

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
April 14, 2009

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on April 14, 2009, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Vice-President
Mr. Joseph Blasch
Ms. Irene M. Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Richard M. Eccles
Mr. Frank J. Koziol
Mr. William D. O'Connor
Dr. William H. Spitz

ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mrs. Patricia Boylan
Dr. Geeta A. Heble
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

OTHERS: Approximately 65 persons from the public, staff and press

Prior to the start of the meeting the Board held an Executive Session from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m. at which time Personnel issues were discussed.

1. Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

Mr. Webb requested the Board to allow a change in the agenda and have the High School Construction Update takes place due to Mr. Spahr having another engagement this evening.

Mr. Damion Spahr from Reynolds Construction provided the following presentation:

- Unit D Science Wing is tracking for completion with turnover to the District next month.
- Unit B Administration Wing is also tracking for completion at the same time.
- Unit C Renovation/Addition which is Family/Consumer Science and Band area is tracking for late summer turnover for use in September, 2009.
- Demolition at the lower Wing F will begin in early June and remainder will occur at the beginning of the school year and final site work will take place.
- February report shows approximately \$123,000 remaining in the contingency.
- The current report has approximately an additional \$15,000 exposure.
- Discussions are about to occur between the District and Township regarding the final land development issues.
- Safety concerns are the highest priority and any other concerns need to be equitable for taxpayers.
- Parking area regarding impervious surface and amount of usage.

- Fire Marshall concerns being handled and an answer is due back from the state by the middle of the month regarding certain variances.

4. Public Comment

Mrs. Dolores Walther, Langhorne, PA, advised that she is a parent of two Neshaminy students. Mrs. Walther stated that these are challenging economic times and the Board work is arduous to say the least. Mrs. Walther would like the Board not only to focus on the district's balance sheets but to give serious consideration to all of the ramifications of programmatic decisions that the Board is contemplating. The caliber of education cannot be eroded because of economic considerations because this will bankrupt our students and their futures but it will also affect economic recovery in property values as people contemplate this community as a residence. Small learning communities were researched in Pedagogy are ethical. Buildings at or near capacity make it very difficult to establish small learning communities. Students cannot flourish in this type of environment. Additional behavioral and social problems will occur. Lack of connection with faculty and diluting the educational content of the programs which are offered to the students. The Board should attend athletic events, savor the splendor of the visual arts in the hallways of the schools, attend a concert at any grade level or dramatic performance. Mrs. Walther challenged the Board to investigate when the data analysis is performed the disaggregated scores of students who use the instructional opportunity period at the middle school level for enrichment activities such as participating in a music ensemble or working on a piece of art, etc. These are a subgroup of performers who are high achievers. If those opportunities are taken away you will need to provide additional remedial services. Mrs. Walther stated that the school must challenge its learners and be competitive in the global 21st Century market place. The unresolved contract situation is an issue and the teachers are entitled to fair compensation, but to the teachers they should reflect briefly on the common public perception that this is a disproportionate sense of entitlement. Mrs. Walther pleads that both sides go to the table, conduct negotiations, come to a resolution because if the situation continues it will become publicly acrimonious and the people who will lose are the students.

Mr. Richard Sypek, Langhorne, PA, a retired chemical engineer, looked back at some of the history of the Board from back in 2000. Since 2000 the enrollment has gone down by 12%. This budget has increased by 48%. The cost per pupil in the year 2000 was \$10,400. The cost per pupil in 2009 is over \$18,000 which is about an 80% increase. There is no correlation between the cost per pupil and the quality of education. Mr. Sypek is concerned that the Board cannot accept anything less than a zero budget increase. Any property increase is a disservice to the home owner. Mr. Sypek discussed the press release regarding the Administrators which reflects approximately a savings of \$5,000 per person. If the teacher's union agreed to the same type of contract the district would save approximately \$6.2M which is less than half of the \$14M deficit. The gap needs to be cut. The Board needs to establish a budget for future years. Mr. Sypek looked at the mission statement, vision and strategic plans which were updated in February, 2008. Neshaminy needs to establish a long term goal for budgets and where the district is going. Taxpayers and homeowners can get their houses reassessed. If the house is over-assessed the homeowner must apply for a reassessment. Taxpayers need to pay attention to the voting patterns on the Board and hold the Board accountable. Anyone who votes for anything greater than a zero percent budget increase does not deserve to sit on the Board and be re-elected.

Ms. Stephanie Catrambone, Editor in Chief of the High School Newspaper, made the Board aware of a recycling program which has been initiated at the high school, Ferderbar, Schweitzer and Hoover in the district. Recycling bins called "Paper retrievers" are distributed and the district will receive money for the amount of tonnage that is collected. Two bins will be placed at the high school at the end of the month. The bins will be in a convenient location in order that any community member can use the bins.

Mr. Jeff Jenkins, Richboro, PA, graduate of the Class of 1978, requested the naming of the auditorium at Maple Point after Harry M. Dengler, Jr. who was a former teacher of Mr. Jenkins. He was an inspiration to hundreds of students, a leader who provided and enabled students to believe they could do things they never thought they could do which was sing for a King of Sweden, sing at President's Park in Washington, D.C., sing in town hall in Remmen, Germany, be responsible for running school productions, and several

students continued on to Broadway. The sign of good leadership is that you do not care who gets the credit and that was Mr. Dengler. He was concerned about the students feeling better about themselves. He was a father figure and great man. Naming the auditorium after him would be a thrill for many students and his family. It would cost the Board absolutely nothing.

Mrs. Ann Shaffer, Langhorne, PA, is retired and stated that she does not feel it is right to shut the taxpayers out of the loop as far as the contract negotiations are concerned. We are being asked to pay the bill, but we are being told that we have no legal right to know what is going on. After the contract is signed we are told that this is the best we can do and please send us your check. Mrs. Shaffer has resided in the district for 35 years and nothing has changed. Students must pay and homeowners must pay and the union receives. Taxpayers sit at the meetings and listen. No updates are provided. The taxpayers speak to the Board, but there is no response. To date the silence is deafening from both sides. The only winner appears to be the union which continues to get away with status quo particularly with free medical insurance. There is a sense of panic because the situation must come to a close soon. Taxpayers are living on tight budgets. Adjustments must be made. Mrs. Shaffer stated that gambling money help is on the way, however that is not help to the taxpayers. The district will get \$200 from another source and the beat will go on as usual. Mrs. Shaffer feels that it is time to end the torture. Listen and get the contract signed under terms that we who need to come up with the money can live with.

Mr. Paradise noted that the gaming funds money that the district receives is turned over immediately to taxpayers. The district retains none of the money. Last year the district received \$3.5M which was divided by the exact number of homeowners in the district that qualify under the law and is given as a credit.

Mr. Frank Sosky, Langhorne, PA, discussed long term planning and the district's long term plan with regards to the teacher's contract. The Administrators have already received a 3% increase. There should be no increase because the district cannot afford same. If a five year plan would be developed you would be able to recognize the issue. Revenues will be dropping off in the upcoming years. Mr. Sosky questioned what is the total cost of a teacher within the district? What is the total package: retirement, medical, vacation, etc. Mr. Sosky would like to see more Board feedback regarding the issues.

Mr. James Erb, Middletown Township, PA, was also a student of Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Mr. Erb would like the auditorium to be named the Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Center for Performing Arts. Mr. Dengler did not just do music, he did the performing arts. Mr. Dengler was a mentor, a parent, and guider. There are other parts of buildings that were named after individuals and they are not even deceased. Mr. Erb questioned what is it that we can do to get this done to honor Mr. Dengler. This should have been done long ago while he was still alive. This is not a financial issue. On behalf of many other students Mr. Erb believes that this is long past due and let him know what he can do to get this matter taken care of.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, is a retired attorney and is registered as a per diem substitute in Council Rock, Pennsbury and Neshaminy School District. Mr. Rodos stated that the district is two and half months away from approving a budget which will drastically affect the taxpayers of Neshaminy School District. Mr. Rodos provided the following suggestions:

- Triple the senior citizen tax rebate program and include all qualified homeowners regardless of age. This would be an immediate benefit to seniors and those impacted by today's economy.
- Eliminate all non-contractual increases.
- Reduce busing expenses.
- Reduce professional services expenses.
- Instructional staff retirements of approximately 15 individuals.

Mr. Rodos stated that with these reductions the budget deficit would be down to \$4M. Mr. Rodos strongly suggests that a budget committee be established which would meet monthly. The current method is not effective. Increasing receipts could occur through full day kindergarten and charge approximately \$250 per month. This would yield a gross income of approximately \$1M which would be a \$200,000 profit for the

school district over the expenses laid out by Dr. Rattigan. Mr. Rodos urged the Board and Union to continue meeting in efforts to reach an amicable solution to the health care situation.

Mr. Larry Pastor, Langhorne, PA, requested an open forum with taxpayers so the Board and taxpayers could discuss issues. Mr. Pastor is concerned that the quality of the educational programs that Neshaminy offers remains and even though it is not at the top, it has remained competitive. Many things have changed since this dialogue was started over one year ago in terms of the budget and the economy. The Board made an offer to the union and that offer is unaffordable to the taxpayers. Pension refunding is required by law to all public workers. This will be an incredible burden on the taxpayers starting in 2012. What is an affordable proposal? Mr. Pastor brought 165 more signatures to the proposal that the Taxpayers for a Fair Neshaminy Budget have put into place. This is a request to remove the current offer that was given to the teachers, regardless of what has been put into place with the Administrators. The benefits package is much too rich and unaffordable. In this dire economic state we cannot allow a contract to be put into place like the type which was offered. The Board's offer is much too rich for the taxpayers.

Mr. Solis Basen, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, believes that the paving of the additional parking spots for athletic area at high school is only necessary five times a year. The tickets for the ball games should be increased to cover this expense in the future. Mr. Basen is concerned that the T.V. schedule for the meetings needs to be corrected. Mr. Basen is also concerned about the closing of an elementary school and nothing has been discussed regarding same.

Ms. Brianna Coffman, Langhorne, PA, is a student at Herbert Hoover Elementary School, and she and her friends do not think it would be fair to close down the music and art programs because many students are interested in those activities. Brianna's friend wants to be a Broadway singer and if the programs are eliminated she would not have the opportunity to practice.

5. Item for Final Approval

Ratification of the NSDAA Agreement

Mr. O'Connor presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association have participated in meet and discuss sessions; and

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association have accepted a proposed agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors ratify the said proposed agreement between the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association and the Neshaminy School District commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012.

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

6. Items for Discussion

a) **High School Construction Update** (Took place at beginning of meeting).

b) **Budget Development Update**

Mr. Paradise advised that in consultation with the Board, Dr. Muenker and I have agreed that they will be coming back to the Board and the community with a new proposed budget on April 28, 2009. This budget will be within the Act 1 limits. There will be absolutely something in the proposed budget for everyone not to like. Mr. Paradise advised that the district does have multi year budget discussions. At this time is it worthless for the district to develop a five year budget due to the fact that there is no contract in place with the teachers. Serious issues face the school district and country. Many

taxpayers would like it to be a zero percent budget increase. Getting it to the Act 1 guidelines would require budget cuts of over \$9M. There will be program changes, program eliminations, and service reductions from the cabinet to the custodians. There will be broad scope reductions and every part of the district will be affected.

7. Items for Approval

a) Overnight Trips

Dr. Rattigan presented the following trips for approval:

1. Maple Point Middle, Poquessing Middle and Neshaminy High School to Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center, Camp Hill, PA for the Future Problem Solving Program State Competition – April 24-25, 2009
2. Neshaminy High School Model UN Club to UNA-USA Model UN Conference – Grand Hyatt Hotel and United Nations Building – May 14-16, 2009

Dr. Rattigan advised that the Future Problem Solving students, 24 students in total, qualified for state competition which will be held on April 24-25, 2009 and this will need Board approval this evening. This trip is funded by the district since it is part of the academic enrichment curriculum.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve the Future Problem Solving Program State Competition trip on April 24-25, 2009 to Camp Hill, PA. Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

b) Dedication of Maple Point Auditorium to Harry M. Dengler, Jr.

Mr. Koutsouradis advised that the committee and public citizens have met to discuss the many attributes of Mr. Dengler. Upon recommendation of the committee it was agreed to bring same before the Board this evening and asked to vote upon same at the April 28, 2009 meeting.

Mr. O'Connor requested further information regarding same and the attributes of Mr. Dengler. Mr. Koutsouradis distributed additional information this evening.

Dr. Spitz was expecting the committee to present information to the Board and written documentation regarding same. Dr. Spitz would like to support same but requires more information.

Mr. Blasch advised that Board policies were followed as prescribed.

Mr. Koziol would like to obtain a voting record of Mr. Dengler when he was a Board member. Mr. Blasch respects Mr. Koziol requests, however, Mr. Dengler is being recognized as his job as teacher and mentor, not for his actions on the School Board.

Mr. Koziol would like to see a Wall of Honor since there are many teachers, administrators, board members, etc. who are well deserving of this type of honor.

Dr. Spitz advised that this is the individual who has been presented before the Board and this needs Board consideration at this time on its merits and regardless of any other individuals who may or may not be worthy of such a dedication.

Mr. Koziol would like the committee to provide the voting record of Mr. Dengler so that each Board member would not have to seek the information on its own.

Mrs. Cummings stated that this was brought before the Board three or four years ago. A new policy was created for this purpose. At this point no other individuals have been brought forward.

Mr. Eccles advised that Mr. Dengler was a wonderful individual and he served on the Board with Mr. Dengler for many years. The passion that some of the students are discussing is what Harry was all about. Mr. Eccles too went to Neshaminy and has that same type of passion for a number of teachers that influenced him. Mr. Eccles would also like to see some dedicated area within the district in order to honor individuals who have influenced and touched student's lives.

There were five Board members in agreement to have same placed on the agenda for the April 28, 2009.

c) **BCIU #22 Special Education Contracted Services for 2009-10**

Dr. Muenker stated that the Board received a copy of the Agreement which would be presented for Board approval on April 28th. Last years costs for Neshaminy towards the IU was \$7.5M and this year upcoming will be approximately \$7.8M. These funds serve approximately 150 students which is approximately \$52,000 per student.

d) **2009-2010 Bucks County Technical High School Budget**

Dr. Muenker advised that the Bucks County Technical High School Budget will be presented for Board approval on April 28th.

Mr. Paradise advised that it is decreased this year by approximately \$126,000 which is Neshaminy's share of same.

Mr. Koziol advised that the percentage increase of the entire budget is 2.9%. Mr. Koziol stated the following:

"At the Tech School, the support staff, the certified staff and the administrators have all accepted the realization that it was time to act like responsible citizens of our community and have accepted contracts that share in the premium payment of their medical and prescription coverages. Negotiations were swift and congenial. All of the unions and their representatives accepted the changes sweeping our nation, the inevitable, and said let's get on with getting the job done.

Also, since the employees at the Tech School, as in the past, logically arrive at their compensation levels by using an averaging of the wage increases of all the districts, sending students, they have had a different kind of pay adjustment for the year 2008-09. Since our district pays the highest wages, but has not settled it's contract, our school was taken out of that average calculation, causing an average annual wage decrease of \$300.00 a year per person.

Because of the actions of the budget committee, doing what I think was an excellent job, in removing much of the fat from the budget, and the actions of the staff, I could easily justify saying yes to this budget. For when you see responsible people make reasonable decisions in conjunction with their own paycheck it makes you want to say "good job" let's move on.

But what still exists in school budgets is the continual, ingrained, widespread, attitude that it is okay to spend money on items that are not necessary but are just neat, or to justify a purchase because of what other schools have, or buy something that is new in the market although its educational value has not been tested or just wanting alone as justification, rather than is it a necessary expense, or that it is okay to burden all of the people in the community for the desires of a few. The desires not needs of a few at the expense of all.

In these times the only acceptable budget is a ZERO increase budget.

Prior year's budgets reflect the excesses of our society, they were spawned by greed, protected by the phrases "it's for our kids" or "it's for education," and nourished by uncontrolled spending, where desires replace actual needs, and where comparing what other have becomes the rational – rather

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than what is it that we need! Those excesses are already in current school budgets and it is time to say "ENOUGH is ENOUGH!!"

Now, to some people an extra \$50,000 in computer technology and \$90,000 in extra supplies may not be much when compared to a \$20 million dollar budget, and to them I say write the check but use your own money!!

So it is because I continue to see excesses and because, in my opinion, certain budgeted future purchases are not necessary to provide an excellent education to our students, I have no other option but to act on my fiduciary responsibility and cast a no vote."

e) Sunday Field and Facility Usage Requests

Mr. Paradise advised that two requests have been received by the District for Sunday usage which must come before the Board. The Congregation Brother of Israel has requested rental of the auditorium on September 18-20 and September 27-28, 2009. The only reason it is before the Board is because it is a Sunday. The other request is from the American Red Cross of Lower Bucks County who would like usage of the football stadium at the high school on September 13th. They would be required to provide a certificate of insurance and reimburse for custodial costs.

Mr. Webb made a motion for the Congregation Brother of Israel to have facility usage on September 18-20 and September 27-28, 2009. Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Mr. Webb made a motion for the American Red Cross to have facility usage on September 13, 2009 between 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Mr. Eccles seconded the motion.

The Board approved said motion by a vote of eight ayes and zero nays. Mr. Webb abstained from the vote.

f) Approval of Revised and New Board Policies

- Revised Policy #510 – Alcohol and Other Drugs
- New Policy #131 – Participation in Public Meetings through use of Electronic Communication Equipment

Dr. Rattigan presented the above policies for Board consideration. Policy #510 was brought back before the committee due to an increase in policy violations. Language has been added to include the distribution or sale of drugs or look alike drugs. According to legal opinion, the sentence on page 3, lines 10-12 is not necessary.

Mr. Koziol brought up the issue of random testing and back on August 26th Mr. Koziol requested Central Bucks be contacted to review their plan to enforce random drug testing. Ms. Boyle advised that this was discussed at length and most of the random testing is done to students involved in activities and the parents must sign permission forms to be part of the random testing.

Dr. Muenker advised that Central Bucks has not moved forward with that policy and they are also struggling with same.

Dr. Rattigan advised that Policy #131 was discussed further in committee. The committee advised that since it is a new policy it would be kept to one Board member for one meeting during the calendar year. It can always be increased at a later time. The committee felt that a request must be made to the Board president or Superintendent in order to have the electronic equipment in place for the meeting.

Mr. Koziol stated that in the last four years that one vote has never made a difference. Mr. Koziol does not see the necessity of said policy.

Ms. Boyle stated that the committee has considered this several times. Anyone who would have liked to attend the meetings pro or con was welcome. No one has done same. The policy committee has considered same three times and this is the committee's decision. The Board can do what it pleases with same.

Mr. Eccles is concerned with the time of some of the committee meetings. Mr. Eccles questioned the solicitor as to if a Board member misses three Board meetings that member could be subject without cause for removal from the Board. Mr. Profy stated that this is correct and it is part of the School Code.

Mr. Profy stated that a Board member participating in the Board meeting would be present for that purpose and would not be considered an absence through an electronic meeting.

Mr. Eccles is also concerned about future litigation.

Mr. Profy stated that there is a Commonwealth Court opinion that a member can participate in the meeting through electronic/telephonic system, however, the one member which was participating could not be counted as a quorum. This means that five board members would need to be present at the meeting. This is spelled out in the policy. The fifth person to make the quorum cannot be the person participating by electronic/telephonic devices.

Mr. Profy stated that there is always the prospect of litigation, however, it is accepted that the quorum is established by five persons present at the meeting and that a Board member can participate through an electronic/telephonic system.

Mr. Webb is opposed to said policy due to the fact that it is easier for a Board member to cast a vote over electronic than be face to face with the public in the meeting setting.

Mr. Koutsouradis would like same put on the agenda for the end of the month in order for him to have more time to review the policy.

There was Board consensus to have same placed on the agenda at the end of the month.

g) Bids/Budget Transfers

Mr. Paradise presented the following:

Bid No. 10-01 General School Supplies

Bid Amount: \$188,226.20

Bid Description: Various classroom and office supplies for use throughout the district for the school year 2009/2010.

Mr. Paradise presented Budget Transfer (Working Copy 09-5).

The bid and Budget Transfer Report No. 09-5 (Working Copy) will be presented at the end of the month for approval.

8. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Muenker advised of the following:

- Create a task force to examine the alarming rate of increased violations in the district regarding drug and alcohol use to discuss restrictions, violations, detection, drug testing, etc. Recommendations will be sought from the committee. Our district is not unique and other districts are facing similar

challenges. Dr. Rattigan will lead the quest and progress reports will be provided along the way. Anyone interested in participating please contact the district. Dr. Spitz requested a one page summary of the numbers that have been found by the Administration.

- Pennsylvania Department of Education has approved PlanCon Part "F" which has do with Construction documents having been reviewed and approved as being requirements under the Pennsylvania School laws and a true and correct copy of said approval is attached hereto and made a part hereof. This approval authorizes the proper bidding of the project and constitutes approval for entering into contracts. (See Attachment A).
- Benefits are still occurring for the family of Officer Jones.
- April 13-14 is Peace Awareness Week with activities taking place at many of the schools, Friendship Day, Wacky Hat Day, Tye Dye Day, Happy Feet Day.
- Oliver Heckman formed Early Act Club in conjunction with Rotary – intent is service above self.
- Department of Education Art Work reception with three students participating in same.
- Newspaper in Education had local winners.
- Upcoming Events: Art Shows, Reading Champions, Book-a-Thon, Pennies for Patients.
- Bucks County Courier Times Design an Ad contest winner was Katie Smith.
- Maple Point Seventh Grade AE class participated in Newspaper in Education contest.
- FBLA students at high school participated in state competition.
- Business Technology winners from Maple Point in Newspaper in Education contest.
- Fourth Annual Neshaminy Idol Contest will take place on April 24th – proceeds from Idol will go to the March of Dimes and American Cancer Society.
- Musical Concert at high school on Thursday and Jazz Concert to be held at High School on Friday.

Mr. Eccles was not present from 8:30 p.m. till 8:36 p.m.

9. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Ms. Boyle advised that the next meeting will take place on April 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. Discussion will take place regarding PSSA testing and requirement for graduation.

b) Educational Development

Dr. Spitz advised that a meeting took place on March 25, 2009 with two major agenda items:

1. Tech Education Program

- Tech Education Program (overlap/duplication of courses with Technical School).
- Presentation by Brian Reed and discussed Tech Ed department and State standards.
- Tech Ed is part of the Science curriculum.
- Neshaminy offers about 14 Tech Ed courses at high school; Bensalem - 22; Pennsbury - 16; Centennial - 9; Bristol Twp. - 9.
- All Tech Ed courses at high school are electives.

2. Text Books

- Current budget has a text book request of \$350,000 for 2009-2010 school year.
- District wide K-5 reading program which is well over \$200,000.
- Teachers are not happy with either pilot and this could be put off for a least one year and could save the district money.
- The text book request is now down to approximately \$100,000 for this upcoming year.

Dr. Spitz advised that the next meeting is scheduled for April 23, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at the high school with discussions regarding the alternative education program.

Mrs. Cummings was not present from 8:44 p.m. until 8:47 p.m.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb advised that a budget proposal will be presented at the end of the month. Teacher contract is presently in limbo and the support staff contract negotiations will meet tomorrow night.

d) **IU Board**

Dr. Spitz advised that the last meeting took place on March 17, 2009. There was a Student Art Reception held prior to the meeting. Works of art from students all over the County were displayed. Neshaminy was represented by Claire Reardon. Dr. Spitz forwarded copies of items from Board packet to all Neshaminy Board members. Dr. Galasso is cutting costs by revamping the transportation system by planning on purchasing larger vans to replace small vans to make fewer bus runs. There will be a savings of approximately \$2.5M over the next ten years County wide.

e) **Educational Foundation**

Dr. Muenker advised that the foundation continues to meet on a regular basis. Basket of Cheer is being raffled which is in the form of Phillies specialties and tickets. \$1600 was raised.

f) **Technical School**

Mr. Koutsouradis advised that the next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Koziol advised that children's dental program will take place in conjunction with Temple University at the Tech School. Painters union is going to paint the lunch room for free and congratulations are in order.

g) **Technology**

Mr. Blasch advised that a meeting took place and discussion took place regarding students using their own laptops in school. Teachers are interested in using technology in classrooms. How will it be used as an integral part of the curriculum. Energy savings of computer shut down in the evening. Next meeting date has not been set at this time.

10. **Public Comment**

Mr. Larry Pastor, Langhorne, PA, would like a summary of the Administrator's contract.

Mr. Webb stated that regarding the retirement plan – old contract allowed for Administrators who retired to keep his health insurance benefits fully paid by the district till age 65. That has been removed. The retirement plan also called for a \$27,000 cash incentive. That also was removed. The old plan was the PC-15 and currently they will have Personal Choice 20-30-70. Less expensive to district. Prescription plan 5-20, single source. \$5.00 to get prescription. The new plan is 5-30. Longevity pay was frozen. New employees will not receive same. Personal day was given back. 15% Contribution and 16% and 17% the following consecutive years. The opt out insurance was 37% of the premium and is now 25% of the premium.

Mr. Sypak, Langhorne, PA, inquired why long term budgets could not be developed using the same assumptions and look at same for longer terms.

Mrs. Nancy Zerman, Langhorne, PA stated that she has two students and it is unreasonable for people to expect a zero increase in the budget. Everything goes up in life every year. That seems impossible. Freezing salaries and cutting pensions you will loose your most talented teachers to other districts. Cutting gym, art, music, etc. are all programs that benefit children. Test scores will go down with program cuts. Property values will decline. Many people want to live and work where they grew up. This is a wonderful aspect and it should continue. Board needs to leave some of the decisions up to the teachers regarding cutting programs. Rumors regarding 35 students in a classroom are not beneficial. Closing schools means larger class sizes, less instructional time for students and student scores will decline and discipline issues will rise. If cuts are made this district will suffer, the children will suffer and property values will go down with no benefit to anyone.

11. **Future Topics**

None.

12. Agenda Development for the April 28, 2009 Public Meeting.

13. Other Board Business

Mr. Blasch advised that two losses occurred in the district, one was an Administrator's son and one support staff member lost their son. Mr. Blasch requested everyone to remember them in their thoughts and prayers.

14. Adjournment

Mr. O'Connor moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Koziol seconded same. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anita E. Walls". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'A'.

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary