

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

REGULAR ACTION BOARD MEETING/PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
March 7, 2016

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in Regular Action Board Meeting/Public Work Session on March 7, 2016, 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. Bob Feather
Ms. Tina Hollenbach
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Ron Rudy
Mr. Robert Sanna
Mr. Marty Sullivan

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS: Approximately 40 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Mr. Thomas Profy IV, Esquire

1. Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

None

4. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hancock advised the Board on the following:

- ❖ Three Neshaminy High School students who each achieved individual awards from outside group were honored.
 - Hunter Kelly for the regional Mini Max High School Football Award in December.
 - Kevin Sheenan for the Congress of Future and Science and Technology Leaders delegate selection in January.
 - Rachel Sufrin for the NBC10/Widener Leadership Award in February.
- ❖ Congratulations went out to Neshaminy High School Varsity Cheerleaders who won the International Title at the ESPN Wide World of Sports.
- ❖ Congratulations went out to Playwickian Editor in Chief, Tim Cho, who won a first place award for Editorial Writing at the Pennsylvania School Press Association State Competition at Penn State.
- ❖ Carl Sandburg and Maple Point's 3rd Annual Coaches versus Cancer event.
- ❖ Congratulations went out to Playwickian Junior Editors Natalie Pietrowski, Ashley Reiss, and Gauri Mangala for winning Honors in the Pennsylvania News Media Association Student Keystone Press Awards.

- ❖ Congratulations to Hoover Elementary School for their second year in being recognized by the Pennsylvania Department of Education in receiving an award for academic excellence.
- ❖ Congratulations to Carl Sandburg Middle School for their recognition by the Pennsylvania Positive Behavior Network for scoring a perfect 100 out of 100 points for an independent assessment for their Spirit Program.
- ❖ Mr. Ryan Brennan from Reynolds Construction gave an update on the Tawanka construction project.

5. Public Comment

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, commented that the Board has yet to vote to postpone the final amount owed to the state for the PSERS contribution. Mr. Rodos mentioned that he trusts that the new Board members who came to the Board opposing the consolidation, have now realized that the money saved is needed for new educational programs for the students. He also said the Board should be planning another new elementary school to be opened within the next 5 years.

Angela Clark, resident of Langhorne Manor, spoke in favor of keeping Oliver Heckman Elementary School open. She said it is not only a neighborhood school, but also an entire family unit. Ms. Clark said the closing would throw the community into chaos. She also asked the Board to advise the public what is their plan for the future of the district.

6. Items for Approval Tonight

- a) Amended Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement with Reynolds Energy Services (Amended 2)

Motion: Amended Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement with Reynolds Energy Services (Amended 2)

Mr. Congdon read the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors desires to move forward with Additional Scope Items for Phase I and Phase II of the Guaranteed Energy Savings Project; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approved the appointment of Reynolds Energy Services, Inc. to provide all the necessary services including construction upgrades related to energy efficient measures at Albert Schweitzer Elementary School, Herbert Hoover Elementary School, and Carl Sandburg Middle School (Phase I); and Carl Sandburg Middle School – Pool Only, Joseph Ferderbar Elementary School, and Poquessing Middle School (Phases II); and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves Reynolds Energy Services, Inc. to provide all necessary services including construction upgrades related to energy efficiency and scope additions at Albert Schweitzer Elementary School, Herbert Hoover Elementary School, and Carl Sandburg Middle School (Phase I); and Carl Sandburg Middle School – Pool Only, Poquessing Middle School and Joseph Ferderbar Elementary School (Phase II); and

WHEREAS, the Amendment 2 scope additions to Phases I and II will be provided as recommended in the presentation to the Board on February 23, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors accepted the amended proposal from Reynolds Energy Services, Inc. for Amendment 2 (Additional Scope Items to Phases I and II) in the lump sum amount of \$1,958,910, the revised contract sum shall be \$31,831,064 for Phase I and II with Additional Scope Items for Phases I and II, with energy savings guaranteed under PA Act 39, 57 and 77 guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the proper officers of the School District are authorized and directed to sign the Agreement in the form presented at this meeting, which Agreement has heretofore been reviewed and approved by the School District Solicitor and to perform or cause to be done and performed on behalf of the School District any and all actions or things as may be necessary in connection with the Agreement in order to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION adopted this 7th day of March, 2016.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: _____
Scott E. Congdon, Board President

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call and the tally indicated that the motion passed by a vote of 6 (ayes), (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Hollenbach, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Sanna, and Mr. Sullivan) and 3 (nays), (Mr. Feather, Mr. Morris and Mr. Rudy.)

7. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Congdon made a motion to adjourn the Regular Action Board Meeting and Mrs. Hollenbach seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Items for Approval at the March 22nd Public Board Meeting

- a) Summer Programs 2016
- b) Acceptance of the 2014 - 2015 Audit Report
- c) Bids/Budget Transfers

Mr. Congdon stated that items, a, b, and c will be agenda items at the March 22nd Public Board Meeting.

Mr. Sullivan requested that someone from the Auditing Firm be present for any questions that may arise.

4. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

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

b) Educational Development

Ms. Boyle informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for March 29th, at 6:30 p.m.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for April 18th. Discussions will include refinancing bonds.

d) IU Board

Ms. Boyle informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for March 8th at 7:00 p.m.

e) Education Foundation

Mr. Rudy informed the Board that he was unable to attend the last meeting but will have an update at the next work session meeting.

f) Technical School

Mr. Morris advised the Board that they approved new employment, budget transfers, and Summer

Programs.

g) Technology

Mr. Feather advised the Board that the last meeting was February 18th, and they discussed the continued one to one roll out and decided that they would stay with just the fifth grade next year. They also discussed doing a pilot in the elementary schools, staffing needs and infrastructure.

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 there is a tentative meeting set up with Mr. Farry in two weeks.

5. Public Comment

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, asked if the audit report will be posted online prior to the next meeting so the public can familiarize themselves with the details.

Mr. Congdon responded that the Board has to vote on the report before it will be posted.

Ed Kern, retired, resident of Langhorne, expressed concern over the suggestion of the district building another new elementary school in the near future. He asked for more details about this proposal, specifically, how the district will pay for such an undertaking and what are the future plans.

6. Future Topics

None

7. Board Comment

Mr. Rudy replied that according to the Bond Counsel, for Neshaminy to incur any more debt (for new construction) it would be necessary to put the issue out for referendum. He said he seriously doubts that a referendum would pass considering the climate of the community; therefore, he does not think another new school is in the near future.

Mr. Morris said Neshaminy does not have the money for a new school, so it would be the taxpayers that would be affected. Mr. Morris said he fears if Heckman is not closed, then another school in the Levittown area will be closed in order to save money.

Mr. Sullivan said the bond experts will be at the April 18th meeting and he highly recommends that the public attend that meeting in order to clarify any inconsistencies regarding the borrowing capabilities of the school district.

Mr. Pirritano said that everyone must be mindful of what Neshaminy's true purpose is, which is providing security for taxpayers while providing advancement for the students. He said for the consolidation plan to be profitable and to work properly, three schools must be closed. Mr. Pirritano said we have to bring the current plan to conclusion before we proceed with additional future plans. He concluded by congratulating the 3 Neshaminy students, Hunter Kelly, Kevin Sheenan, and Rachel Sufrin for their achievements.

Mr. Feather stated that the Board should still have short term and long term goals and plans even before they finish the current plan.

Mr. Sanna said he feels that the closing of neighborhood schools causes discord between the communities. He said education is important, but the Board must not forget about the wishes of the community. Mr. Sanna said the Board and community must work together and think everything through thoroughly before making any decisions.

Ms. Boyle reminded the public that if Heckman stays open the district would still face a \$7 - \$15 million expense to bring the school up to safety standards.

Mr. Congdon said the consolidation plan would not be successful without the closing of 2 more schools because the savings would not be realized. He said the facilities must be utilized wisely and this is the objective of the Board. Mr. Congdon stated that he does see new schools in the future for Neshaminy. He said our borrowing ability is not exhausted; we are simply being financially responsible. He said the Ad Hoc Committee will be moving forward with new plans for the future. Mr. Congdon said if Heckman were to remain open and the district lost the \$1 million in savings, it would be a tremendous loss of educational programs that \$1 million could accomplish.

8. 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 8:22 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary