

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
September 13, 2016

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on September 13, 2016 in the District Offices Board Room at the 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
Ron Rudy
Stephen Pirritano
Robert Sanna
Marty Sullivan

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: John Torrente, Esquire

1. Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

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

4. Announcements

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

5. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Jones advised the Board on the following:

- Welcome back to school video on Neshaminy website
- Ribbon cutting ceremony for Tawanka
- September 11th remembrances
- Neshaminy High School will be hosting the 4th Annual "The Day We Remember" 5K Walk & Run this year on Saturday, October 1, from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. at the Harry E. Franks Stadium. This is a benefit for the Barkann Family Healing Hearts Foundation
- October 8th Neshaminy Cheerleaders holding a Color Race
- Football team 2-0
- Girls tennis team won in Cape May
- Boys Soccer 2-0
- Girls Soccer 3-0
- Rusty Kujdych ran 15:26 in cross-country which was the fastest time in Pennsylvania
- Introduced new facility members:
 - Chelsea Alexander - Spanish, Neshaminy High School
 - Sharon DeFonteny - Business, Sandburg Middle School
 - Kelli Irwin - Spanish, Neshaminy High School
 - Dianna McDonough - Special Education, Miller Elementary
 - Stephen Ricci - Special Education, Hoover Elementary
 - Christina Savage - Counselor, Neshaminy High School
 - Chelsea Alexander, Kelli Irwin, and Christina Savage all introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their jobs

6. Public Comment

Elaine Shubin, parent, resident of Langhorne, commented that the class sizes of the 4th grade at Pearl S. Buck Elementary and Tawanka Elementary Schools are too large. She asked the Board, community, administrators and educators to open a dialog about lowering class size. Mrs. Shubin concluded by saying this is an important issue and any delay in resolving it would be irresponsible.

Robin Beerhalter, parent, resident of Southampton, expressed concern about the high call out rate of the district's bus drivers resulting in late pickups and drop offs. Ms. Beerhalter said this is a managerial issue due to low morale and a lack of commitment on the part of the drivers and she wonders if the problems stem from using contracted bus drivers. Ms. Beerhalter stated that this problem results in a negative impact on the children academically because they are missing valuable time in school.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, stated that the citizens group recommended an addition to Pearl Buck, which many residents would have been satisfied with. Mr. Rodos brought up the issue of busing and reviewed the transportation line items of busing over the past several years. He also stated that the state hasn't done their job regarding the issue, but Neshaminy also has to do a better job.

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

a) **Election of PSBA Officers for 2017**

b) **Restructure of Board Committees - 2016**

c) **Amended request for Sunday Facilities Usage from the Community Youth Orchestra of Bucks County**

d) **Contract with BCIU #22 for Food Services to the Head Start Program/BCIU at Lower Southampton/BCIU #22**

e) **Overnight Trip Request - Neshaminy High School - PA State Student Thespian Conference, York, PA - December 1-4, 2016**

f) **Bids**

Mr. Congdon stated that items "a" through "f" will be agenda items at the September 27th, Public Board Meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a) **Board Policies**

Ms. Boyle advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 18th at 6:30 p.m.

b) **Educational Development**

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

c) **Finance/Facilities**

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 6:30 p.m.

d) **IU Board**

Ms. Boyle informed the Board that the next meeting is October 20th at 7:00 p.m.

e) **Education Foundation**

Mr. Rudy informed the Board that at the last meeting they reviewed plans for the fall fundraisers. The foundation is also completing an application to participate in the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program. Also discussed were minor wording changes to the mini grant application, which will be going out to the Neshaminy staff in October. The first fiberglass and metal Native American Themed Indian window was raffled off and additional windows will be auctioned off online to benefit the foundation during the next coming weeks.

f) **Technical School**

Mr. Morris advised the Board that the school year got off to a good start.

g) Technology

Mr. Feather advised the Board that there is no update at this time.

h) Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

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

i) Legislative

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

9. Public Comment

Deb Harker, parent, resident of Langhorne, said the dispatcher at the bus depot was unprofessional when she called to inquire about the lateness of her child's school bus. She said she was told that 10 out of 71 bus drivers called out causing havoc with the schedule. Ms. Harker asked the Board to look into the matter to determine if the higher percentage of absentee bus drivers comes from the union drivers or the outsourced drivers so the matter can be resolved.

Mark Lewis, parent, resident of Langhorne, asked the Board for an update regarding parking at the Tawanka site. He also asked if the completion of the construction work is still on track.

10. Future Topics

None

11. Board Comment

Mr. Jones advised Mr. Lewis and the public that auxiliary parking and completing the field work at Tawanka will be a topic of conversation at the next Facilities and Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Pirritano thanked all those involved in the consolidation plan and construction project for their support and hard work in accomplishing a successful undertaking.

Mr. Sullivan voiced his concern about the problems brought up about class size, parking and busing. He said these issues as well as some further school upgrades need to be addressed promptly.

Mr. Congdon acknowledged the problem with class size and assured that it will be addressed. He also stated that busing is often an ongoing issue, but progress is being made and the Board will keep a close eye on the matter. Mr. Congdon said that going forward the Ad Hoc and Facilities and Finance committees will address all issues that have been brought up. He thanked all the professionals that were involved in beginning the new school year.

12 Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary