

# Neshaminy UPDATE

September, 2015



Neshaminy School District  
Langhorne, PA

David E. Baugh, Ed.D Acting Superintendent

www.neshaminy.org

New programs, building renovations keep NSD busy over the summer

## Welcome Back!



As the final days of summer vacation quickly fade, Neshaminy teachers, administrators and support staff have been busy getting ready for what promises to be an exciting year full of challenges and opportunities for both staff and students.

The start of classes in September is really the middle of a process which began many months and even years ago, as plans for ongoing and new educational initiatives and building consolidation unfolded. The result is an unprecedented number of changes throughout the District including the reassignment of fifth-graders to the three middle schools; the implementation of a new foreign language program, expansion of STEM offerings and AP classes, administrative changes, and a number of building projects that will enhance efficiency, security and comfort.

This summer began with the news that the Neshaminy Federation >> *Continued on page 2*

### New administrators join Neshaminy

At the final School Board meeting of the 2015-2016 school year, outgoing Bensalem School District Superintendent David E. Baugh, Ed.D was hired as Acting Superintendent for Neshaminy for a term of up to one year. Dr. Baugh replaces Robert Copeland, who resigned after accepting the position of Superintendent for the Lower Merion School District. A search for a permanent Superintendent is expected to begin in the fall.

In August, the district also welcomed Paul Meehan as the Director of Administration. Mr. Meehan most recently worked as Principal at William Penn Middle School in Pennsbury School District. Both Dr. Baugh and Mr. Meehan bring a wealth of experience both as teachers and administrators to their roles at Neshaminy.

Dr. Baugh earned his doctorate at Seton Hall University and holds two Masters degrees in the fields of education and related social sciences from the University of Pennsylvania and the State University of New York - Geneseo. His undergraduate degree is >> *Continued on page 2*

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Tuesday September 1**  
*Board Policy Committee, 6:30 pm*

**Tuesday September 8**  
*Board Public Work Session, 7 pm*

**Monday September 21**  
*Neshaminy Education Foundation, 4 pm*  
*C&I conference room, Maple Point*

*Board Educational Development Committee, 6:30 pm*

**Tuesday September 29**  
*Public Board Meeting, 7 pm*

*All meetings held at the Maple Point District Board Room unless otherwise indicated.*

### BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

	Region
Mr. Scott Congdon, <i>President</i>	1
Ms. Irene Boyle, <i>Vice-President</i>	3
Mr. John Allen	2
Mrs. Susan Cummings	1
Mr. Mike Morris	2
Mr. Stephen Pirritano	1
Mr. Ron Rudy	3
Mr. Mark Shubin	3
Mr. Anthony Sposato	2

### ADMINISTRATION

**David E. Baugh, Ed.D**  
*Acting Superintendent*

**Mr. Paul Meehan**  
*Director of Administration*

**Mr. Anthony Devlin**  
*Director of Pupil Services*

**Dr. Gloria Hancock**  
*Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment and Federal Programs Coordinator*

**Mr. Don Harm**  
*Assistant to the Superintendent for Administration*

**Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger**  
*Director of Human Resources*

**Mrs. Barbara Markowitz**  
*Business Administrator*

# Welcome

(continued from page 1)

of Teachers (NFT), which represents the certified staff in the district, reached a tentative agreement in July. A special School Board meeting was held on August 6 to consider the one-year deal, which was approved. The deal includes step increases for teachers without an increase in base pay or changes to benefit contributions. The cost of the increases will not change the 2015-2016 budget or require any tax hikes.

Negotiations for the next NFT contract are scheduled to begin in January, 2016. Two additional agreements with District administrators and confidential secretaries were also approved at the School Board Public Meeting August 25.

The summer was also busy with the sound of construction at several buildings. Three schools were modernized with various energy-saving upgrades, and construction on the new Tawanka Elementary in Lower Southampton Township shifted into high gear with demolition of the old building and foundation work for the new structure.

The consolidation project, building renovations and the reassignment of teaching staff for the 5-8 transition made the summer a big challenge for the Facilities and IT departments, charged with not only ensuring that the buildings would be ready for teachers and students on time but also that furniture, lockers, supplies and technology would all be in place and ready for use. The cafeteria at Maple Point Middle School was used as a way station for items destined for new buildings, and by the final week in August returned to normal as movers transported hundreds of desks, tables, books, office supplies and other materials to their destinations.

## New administrators

(continued from page 1)

from the University of Aberdeen (Scotland).

A former special education teacher and former classroom teacher



David E. Baugh

Dr. Baugh brings a student-centered vision to every conversation. He has led a Blue Ribbon elementary school and been instrumental in the turn-around efforts for a pre-K through 8th grade school. Most recently as Superintendent of Bensalem School District, he received an award for ethical leadership.

A lifelong educator and coach, Dr. Baugh remains active as a teacher for local higher education institutions and has also published several articles recently in national

magazines.

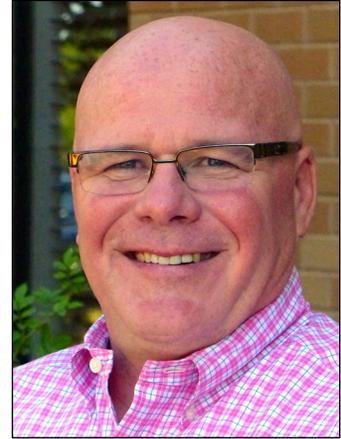
The son and grandson of teachers, he is extremely interested in

issues of school finance, early learning, access and equity.

The proud father of a college sophomore, Dr. Baugh has lived in Southeastern Pennsylvania for most of his adult life.

Paul Meehan started his educational career at Lower Moreland High School. In 1997 he obtained his first teaching assignment at Harry S. Truman High School as a Business Education teacher and remained in that position until June 2002.

In the fall of 2002 he began teaching at Pennsbury High School; in 2007 he was named an Assistant Principal at Pennsbury High School. In 2010 Paul was promoted to Principal of William Penn Middle School where he remained until his appointment to Neshaminy in June.



Paul Meehan

Mr. Meehan earned his undergraduate degree from Widener University; he has a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance and Business Management, and an Associates Certificate in Human Resource Management. He obtained a Masters degree in Secondary School Administration and a Certification in Business Education from Gwynedd Mercy College.

Paul is married to his wife Michelle who is a teacher in the Pennsbury School district, Paul and Michelle have three boys Kieran (12), Ryan (9), and Gavin (8) all three proudly are students of the Neshaminy School District.

### Additional Administration Appointments

**Brian Kern**, former principal at Oliver Heckman Elementary School, has been appointed Principal at Pearl S. Buck Elementary School, replacing Stephanie Miguez, who is returning to classroom teaching in the District.

Former Everitt Elementary School Principal **Andre Modica** took over as Assistant Principal for 5th and 6th grade at Maple Point Middle School. He is joined by **Nicole Zuerblis**, who has been appointed Acting Assistant Principal for 7th and 8th grade at Maple Point. Ms. Zuerblis previously served as an Academic Coach and administrator in the Curriculum & Instruction Department

**Troy Bodolus** takes over as Acting Principal at Oliver Heckman Elementary School after serving as Assistant Principal at Maple Point Middle School.

**David Geanette** has been appointed Supervisor of Arts, Humanities & Business Development K-12. He most recently served as Director of STEM programs for the District.

## CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

### New initiatives debut in 2015

#### 5-8 update

The intensive and comprehensive planning of the 5-8 Study Work Group was completed in April. This group will continue to meet quarterly this year to assist with monitoring overall implementation efforts. A formal program evaluation will be conducted by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit, with reports of implementation progress provided at 3, 6, and 12 months after students return in September. These reports will identify any needed adjustments to the program, and will be conducted at no cost to the District.

The 5-8 Study Work Group worked tirelessly to consider 35 recommendations they made to the Board of School Directors. Of those 35, 31 were adopted for implementation, one was rejected, and three were modified.

Three recommendations that were modified include offering a traditional world language program in French and Spanish for one full year in 8th grade, adding a daily 'Whatever I Need' (WIN) period for 5th grade, and hiring an additional counselor at each middle school.



Maple Point orientation

The FLES Symtalk foreign language program will be part of the fifth grade curriculum, taught during the English Arts Literacy block, during morning meetings or during the WIN period. In response to parent concerns about the loss of a recess period, fifth-grade students will be offered a 15-20 minute break from academics each day, normally before or after lunch. Activities for this break will vary by season.

Students entering both fifth and sixth grade visited their middle schools in the spring, took tours, met administrators, teachers and current students at the school. Parents were also invited to evening Q&A sessions at each middle school in March and April.

#### 1:1 iPad Technology Program

The iPads have arrived and preparations for implementation are well under way. Parents of fifth and sixth grade students received communication over the summer about how the program will work, student and family expectations, technology fee information and more. The District web site contains a wealth of information about the program including required forms and updates and a mission / vision statement that defines the purpose and goals of the program.

Teachers received their iPads in June, followed by professional development classes that included technical instruction as well as application and instructional information.

A group of 27 students made up of incoming 5th and 6th graders from each of the middle schools was chosen by their former elementary school principals to participate in an 'iTeam' as part of the program. These students will be 'technology ambassadors' for their classmates by providing some technical assistance and guidance.

In August, the group gathered at Maple Point Middle School and took a field trip to the Apple Store in Center City Philadelphia to tour the facility, meet the Apple 'Geniuses' and learn about customer service methodology and leadership. Once the students returned, they helped place a few of the new iPads in protective Otter Box cases and participated in role-playing activities to prepare them for their leadership roles.

Sixth-grade students will receive their new iPads in October, while roll-out for the 5th grade will be in December.



iTeam listens to Apple 'Geniuses' during their August visit

#### STEM offerings continue to grow

Annual Growth for Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Courses in the secondary schools:

- 2013-14: 90 students enrolled in three sections of Introduction to Engineering Design and two sections of Principles of Engineering
- 2014-15: 120 students enrolled in two sections of Introduction to Engineering Design, two sections of Principles of Engineering and one section of Digital Electronics
- In 2014-15, NSD introduced a PLTW course, Design and Modeling, with the Inventor Computer Assist-ed Drawing course which uses 3D printers in all three middle schools.
- 2015-16—138 students requested one section of Introduction to Engineering Design, one section of Principles of Engineering, one section of Digital Electronics, one section of Civil Engineering and Architecture and one section of Computer Science and Software Engineering. All of the engineering courses have been elevated to honors level courses. Robotics is at the honors level.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Centralized registration begins

As part of an effort to streamline the registration process and reduce paperwork and confusion, Neshaminy has changed the procedure for enrolling new students starting with the 2015-2016 school year.

Families of children new to the District or attending school for the first time can now complete much of the registration process online through the District web site ( <http://www.neshaminy.org/Page/31322>). An option to print out the needed forms and fill them out by hand is also available at that site.

Once the forms have been completed and necessary documents gathered, families must make an appointment to complete registration in person at the Central Registration Office located at the Maple Point Middle School campus in Middletown. This is a change from previous years where new families visited the school where their child would attend.

Other information for items such as the Free and Reduced Lunch program, non-resident students and Home Access instructions are also available at the same web site.

### New volunteer policy

Starting in July, 2015 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now requires all school volunteers to complete a background check before working with or around children in our schools.

Examples of volunteers who need to complete this process include:

- Classroom volunteers
- Office / library volunteers
- Home & School activity organizers
- Field trip chaperones
- Co-curricular coaches / assistants
- School musical / drama volunteers

The process for completing these checks is outlined on the District web site (<http://www.neshaminy.k12.pa.us/Page/31684>). Due to recent changes to the program made by Gov. Wolf, fees for the Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check and the Child Abuse History Clearance have been waived for school volunteers.

Volunteers who have lived outside the state any time during the past 10 years will need to get a Federal Criminal History Background Check, which costs \$27. Volunteers who work with children more than 10 hours a week also will need to have a tuberculosis test completed by their physician or a licensed clinic.

Documentation that each appropriate check has been completed must be provided to each school where a volunteer will be working. The records will be kept for five years, so volunteers do not need to send the information each year. If

their student moves to a new school (from elementary to middle school, for example) they will need to bring the information to the new school before volunteering.

### NSD staff attends tech workshop

In late June, eleven Neshaminy staff members comprised of administrators, librarians, and teachers joined nearly 16,000 educators from seventy-six countries to attend the ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) 2015 Conference at Philadelphia's Convention Center. There were several hundred workshops and poster sessions scheduled each day for participants to choose from. Each workshop varied in length from ninety minutes to six hour sessions.

The topics for these workshops were meant to meet the needs of educators at every level including leadership, professional learning, and technology infrastructure. Most of us who attended focused on professional learning workshops such as STEM Alive, Flip Your Classroom from Start to Finish, Digital Age Storytelling, and Gaming as a Formative Assessment. Our team attended far too many workshops to list them all.

### Stadium lights get an LED upgrade



Friday Night Lights will look sharper and cost a lot less to operate thanks to an upgrade performed at Harry E. Franks Stadium over the summer.

A crew from Musco Lighting, who have worked on projects ranging from the Statue of Liberty to Beaver Stadium at Penn State removed the lights and replaced them with six banks of LED lights. The new lights have already been used for scrimmages and practice.

LED lighting offers many aesthetic and operational advantages over traditional lighting as well as cost savings. According to Musco, the new

lights cut energy costs 70%-80% while providing a crisp, clean white light. Maintenance costs are lowered as the control units for the lights are closer to ground level. LED bulbs do not burn out nearly as fast as traditional stadium lights, and they are guaranteed not to fail for 10 years.

The lights are also highly focused, meaning less light 'spillover' outside the stadium area.

Neshaminy is one of the first high schools in the nation to install LED stadium lights, according to Musco.

### Summer programs a hit

The summer programs once again proved to be popular with families both in and out of the district.

In July the Neshaminy Summer Stock program, part of the





*Scene from Les Miserables (School Edition)*



*Scene from Honk! (Jr.)*

Summer Fine Arts Program, staged two musicals. The program, in its 51st year, includes students from both private and public schools from Bucks and Montgomery counties.

Students in grades 3-5 performed the musical 'Honk! (Jr.)', a take on the Ugly Duckling fairy tale. Students in grades 6-12 staged a spectacular production of 'Les Miserables' (School Edition) for 5 well-attended performances at Neshaminy HS.

The Neshaminy Summer STEM Academy added new workshops this year, including Camp Invention, a national program sponsored by the US Trademark and Patent Office. Students in each workshop worked with robotics, computer programming, electronics, and other technology through problem-solving projects and competitions.



Also at Neshaminy High School, over 100 students took advantage of the free Jump Start Summer Enrichment program. Courses in a variety of subjects, including math, science and English were offered to introduce students to the subjects they will be studying during the school year, enhancing and accelerating their learning.

## Rotary honors NHS Interact Club

The Neshaminy High School Interact Club received a Presidential Citation from Rotary Deputy Governor Joseph Krug during one of their weekly meetings in July. Core members Dana McCabe, Emma Stewart and advisor Suzi Drake were on hand to accept the citation. McCabe and Stewart also brought the club up to date about upcoming initiatives, including the 'Show Your Socks' raising funds for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House and Day 1 for the Tyler Clementi Organization.

## Neshaminy Education Foundation

The Neshaminy Education Foundation is once again planning fund-raisers for the upcoming school year to support grant programs and scholarships. Last year the Foundation awarded five scholarships to NHS students as well as 10 grants for educational materials to teachers throughout the District.

On the heels of the successful Bertucci's Dining for Dollars event held in May, NEF is once again inviting all District families to come out on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 8-9 for a Back-to-School Dining event at the Bertucci's location next to the Oxford Valley Mall. The restaurant is generously donating 15% of all sales to the foundation, for both lunch dinner, take-out or dine-in. A coupon must be presented to enable the donation; these are available on the NSD web site and will also be available at the restaurant during the event from NEF volunteers.

The Foundation meets once a month at Maple Point and invites community members to join or just attend. Members of the Foundation are also reaching out to local business owners to encourage donations, partnerships and sponsorship opportunities. If you are a local business owner and would like more information about the Foundation and the opportunities to support Neshaminy students and educators, please contact them through their web site, [www.neshaminy.org/nef](http://www.neshaminy.org/nef).



## RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Major renovation projects at three District schools are proceeding on schedule, and contractors that have been busy all summer are expected to complete the vast majority of work by the time teachers return to their classrooms to prepare for the new school year. Students at Sandburg Middle School, Schweitzer Elementary School and Hoover Elementary School return to their classrooms Wednesday September 2 (5th, 6th and 9th grades) or Thursday September 3 (all grades).

The office staffs were relocated over the summer as work progressed. At Sandburg, they moved into the auditorium, which is a newer addition and did not require updating. At Schweitzer and Hoover, the staffs moved to offices at Maple Point Middle School for the summer.

Each school received energy-saving upgrades provided under the Guaranteed Energy Savings Act (GESA), a program that allows the District to reduce operating costs by installing new HVAC systems, insulation, efficient lighting and other improvements. Each of the three schools renovated this summer will have air conditioned classrooms and office areas, double-paned energy-



*Construction equipment at Schweitzer ES and Sandburg MS*



*New air conditioning unit and energy-efficient windows in the librar media center of Carl Sandburg MS*



*New energy-efficient windows and decorative stone walls at Hoover Elementary School*



*New windows at Herbert Hoover ES*

saving windows, roof improvements, new electrical and plumbing systems all designed to bring these buildings up to a modern standard of comfort and efficiency.

Building staff will enjoy the ability to control the temperature of each room within a certain range, and all building occupants will benefit from improved air circulation and ventilation. The HVAC system is controlled and monitored via a computer-controlled central system, making operation and maintenance easier and more efficient. Roof repairs made to various parts of all three buildings will also serve to conserve energy.

As windows were replaced decorative stone walls were added below the panes giving the buildings a more modern look.

The \$20.9 million project is a guaranteed program, which means the District will enjoy at least \$3 million in energy savings over 20 years once the project is complete. The renovations completed

this summer are Phase I of the project, which included the most extensive work. Phase II and III, scheduled to begin in the summer of 2016, includes renovations to Ferderbar Elementary, Poquessing Middle School, Miller Elementary and minor work at Maple Point Middle School. None of the projects will interfere with classes.

Additional work completed at Hoover, Schweitzer and Sandburg include the installation of security vestibules, which provide a 'holding area' for visitors so the office staff can better control who



*Security vestibule at Schweitzer ES.*



*Security vestibule at Carl Sandburg MS*

is entering the buildings during the school day. Vestibules will be added to other school buildings in later phases of the project.

Another project scheduled to begin in September is an upgrade to District's two pools at Sandburg and Poquessing Middle Schools. This project will include new pool pumps and filters, better ventilation, and improved lighting at each pool. Work will begin at Sandburg in the fall, then shift to Poquessing once that work is complete. The swim teams and leagues that use these pools worked out schedule changes over the summer to accommodate these projects.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tawanka Elementary School on Brownsville Road in Lower Southampton was held in June, even as crews were already busy preparing the ground for the building. Shortly after the Bucks County Intermediate Unit moved out of the old building, an asbestos abatement crew began working inside that building and a demolition team began their work taking down the old building, which dates from 1964. The demolition work progressed quickly in August, and is expected to be complete by mid-September.

A small piece of the tile mural on the front of the old building was saved for display in the new building, as well as some Native



*Photo showing old Tawanka building (foreground) and the footprint of the new building in the background. The ground under the old building will be used for athletic fields, parking and the driveway for the new building.*



American themed windows, a time capsule, and other artifacts retrieved from the building. Four trees planted as memorials were also moved and saved.

The building had been used by the Bucks County Intermediate Unit for special needs programs since it closed in 2002. Those operations moved to leased space at Everitt Elementary School.

By late August crews were busy placing concrete footers for the new building, which will keep the Tawanka name, and preparing the foundation for steel beams which are expected to begin rising in mid-September. The new school will cost approximately \$33 million (before state reimbursements) and will contain 40 classrooms for an estimated 810 students. Current plans call for students currently in Lower Southampton Elementary School and Oliver Heckman Elementary to attend Tawanka.

# NSD BY THE NUMBERS

## School population (as of August 18, 2015)

Pearl S. Buck Elementary.....	412
Joseph Ferderbar Elementary.....	519
Oliver Heckman Elementary.....	381
Herbert Hoover Elementary.....	572
Lower Southampton Elementary.....	411
Walter Miller Elementary.....	444
Albert Schweitzer Elmentary.....	433
Maple Point Middle School.....	1,243
Poquessing Middle School.....	763
Carl Sandburg Middle School.....	624
Neshaminy High School.....	2,489
Non-NSD facilities (Tech School, IU, etc).....	556

### Budget

\$175,651,483

Salaries and Benefits.....	\$120,849,275
Services.....	\$34,315,027
Supplies.....	\$7,000,623
Property and Equipment.....	\$2,344,676
Debt Service / Transfers.....	\$11,141,881

### Revenue

\$167,229,035

Local Receipts.....	\$125,591,507
State Receipts.....	\$42,017,580
Federal Receipts.....	\$619,948
Fund Balance Appropriation.....	\$8,023,618
Rollover Purchase Orders 2014-2015.....	\$398,831

### Staff

Certified teaching staff.....	615
Support staff.....	459
Administration.....	48

## Neshaminy HS Class of 2015

Number of graduates.....	685
Total college attendance.....	83%
Attending 4-year colleges.....	330 / 48.22%
Attending 2-year colleges.....	238 / 34.78%
Joined the Military.....	7 / 1%

## Financial report wins award

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to Neshaminy School District in August by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report (CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was also awarded to NSD Business Administrator Barb Markowitz, who was responsible for assembling the award-winning report.

The CAFR was judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive “spirit of full disclosure” to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a non-profit professional association serving approximately 17,500 government finance professionals.

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