

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

REGULAR ACTION BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
October 13, 2015

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in a Regular Action Board Meeting on October 13, 2015 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. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Gloria Hancock, Ed.D.  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Mr. Don Harm  
Mr. Anthony Devlin  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger  
Mr. Paul Meehan

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHERS:** Approximately 120 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 7:00 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**3. Announcements**

Ryan Vaughn and Madison Genco, two students from Maple Point, personally invited the Neshaminy community to participate in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony, which will be held on Friday, November 6, 2015.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Hancock advised the Board on the following:

- 5 - 8 Update.
- Student Presentation: A group of fifth grade students from each middle school read short essays they wrote describing their transition to middle school and their daily routines.
- Reynolds Construction Presentation - Mr. Damion Spahr and Mr. Ryan Brennan.

Mr. Morris requested that the Board review all information involving any outside entities with regard to the use of Neshaminy properties, due to liability factors.

**5. Public Comment**

Robert Sanna, resident of Levittown, asked if it is true that the STA bus drivers are using Neshaminy buses to train drivers in Bristol, and if so, is this costing Neshaminy any money.

Kevin Gallagher, IT analyst, resident of Middletown Township, welcomed Dr. Hancock to the position of acting superintendent. Mr. Gallagher said that taxes are always a concern for residents of the community

and now in particular. He stated that funds should not be over utilized on facilities at the expense of ignoring educational needs.

Staci O'Brien, resident of Middletown Township, thanked Mr. Meehan for his diligence in addressing the bus issues. She also thanked the parents, faculty, and staff for their efforts in getting the AE program enrichment changes going. Ms. O'Brien congratulated the fifth graders for their excellent presentation.

Ms. Boyle apologized to Mr. Gallagher for any misunderstanding and inappropriate comments made by a Board member.

## **6. Items for Approval Tonight**

### **a) Approval of Overnight Trips**

According to Board Policy #618, trips extending overnight are permitted by authorization of the Board of School Directors only.

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

- NHS to Cross Country State Championships, Hershey, PA – November 6 – 7, 2015
- NHS to National Championship Competition for Cheerleading, Orlando, FL – February 25 to February 29, 2016
- NHS Junior Class Trip, Williamsburg, Virginia – April 30 to May 2, 2016
- NHS Model UN Club to UNA-USA Global Conference, New York City, NY – May 12 to May 14, 2016
- NHS to Pocono Environmental Education Center Trip, Dingman's Ferry, PA – May 15 to 17, 2016

### **b) E-Signature with Pennsylvania Department of Education**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by authority of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that Gloria Hancock, Ed.D, who is the Acting Superintendent of the above named body is authorized and directed to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department's e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Neshaminy School District to comply with the terms of said contract; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the body will not to contest the due authorization, execution, delivery, validity or enforceability of the electronic Contract under the provisions of a statute of frauds or any other applicable law. The Contract, if introduced as evidence on paper in any judicial, arbitration, mediation, or administrative

proceedings, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records originated and maintained in documentary form and the admissibility thereof shall not be contested under either the business records exception to the hearsay rule or the best evidence rule; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the body will notify the Department's Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer's authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

ATTEST

\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Scott E. Congdon, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary,

Jennifer Burns, Secretary, of Neshaminy Board of School Directors do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, held the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

TO BE EXECUTED BY AUTHORIZED OFFICER:

As the person authorized to sign on behalf of the above named body, I agree that I shall not provide any other person with my e-grants password or otherwise authorize any other individual to affix my electronic signature to any agreement with the Department.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Hancock, Ed.D.  
Acting Superintendent of Schools  
Neshaminy School District

d) **Personnel Report (see enclosed)**

Mr. Congdon made a motion to approve items A, B, C and D.

Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin requested that item C be separated.

Mr. Congdon made a motion to separate item c, the Resolution of the Neshaminy School District Board of School Directors to Urge the Governor of the Commonwealth and the General Assembly to Approve a Budget for 2015 - 2016.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved items A, B, and D by a vote of 9 ayes, and 0 nays.

Mr. Congdon made a motion to approve items A, B, and D.

Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved items a, b, and d by a vote of 9 ayes, and 0 nays.

c) Resolution of the Neshaminy School District Board of School Directors to Urge the Governor of the Commonwealth and the General Assembly to Approve a Budget for 2015 - 2016

Mr. Sposato read the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, Neshaminy School District is a municipal corporation and public entity formed by and for the communities of Lower Southampton Township, Pennel Borough, Langhorne Manor Borough, Langhorne Borough, Hulmeville Borough, and Middletown Township in Bucks County operating under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's Public School Code of 1949 as amended from time to time; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the obligation for the General Assembly to provide for the educational needs of its children as stated in the Commonwealth's constitution, "The General Assembly shall provide for the maintenance and support of a thorough and efficient system of public education to serve the needs of the Commonwealth;" and

**WHEREAS**, the delay in the budget approval has already caused the delay of state subsidies for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$182,380; and

**WHEREAS**, the delay in budget approval has already caused the delay in receipt of year to date state subsidies for the 2015-16 school year in the amount of \$6,610,580; and

**WHEREAS**, the largest decision made by the Governor and General Assembly is that of passing a state budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires the state to pass a budget by June 30th of each year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor and General Assembly have failed to pass a budget, thus failing to allocate funds to school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the budget impasse needs to end before programs and services to children in Neshaminy and the Commonwealth are severely affected.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that WE, the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District urge the General Assembly and the Governor to work together to compromise in order to approve a responsible budget for the 2015-2016 school year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be submitted to the elected senators and representatives of the Neshaminy School District, and to the members of the General Assembly, and to the Governor of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Signed,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott E. Congdon, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria Hancock, Ed.D. Acting Superintendent

Attested by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

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

**7. Items for Approval at the October 27th Public Board Meeting**

- a) American Education Week - November 16 - 20, 2015
- b) Revised Board Policies #551 Behavior Management (see enclosed)
- c) Bids/Budget Transfers (see Enclosed)

Mr. Congdon stated that items A, B and C will be agenda items at the October 27th, Public Board Meeting.

**Solicitor's Report**

Mr. Profy read the following recommendation:

Recommendation to settle pending 2010 through 2016 Tax Year Assessment Appeals of Kravco Co./BDS Oxford Valley Mall Portfolio, LP and Oxford Valley Department Investors, LP, hereinafter Kravco/BDS Oxford Mall and Oxford Valley Department Investors as follows:

*Kravco/BDS Oxford Mall  
and Oxford Valley  
Department Investors*

Settlement Assessment

22-040-041

\$581,709 - 2010 Tax Year Assessment  
\$653,673 - 2011 Tax Year Assessment  
\$677,661 - 2012 Tax Year Assessment  
\$647,676 - 2013 Tax Year Assessment  
\$659,670 - 2014 Tax Year Assessment  
\$647,676 - 2015 Tax Year Assessment  
\$508,500 - 2016 Tax Year Assessment

*Kravco/BDS Oxford Mall  
and Oxford Valley  
Department Investors*

Settlement Assessment

#22-040-029-002

\$64,634 - 2010 Tax Year Assessment  
\$72,630 - 2011 Tax Year Assessment  
\$75,296 - 2012 Tax Year Assessment  
\$71,964 - 2013 Tax Year Assessment  
\$73,297 - 2014 Tax Year Assessment  
\$71,964 - 2015 Tax Year Assessment  
\$56,500 - 2016 Tax Year Assessment

Mr. Congdon made a motion to settle pending 2010 through 2016 Tax Year Assessment Appeals of Kravco Co./BDS Oxford Valley Mall Portfolio, LP and Oxford Valley Department Investors, LP, hereinafter Kravco/BDS Oxford Mall and Oxford Valley Department Investors.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

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

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **a) Board Polices**

Ms. Boyle stated to the Board that the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **b) Educational Development**

Ms. Boyle stated to the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 20th, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Congdon stated that no date has been set as of yet.

### **d) IU Board**

Mrs. Cummings stated that the next meeting is scheduled for October 20th.

### **e) Neshaminy Education Foundation**

Mr. Shubin said that there is no date set for the next meeting at this time.

### **f) Technical School**

Mr. Rudy stated that the Technical School is at 98% capacity.

### **g) Technology**

Mr. Shubin stated to the Board that there is no date set as of yet.

### **h) Facilities Ad Hoc Committee**

Mr. Pirritano announced that the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **i) Legislative**

Mrs. Cummings stated that the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

## **9. Public Comment**

Leanne Hartpence, homemaker, resident of Langhorne, said Neshaminy is moving in a positive direction and the teachers, administration, and Board are to be thanked for this success. She thanked the fifth graders for sharing their experiences about middle school. Ms. Hartpence said that, in accordance with Board policy, there are no personal attacks allowed during the commenting session and this also includes Board members attacking members of the public during their time at the podium.

Steve Rodos, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, congratulated the fifth graders for their excellent presentation. Mr. Rodos asked if it is possible to recoup some of the money lost from the damage to the Tawanka site from the fire companies that were involved. He also suggested that the appraisal on Sesame Place be updated to reflect today's tax needs. Mr. Rodos congratulated Dr. Hancock for her new position and for acknowledging the awards given to the staff of the Playwickian.

Bob Feather, certified home inspector, resident of Highland Park, thanked Dr. Hancock and the Board for their dedication and hard work. Mr. Feather suggested that, in the future, it would be prudent to obtain a waiver absolving Neshaminy of liability before consent is given to use Neshaminy property, as in the case of the fire departments using the Tawanka building for training.

Reita Bakshi, resident of Langhorne, thanked Dr. Hancock for taking the position of acting superintendent. Ms. Bakshi asked Mr. Morris if he has examples of the types of problems that he has been advised of concerning the new fifth grade middle school model and if he has reported any problems to the administration.

**10. Future Topics**

None.

**11. Board Comment**

Mr. Rudy clarified that students from the Lower Southampton area consists of almost 30% of the district's student population and these students are not bused outside of their area.

Mr. Shubin said that the presentation made by the fifth graders is a testament to the competency of the teaching staff of Neshaminy. He read an overview of the reasons why the Board initiated the consolidation plan in an effort to move the district forward, while saving money. Mr. Shubin said improving the quality of education has been the main focus for this Board. He said the plan was recommended by numerous consultants and experts. Mr. Shubin concluded by wishing the future Neshaminy School Board success as they continue to move the district forward.

Mr. Sposato thanked the fifth grade students for their essays saying they have made Neshaminy proud. He also thanked the teachers and administrators for doing an excellent job. Mr. Sposato said he is proud of the work that has been accomplished by the Board in the face of tremendous opposition. He said he wishes the future Board good luck as they continue to bring improvements and enhancements to Neshaminy.

Mrs. Cummings said she was very impressed and pleased to listen to the fifth graders' essays about their transition to middle school. She said it reaffirmed her belief that the Board made the right decision about the consolidation plan and the new fifth through eighth grade model.

Mr. Allen thanked the students for their excellent speeches and said he is very happy that they have adjusted so well. Mr. Allen said the decisions whether to renovate or build new buildings is always an important and difficult decision. He said when buildings deteriorate it isn't necessarily negligence or indifference; it is more a matter of finances and timing.

Mr. Morris made a motion to look into ancillary insurance in order to save the district money.

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call tally and the tally indicated the motion failed by a vote of 2 ayes, (Mr. Morris and Mr. Rudy) and 7 nays, (Mr. Allen, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato).

Mr. Morris made a motion to change the name of Tawanka School to something else.

Mr. Pirritano stated that there is an existing policy to change the name of any facility for Neshaminy.

There was no second on Mr. Morris's motion.

Mr. Morris questioned whether the residents will be allowed to vote in the Samuel Everitt building now that it is leased to the Intermediate Unit. Mr. Morris said he has no problem with fire department training sessions, but he is disappointed that the agreement was not made by the district's legal counsel. He said he wants the \$22 thousand returned to the taxpayers. Mr. Morris said, for the record, he is against closing schools and he is for renovating existing buildings.

Mr. Pirritano thanked the students for the announcement about the Veteran's Day celebration and to the fifth graders for their excellent presentation. He said they showed confidence and intelligence beyond their years. Mr. Pirritano also applauded the marching band for their participation in a recent competition and he reminded everyone of Homecoming this weekend.

Ms. Boyle congratulated the fifth graders for a great presentation.

Mr. Congdon thanked Ryan and Madison for announcing the Veteran's Day celebration. He stated that although he was unaware that the fifth graders were going to give a presentation, he was so happy to hear their essays and be informed about their positive experiences in middle school. Mr. Congdon said he is not aware of any Neshaminy buses being used in Bristol, but the matter will be looked into by Mr. Minotti. Mr. Congdon remarked that Reynolds has nothing to do with the mishap with the fire department. Mr. Congdon stated that the decision for consolidation was carefully considered and he stands firmly behind the decision as the best avenue for progress in Neshaminy. He apologized to the members of the public for the discord that occurred during tonight's meeting.

#### **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 8:58 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary



**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**ELECTIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL**

**DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: October 13, 2015**

**TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION**

NAME	REPLACING	NUMBERED CONSIDERED	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	2015-16 ANNUAL SALARY*
1. Tecce, Mary Beth	New Position	6	Supvr. C&I Elementary Reading Spec. Special Ed.	M in Education, La Salle Univ. BS in Special Ed., La Salle Univ.	3 Yrs. Staff Development, 5 Years Academic Coach, 3 Yrs. Special Ed., High School, 7 Yrs. Special Ed. Ferderbar, 8 Yrs. Elem. Ferderbar	Supervisor of Federal Programs & Districtwide Initiatives Position	10/14/2015	\$123,653

**ADDENDUM**

**ADDENDUM**

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**ELECTIONS OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL**

**DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: October 13, 2015**

**TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**FROM: Dr. Gloria Hancock, Acting Superintendent**

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

**LONG TERM SUBSTITUTES**

NAME	REPLACING	NUMBERED CONSIDERED	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	2015-16 ANNUAL SALARY*
1. Belmonte, Ashley  (Currently .6 Contract)	S. Jaouen (SL)	1	Special Ed. Elementary Reading Spec.	MS in Special Ed. & Elem., St. Joseph's University. BS in Special Ed., & Elem., St. Joseph's University	3 Yrs. Special Ed., High School 5 Yrs. LTS, Special Ed., Various Schools	.4 Special Ed., High School	10/14/2015	\$28,696 (.4)  (Step 3, Range 9)
2. Kocher, Heather	E. O'Driscoll (Sab)	5	Elem. School Counselor Secondary School Counselor	MA in Counseling Psychology, Holy Family BA in Psychology, Rosemont College	3 Years Interim School Counselor, Bensalem SD	Guidance Counselor, Schweitzer	TBD	\$44,469  (Step 1, Range 1)
3. Norton, Joseph	K. Burke (T)	2	Elementary ML Math Tech Ed.	BS in Elem. Ed., Penn State	4 Months LTS Reading Spec., Sandburg/Schweitzer 1 Yr. LTS A/E, Sandburg	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade, Poquessing	TBD	\$44,469  (Step 1, Range 1)

## LONG TERM SUBSTITUTES

NAME	REPLACING	NUMBERED CONSIDERED	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	2015-16 ANNUAL SALARY*
4. Prendergast, Jennifer	S. Jaouen (SL)	1	Special Ed Elementary K-6	MS in Reading, Literature, Walden Univ. BA in Education, Holy Family Univ.	1.2 Yrs. Reading Instructor, BCCC 4 Yrs. Per Diem Sub, Bristol & Pennsbury SD	.6 Special Ed., High School	TBD	\$28,681 (.6)  (Step 1, Range 1)