.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin asked for an explanation.

Mr. Copeland stated that this motion is a regular passage of the Board of Education.

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

**7. Items for Approval at the June 17th Public Board Meeting**

**a) Revised Board Policy #536**

Mr. Harm advised the Board on the following Revised Board Policy.

- **Revised Policy #536 - Administration of Medication**

Mr. Congdon stated that at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting the above revised policy will be an agenda item.

**b) Approval of the lease extension agreement for the Tawanka Elementary School with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22**

Mr. Copeland stated that at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting there will be a motion made to approve the approval of the lease extension agreement for the Tawanka Elementary School with the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22.

**c) Bucks County Technical High School Budget for 2014 - 2015**

Mr. Morris stated that at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting there will be a motion presented for the approval for the Bucks County Technical High School Budget for 2014 - 2015.

**d) Approval of Budgetary Increase for Federal & Other Programs (2013 - 2014)**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting there will be a motion made for the approval of Budgetary Increase for Federal & Other Programs (2013 - 2014).

**e) Facilities Professional Services/ Consultants for 2014 - 2015**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting a motion will be made to approve the Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2014 - 2015.

**f) Approval of Year End Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that the Year End Budget Transfers is a Board resolution that is approved every year under the current instructions of the Auditor General's Office.

**g) 2014 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting the 2014 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution will be voted on.

**h) Local, State and National Contract Participation Authorization for 2014 - 2015**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that the Local, State and National Contract Authorization of 2014 - 2015 will be an agenda item at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting.

**i) Approval of Fund Balance Commitment for PSERS**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that the Board must approve a motion before year end if any Fund Balance will be committed.

**j) State Mandated Food Price Increase**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that the approval of the State Mandated Food Price Increase will be an agenda item at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting.

**k) Bids/budgets transfers**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that there was one bid, 15-05 for transportation parts supplies and one budget transfers report (Working Copy) 14-6.

**l) Adoption of the 2014 - 2015 Final Operating Budget**

Mr. Copeland stated that Adoption of the 2014 - 2015 Final Operating Budget will be an agenda item at the June 17, 2014 Public Board Meeting.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **a) Board Policies**

Ms. Boyle advised the Board that at the last meeting the publication issue was tabled and no further meetings are scheduled for this year.

### **b) Educational Development**

Ms. Boyle informed the Board that their next meeting is on June 10th, at 6:30 p.m.

### **c) Finance/Facilities**

Mr. Shubin advised the Board that at the last meeting Mr. Copeland gave a presentation on the budget and there was also a food service consultant who gave a review of our food service operation.

### **d) IU Board**

Mrs. Cummings informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for June 17th.

### **e) Education Foundation**

Mr. Copeland informed the Board that the committee is continuing its fundraising efforts in providing teachers with grants.

### **f) Technical School**

Mr. Morris stated there was nothing new to report.

### **g) Technology**

Mr. Shubin advised the Board that no meetings are scheduled as of yet.

### **h) Ad Hoc Facility Use Update**

Mr. Pirritano stated that the committee has been discussing the Ferderbar redistricting.

Mr. Harm advised the Board on the Ferderbar redistricting options.

### **i) Legislative**

Mr. Shubin stated that a meeting is expected within the next couple of weeks.

## **9. Public Comment**

Leann Hartpence, parent, resident of Langhorne, asked if the Administration has made parents aware of the changes to Policy 1002 regarding volunteers. She also remarked that she would like to see a definition of the communication policy via social media between teachers and students.

Rita Bakshi, parent, resident of Langhorne, voiced her displeasure regarding the failure to come to a decision on the school mascot issue covered under the changes to Policy 600. Ms. Bakshi said it is time to vote on the policy and move on.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, remarked that committee meetings are fortunately being attended by the public more frequently. He said that attendees have the opportunity to ask questions and give opinions on the subject at hand. Mr. Rodos reminded the public to practice respect and common courtesy when issues are discussed so informed decisions can be made.

## **10. Future Topics**

None.

## **11. Board Comment**

Mr. Shubin commended the Ad Hoc Committee members for their hard work and efforts. He also congratulated the children for their presentation and stated that it is very encouraging to see these students involved in the technology of the future.

Mr. Pirritano also thanked the students for the presentation. He stated that the school principals will inform parents of the policy guidelines for volunteers and he agreed that it is time for decisions to be made and they will be forthcoming.

Mrs. Cummings asked Mr. Copeland to comment on the communication policy.

Mr. Copeland explained that the district is looking into a purchased product, which will be an app. It will allow mobile use of the Neshaminy website so teachers can communicate with students in a texting format, which will be archived.

Mr. Morris asked who has access to the archived information.

Mr. Copeland stated that the IT department has access and a court order would be needed to obtain the information.

Mr. Shubin said the district pays for the maintenance of the program, but it will be a free app for parents.

Mr. Allen remarked that he is looking forward to making a policy for communication between teachers and students and the policy will be to protect teachers as well as students.

Mr. Copeland mentioned that graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 13th with a rain date of June 14th.

Mr. Congdon asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Jack Connolly, who was a valued employee of the Neshaminy School District for over 30 years.

## **12. Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 9:19 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary