

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
September 27, 2016

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on September 27, 2016, in the District Board Room, at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Scott E. Congdon, President
Irene Boyle, Vice President
Bob Feather
Tina Hollenbach
Mike Morris
Stephen Pirritano
Ron Rudy
Robert Sanna
Marty Sullivan

ADMINISTRATORS:

Joseph Jones III
Gloria Hancock, Ed.D.
Barbara Markowitz
Theresa Hinterberger
Anthony Devlin
Paul Meehan

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

OTHERS: Approximately 30 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call

A roll call indicated that a quorum of directors was present and the meeting was duly convened.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Mr. Congdon stated that there was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jones advised the Board on the following:

- Neshaminy District Electronic Newsletter is distributed through email and can be viewed on the district website
- Comprehensive Plan for the district is in the process of being completed
- Albert Schweitzer Elementary School was the recipient of two grants, The Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Team received a \$3,000 grant and fourth-grade student Grace Jacoby received a \$1,000 grant from the Karma for Cara Foundation
- NHS choir won Vocalosity performance
- Saturday, October 1st, is the Day Philly Remembers Walk and Run Fundraiser

Public Comment

Marc Heller, family physician, resident of Langhorne, expressed his concern about the large class sizes of the 4th grade at Pearl S. Buck Elementary School. He said the class sizes of the 4 classes is 30-31 children, which is far outside any recommended class size by the Pennsylvania State Education Association and the Great Public School Criteria for Pennsylvania. He added that neighboring school districts have average class sizes of 23-25 in the 4th grade and studies have shown that students perform better in smaller classes. Dr. Heller

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read a summary of a petition asking the Board to make this issue a top priority and take immediate action.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, asked if the parking lot issue at Tawanka has been resolved. Mr. Rodos stated that a plan for the addition to Pearl S. Buck Elementary School was never fulfilled. He agreed with the former speaker stating that class sizes are a very important issue.

Board Meeting Minutes:

1. Board Meeting Minutes for August 16, 2016.

Mr. Congdon made a motion to approve the August 16, 2016 Board minutes.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

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

Consent Agenda: Finance and Personnel:

1. Treasurer's Report - August 2016
2. Check Register - August 2016
3. Investments
4. Exonerations of Personal & Per Capita Taxes
5. Bids
6. Personnel Actions

Mr. Congdon made a motion to approve the Finance and Personnel Reports, items 1 through 6 with the amendment to the Personnel Action Report, the removal of letter I #3.

Mrs. Hollenbach seconded the motion.

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

Master Motions:

1) **Motion: Election of 2017 PSBA Officers**

Ms. Boyle read the following motion:

WHEREAS, once again, PSBA members will be following procedures for electing PSBA officers as authorized in bylaws changes approved by the membership at the 2012 annual business meeting (PSBA Bylaws, Article IV; Section 6); and

WHEREAS, each school entity will cast one vote for each officer. This will require Boards of the various school entities to come to a consensus on each candidate and cast their vote electronically during the open voting period. Each District has identified an authorized electronic voter on behalf of your school entity and Neshaminy's designated electronic voter is the Assistant Board Secretary Deborah Spadaccino; and

WHEREAS, electronic voting will be open from August 15 - October 3 and the Board needs to decide by a majority vote how to cast its votes during a Board meeting in September;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors casts their votes for the following.

President-Elect (one year term): Michael Faccinetto X Bethlehem Area School District

Vice President (one year term): David Hutchinson X State College School District

Trustee (Term ends 12/31/18): William S. LaCof X Owen J. Roberts SD-PSBA Immediate Past President

Trustee (Term ends 12/31/19): Kathy K. Swope X Lewisburg SD-PSBA President

Mark B. Miller X Centennial SC-PSBA President Elect

Trustee (Term ends 12/31/17): Marianne L. Nee X West Jefferson Hills SD-PSBA Past President

Michael Faccinetto X Bethlehem Area SD-PSBA Vice President

Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

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

2) **Motion: Restructure of Board Committees - 2016**

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

WHEREAS, the active committees of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors include the following:

- Policy
- Educational Development
- Business Operations
- Discipline
- Personnel – Certificated (NFT)
- Personnel – Administrative (NSDAA, NASA)
- Personnel – Support (NESPA)
- Ad-hoc Facilities

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the restructure of Board Committees for 2016 to be those listed above.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked for the motion to be explained to the public.

Mr. Jones explained the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated that the motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes, (Mr. Congdon, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Hollenbach, Mr. Morris, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Rudy, Mr. Sanna and Mr. Sullivan), and 1 nay, (Mr. Feather).

3) **Motion: Amended Request for Sunday Facilities Usage for Community Youth Orchestra of Bucks County**

Mr. Feather read the following motion:

WHEREAS, according to Board Policy #800, Facilities/Fields may not be scheduled on Sundays without School Board approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the amended Sunday usage for the following event:

- Community Youth Orchestra of Bucks County – Spring Concert – Wednesday, March 29; Thursday, March 30; Friday, March 31; Saturday, April 1; and Sunday, April 2, 2017 at the Maple Point Middle School

Mr. Rudy seconded the motion.

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

4) **Motion: Contract to Purchase Meals for the 2016-2017 School Year**

Mrs. Hollenbach read the following motion:

WHEREAS, The Bucks County Intermediate Unit has rented Lower Southampton Elementary School and part of Everitt Elementary School for their Head Start Programs; and

WHEREAS, The Intermediate Unit would like to purchase meals from the Neshaminy Food Service Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator be authorized to execute the PDE-3086 contract upon review and approval of the Board Solicitor.

Mr. Sanna seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated that the motion passed by a vote of 8 ayes, (Mr. Congdon, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Hollenbach, Mr. Morris, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Rudy, Mr. Sanna and Mr. Sullivan), and 1 nay, (Mr. Feather).

5) **Motion: Approval of Overnight Trip Request**

Mr. Morris read the following motion:

WHEREAS, 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 trip to the PA State Student Thespian Conference, York, PA – December 1 – 4, 2016.

Mr. Feather seconded the motion.

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

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

Marc Heller, family physician, resident of Langhorne, read many comments from parents regarding the class size of the 4th grade classes at Pearl S. Buck demonstrating how important this matter is to the parents and students of Pearl S. Buck as well as throughout the district.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, asked Mrs. Markowitz if the personal and per capita tax exonerations are currently larger than in previous years. Mr. Rodos also suggested that an interesting field trip for students would be to tour the Sculpture Garden on Street Road in Southampton.

A Neshaminy parent said that class sizes over 30 students is extremely excessive and he urged the Board to reduce the class sizes as soon as possible.

Board Comment

Mr. Morris said that the Board is committed to addressing the class size issue. He said at this time it is a financial issue and it will be dealt with eventually.

Ms. Boyle said the matter was brought up at the Policy Committee meeting and the decision was postponed until the 10 day school in service point was reached. At that time, it was referred to the Finance and Facilities Committee on whether the funds were available to hire additional teachers and it was concluded that no action can be taken at this time.

Mr. Jones affirmed that the issue is not just at Pearl S. Buck School, but rather it is district wide. He said the issue will be factored in to the long term planning, which will be dealt with going forward; however, it cannot be resolved during this school year.

Mr. Congdon stated that, ideally, he would love to have every class size at 20 students, but it is not possible at this time. He said there are other issues that must be resolved and class size is only one out of many. Mr. Congdon advised the public that there are many dynamics that are involved in class sizing and it is more complex than many people realize. He assured that it will be looked at going forward.

Mr. Sullivan said he can appreciate the public's concerns because he has a fourth grader at Pearl S. Buck and all parents want to see smaller class sizes. He said, however, the time to determine class sizes is before school starts and not after the fact, because it can be too disruptive to change afterward. He advised the public to attend the Finance and Facilities Committee meetings because this is where the matter will be settled for next year and going forward as the Board builds the new budget.

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Mrs. Markowitz said that the personal and per capita exoneration report is larger this time of year because that is when the tax bills go out in July. She said she will check the previous year's report.

Adjournment

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Rudy seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Condon adjourned the meeting at 7:49m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary

Voting Receipt - 2017 PSBA Officers and PSBA Insurance Trust

Receipt code: **M6F7**

Time of vote: **2016-09-28 08:33:00 US/Eastern**

IP address: **199.231.179.197**

PSBA Officer Elections**Voting Procedure**

President-Elect: **Michael Faccinetto***

Vice President: **David Hutchinson***

Central At Large (three-year term)

PSBA Insurance Trust Trustees

Trustees: **William S. LaCoff (term ends Dec. 31, 2018)**

Kathy K. Swope (term ends Dec. 31, 2019)

Mark B. Miller (term ends Dec. 31, 2019)

Marianne L. Neel (term ends Dec. 31, 2017)

Michael Faccinetto (term ends Dec. 31, 2017)