

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

SPECIAL MEETING FOLLOWING BY PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
May 5, 2015

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in a special meeting following by a public work session on May 5, 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 (via video conference)
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:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS: Approximately 75 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire
John Torrente, Esquire

1. Call to Order

Ms. Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Boyle requested those in attendance join in the salute to the flag.

3. Announcements

Prior to the Special Meeting followed by a Public Work Session Meeting, the Annual Neshaminy Employee Recognition Program was held.

Recognition Awards - The Annual Neshaminy Employee Recognition Program, which was held prior to the board meeting, included the Neshaminy High School Select Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Kristin Nichols, performing three musical selections. The following long term service awards were presented to certified and support staff members for 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 45 and 50 years of service. Also invited were the retirees for the 2014 - 2015 school year.

15 Years of Service - Employees received a ceramic box inscribed with the Neshaminy School District seal. 28 employees have completed 15 years of service.

20 Years of Service - Employees received a gold filled lapel pin inscribed with the Neshaminy seal.

43 employees have completed 20 years of service.

25 Years of Service - Employees received a 6" silver plated bowl engraved with their name.

26 employees have completed 25 years of service.

30 Years of Service - Employees received a brass hand bell engraved with their name.

6 employees have completed 30 years of service.

35 Years of Service - Employees received a 10" silver plated bowl engraved with their name.

2 employees have completed 35 years of service.

45 Years of Service – Employee received a clock with an engraved plate with their name.

1 employee completed 45 years of service.

50 Years of Service – Employee received engraved crystal bowl.

1 employee completed 50 years of service.

Retirees for the 2014 – 2015 school year – Employees received a cloisonné pin with the Neshaminy Seal.

We had 62 retirees which included (certified and support staff) members.

4. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- ❖ A group of talented Neshaminy High School musicians attended the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association All-State Music Festival March 25 - 28. The students that were honored with this selection:
 - All-State Band: Danny Asianian - Clarinet, Stephanie Rue - Horn, Adam Victor - Trumpet
 - All-State Wind Ensemble: Andrew Northrup - Bari Sax, Stephen Hopkins - Horn
 - All-state Choir: Joey Rippert - Tenor

- ❖ Special recognition for Neshaminy High School Graduate, Sgt. Stephen Winther, who received a Bronze Star for his service as a Marine. Stephen is currently serving as a Combat Engineer at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

5. Public Comment

Lou McFeeley, Neshaminy Food Service worker, said if the Food Service jobs are outsourced the cost will increase and the quality will decrease. He said there is information available online comparing the services of in house vs. outsourcing in these positions.

Lois Kuntz, Neshaminy Food Service worker, said the in house workers have a positive influence on the children of the district because they have a personal interest.

Steve Rodos, retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, expressed his dismay over suggestions of impropriety in the bidding of the insurance broker. Mr. Rodos said he has researched the issue and has found nothing suspicious. He said there is no place in school board meetings for this type of baseless attacks.

Bob Tull, Levittown, cautioned the Board and the community not to move too quickly on the decisions for consolidation because it could all be reversed after the elections, which would cost the district more money.

Howard Lindner, Langhorne, expressed his opposition to outsourcing. He said many residents have expressed their disappointment with recent school board decisions. He said he advises these residents to vote in the upcoming election to make a change.

6. Items for Approval Tonight

a) Overnight Trips

1. Neshaminy High School - PA Future Problem Solving World Competition to Ames, Iowa - June 11 - 14, 2015

Motion: Approval of Overnight Trip:

Ms. Boyle read the following motion:

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 trip:

- Neshaminy High School – PA Future Problem Solving World Competition to Ames, Iowa – June 11 – 14, 2015

Mr. Shubin made a motion to approve the above said trip and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

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

b) Award of Construction Bid for the New Tawanka Elementary School

Mr. Shubin read the following motion:

Having resolved to advertise for and receive bids for the construction of the New Tawanka Elementary School Project; and

Having received bids for all Prime Contracts on April 29, 2015.

Now therefore, the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District hereby resolves as follows:

1. Subject to: (i) the satisfactory execution and submission of written Agreements between Owner and Contractor, surety bonds and insurance certificates, all as required by the contract documents for the Project and in such form as may be approved by District General Counsel, and (ii) the approval of the Project by all authorities having jurisdiction thereof, including, without limitation, Lower Southampton Township, Bucks County Conservation District and the Pennsylvania Departments of Education, Environmental Protection and Transportation, the Board intends to accept the following bid proposals and award:
 - (a) Contract No. 16-20 – General Trades Construction to Boro Developers, Inc., DBA Boro Construction at a price of \$10,782,500.00, including the Base Bid and Alternates No.'s 4 and 5; and
 - (b) Contract No. 16-21 – Site work Construction, to Out-of-Site Infrastructure, Inc. at a price of \$2,935,169.00, including the Base Bid and no Alternates; and
 - (c) Contract No. 16-22 – Demolition and Abatement Construction, to Flynn Wrecking, Inc., at a price of \$412,000.00, including the Base Bid and no Alternates; and
 - (d) Contract No. 16-23 – Structural Steel Construction, to Standard Iron Works, Inc., at a price of \$1,718,400.00, including the Base Bid and no Alternates; and
 - (e) Contract No. 16-24 – Roofing Construction, to Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc., at a price of \$1,797,000.00, including the Base Bid and no Alternates; and
 - (f) Contract No. 16-25 – Fire Protection Construction, to S.A. Comunale Company, Inc., at a price of \$327,000.00, including the Base Bid and no Alternates; and
 - (g) Contract No. 16-26 – Plumbing Construction, to Apex Plumbing & Heating, Inc., at a price \$1,189,500.00, including the base bid and no Alternates; and

- (h) Contract No. 16-27 – HVAC Construction, to Boro Developers, Inc., DBA Boro Construction, at a price of \$3,230,000.00, including the base bid and no Alternates; and
 - (i) Contract No. 16-28 – Electrical Construction, to Boro Developers, Inc., DBA Boro Construction at a price of \$3,651,700.00, including the base bid and Alternates No's. 5 and 13.
2. The Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration, Project Architect, District General Counsel and Construction Manager to take all such actions as may be necessary to give notice of its actions as herein resolved to all parties in interest in such form and manner as they may deem appropriate.
 3. The Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration, Project Architect, District General Counsel and Construction Manager to take all other actions that they may deem necessary and proper to execute the foregoing resolutions of the Board, including the preparation and submission of all documents required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education under PlanCon, Part G and Part F (Attachment C, Post-Bid Opening Certification Form and revised F13) and other governmental bodies, agencies and authorities with jurisdiction over the Project.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked if there is any clause in the contract that would allow the Board to cancel said contract, should a new Board be elected and should vote to do so.

Mr. Profy stated that there is no such clause in the contract.

Mr. Morris made a motion to table the above motion until after the elections on May 19.

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

Ms. Boyle 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, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Congdon, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin and Mr. Sposato.)

Ms. Boyle stated the Board will now vote on the motion, Award of Construction Bid for the New Tawanka Elementary School.

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

Mr. Copeland gave a Power Point presentation on the Proposed Final Budget.

Mr. Copeland and Mrs. Markowitz answered Board members questions regarding the budget.

(c) **Adoption of the 2015 - 2016 Proposed Final Budget**

Mr. Allen read the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors did, on February 17, 2015, adopt the 2015-2016 Preliminary Budget of the School District in accordance with Act 1 of 2006, and made same available for public inspection as required by law; and

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors prepare a Proposed Final Budget at least thirty (30) days prior to the adoption of the Final Budget, and to make the Proposed Final Budget available for public inspection at least twenty (20) days prior to the date set for the adoption of the Final Budget; and

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the President of the Board of School Directors certify to the Pennsylvania Department of Education that the Proposed Final Budget was prepared, presented and made available for public inspection using the uniform form furnished by the Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors has the 2015-2016 Proposed Final Budget of the School District in the required form, and desire that same be made available for public inspection as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2015-2016 Proposed Final Budget presented at this May 5, 2015 Public Meeting of the Board of School Directors is adopted as the 2015-2016 Proposed Final Budget of the School District, and shall be made available for public inspection, and be made available for duplication to any person on request, beginning on May 6, 2015, and that the President of the Board of School Directors is authorized to issue the Certification to the Pennsylvania Department of Education required by Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors will adopt the 2015-2016 Final Budget of the School District at a Public Meeting to be held on June 16, 2015, at Maple Point Middle School, District Offices/Board Room, 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road, Langhorne, PA.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

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

7. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Shubin moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle adjourned the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order

Ms. Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:57 p.m.

2. Items for Approval at the May 20th Public Board Meeting

a) Revised Board Policies

- Revised Policy #512 – High School Diploma

Mr. Harm advised the Board on the above policy.

b) Appointment of Treasurer

Mrs. Markowitz stated that this will be an agenda item at the May 20 Public Board Meeting.

c) Appointment of Representative to the Bucks and Montgomery County Schools Health Care Consortium

Mr. Copeland stated that this will be an agenda item at the May 20 Public Board Meeting.

d) **Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 Special Education Contracted Services for 2015 - 2016**

Mr. Copeland stated that this will be an agenda item at the May 20 Public Board Meeting.

e) **Legal Services Consultation Agreement between Sweet, Stevens, Katz and Williams, LLP and Neshaminy School District**

Mr. Copeland stated that this will be an agenda item at the May 20 Public Board Meeting.

f) **Bucks County Technical High School Budget for 2015 - 2016**

Mr. Rudy stated that there was a 2.5% increase in the budget due to PSERS.

g) **Bids/Budget Transfers**

This will be an agenda item at the May 20 Public Board Meeting.

3. 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 May 12 at 6:30 p.m.

c) **Finance/Facilities**

Mr. Congdon stated that the date has not been set for the next meeting.

d) **IU Board**

Mrs. Cummings announced that Dr. Galasso, the Executive Director for the Bucks County IU, will be retiring in September.

e) **Neshaminy Education Foundation**

Mr. Shubin stated to the Board that the fundraiser at Bertucci's was successful. The next meeting will be on May 11 at 4 p.m.

f) **Technical School**

Mr. Rudy stated that they discussed the budget. He also stated that there were 42 medal winners, with 21 gold medals in the skills competition, which represented the Technical School.

g) **Technology**

Mr. Shubin stated to the Board that no date has yet been set for the next meeting.

h) **Facilities Ad Hoc Committee**

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

i) **Legislative**

Mr. Shubin stated that no date has been set for the next meeting.

4. Other Board Business

Mr. Morris made a motion to reconsider the insurance broker and put an RFP out for additional quotes.

Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

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

5. Public Comment

Lou McFeeley, Neshaminy Food Service worker, commented that food service workers pay real estate taxes in the district. He stated that he would like to request a more level playing field in the negotiations. He feels the Board dictates to the food service workers rather than fair bargaining.

Reita Bakshi, Langhorne, asked if the district can recover the loss that was incurred due to the law suit.

Karen Lowry, Lower Southampton, thanked the teachers of Neshaminy for their hard work. Ms. Lowry said the consolidation project is extending the debt into 2038 and burdening the taxpayers. She told the taxpayers of the district to let their voices be heard and vote in the upcoming election.

Bob Tull, Levittown, said he is disappointed that the vote for the bid was not delayed. He reiterated that he is against outsourcing and said that often school districts can make the justification for any change to suit their purposes.

Steve Rodos, retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, urged the public to attend the committee meetings and not just public board meetings. He stated that the committee meetings allow better question and answer opportunities and they are very informative. Mr. Rodos stated that the consolidation plan is the best plan to move the district forward and provide the students with an enhanced education.

Robert Sanna, Levittown, asked if the Policy Committee has reviewed a policy regarding putting out an RFP for bids. Mr. Sanna reiterated his opposition to the consolidation plan and outsourcing.

6. Future Topics

None.

7. Board Comment

Mrs. Cummings congratulated the students who won awards this evening and Sgt. Winther, who was Skyped in. She also thanked Mr. Copeland and Mrs. Markowitz for the constructive budget. Mrs. Cummings said the Board members have done their due diligence in researching and inquiring in order to develop the best plan for the district.

Mr. Shubin acknowledged the teachers for Teacher Appreciation Day. Mr. Shubin said that the Board always works hard with the objective of improving education, while at the same time, looking for ways to save money so that there will be no tax increase. Mr. Shubin read a prepared statement on the food services outsourcing issue.

Mr. Allen congratulated the employees who received service awards for their dedication to the district. He stated that he agreed with Mr. Morris and would like to see more information regarding the RFP process. Mr. Allen voiced his support for more students from the IU to be put into the mainstream.

Mr. Copeland recognized all of the outstanding teachers honored for Teachers Appreciation Day. He clarified some of the misperceptions regarding students from the IU.

Mrs. Cummings stated that the Board has put in place a project on the website that provides valuable information and will clarify any misperceptions.

Mr. Pirritano thanked the Winther's family, the teachers, and retirees for their dedication. He also thanked the professionals working on the project for a job well done and he assured the public that the outcome will benefit the district.

Mr. Sposato remarked that there is an interesting article in the Playwickian about the Stem program.

Mr. Congdon applauded Mr. Allen for his concerns regarding the IU. He said that the Board has done their best to bring enhanced education to Neshaminy, while at the same time succeeded in not raising taxes.

8. Adjournment of Meeting

Ms. Boyle moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
OF NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended, and the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act of 1986, July 3, P.L. 388, No. 84, as amended, that the Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District ("Board") will hold a Special Meeting on May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the District Offices - Boardroom of the Maple Point Middle School, 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road, Langhorne, PA 19047.

The purpose of this Special Meeting is to consider and to act upon matters pertaining to the New Tawanka Elementary School Project of the School District, including but not limited to acting upon the award of Construction Contracts for the Project, authorization of submissions to Pennsylvania Department of Education and other governmental bodies with jurisdiction over the Project; and the authorization of the President and Secretary of the Board, Solicitor and other Officers and Administrators of the School District to execute any and all documents and to do and cause to be done any and all actions and things necessary or proper for the execution and carrying out the New Tawanka Elementary School Project; and such other action as properly comes before the Board.

The Public Work Session of the Board scheduled and advertised for May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. will commence immediately following the conclusion of the Special Board Meeting.

Members of the public are invited to attend and participate in this Special Meeting as permitted by law.


Dated: April 20, 2015

Jennifer Burns, Secretary
Board of School Directors of
Neshaminy School District

**AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING
OF MAY 5, 2015
SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Debby Spadaccino, having been duly sworn does depose and say:

That she is Assistant Secretary of the Neshaminy School District, and that she did, on April 20, 2015, cause Notice of Special Meeting of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District, a copy of which is annexed as Exhibit "A," to be posted at a conspicuous location at the main entrance of the School Administration portion of Maple Point Middle School, 2250 Langhorne-Yardley Road, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, and that said Public Notice has been continuously posted at said location from the date of posting through the date of this Affidavit.



Debby Spadaccino, Assistant Secretary
Neshaminy School District

Sworn to and subscribed before me on
this 17th day of April, 2015.



NOTARY PUBLIC

