

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
(WORK SESSION/PUBLIC MEETING)  
August 25, 2009

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on August 25, 2009, in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Performing Arts Center 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 R. Blasch  
Ms. Irene M. Boyle  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. William D. O'Connor  
Dr. William H. Spitz

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Mrs. Patricia Boylan  
Dr. Geeta A. Heble  
Mr. Kevin Kane  
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Mr. Richard M. Eccles  
Mr. Frank J. Koziol

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

**SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**OTHERS:** Approximately 75 persons from the public, staff and press

---

An Executive Session was held prior to the meeting with discussions regarding personnel and legal matters.

**WORK SESSION**

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

None.

4. Public Comment

Mr. Solis Basen, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, hoped that everyone had a good summer. Mr. Basen advised that the Board was going to have to pay close attention to budgetary items and expenses which are forever increasing. Consideration needs to be taken in regards to the senior citizens in the area who just got notice that Social Security will remain the same with no cost of living increase plus the fact that Medicare will be deducted. Seniors will have a net loss every month and the same thing holds true for everyone else. Mr. Basen wished everyone a good year.

Mrs. Mindy Anderson, Twin Oaks, Levittown, PA, is an employee of Neshaminy School District as a Secretary for over twenty years. Mrs. Anderson is the president of the Neshaminy Support Staff and President of the Pennsylvania State Education Association Mideastern Division Support Professionals which consists of Bucks and Montgomery Counties representing 6,400 support staff members. Neshaminy Support Staff consists of over 500 members which include, bus drivers, food service, custodial, secretarial, maintenance, and aides. Our jobs are being threatened to be subcontracted out to companies for profit. We are the homeowners, taxpayers and community supporters of our Neshaminy Schools. Mrs. Anderson advised that

August 25, 2009

---

they are here tonight to inform the public of the threat of the loss of over 200 community jobs to outside companies. They have been working without a contract since July 1<sup>st</sup>, but the schools will be ready to open even with the threat of losing our jobs, because this is our home and we care about the children who attend our schools.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, is retired and also a substitute teacher at Neshaminy High School. Mr. Rodos urged the Board to address those items earlier rather than later. Don't come in January, February, and March and state it is imperative to close a school. Place this on the agenda early and follow the input from the people and do what needs to be done in the proper method. Mr. Rodos is personally against closing elementary schools. Most of the studies show that when an elementary school is closed, the fair market value of real estate in the neighborhood goes down approximately 9%. Due to the poor acoustics in the auditorium, Mr. Rodos would suggest that the meetings be moved to the high school which has state of the art equipment and smaller auditorium. Mr. Rodos urged the Board not to put community people out of work. Specifically, the maintenance and support people who care about the district as much, if not more, than anyone else. These people are the backbone of the school district and are the homeowners within the district. Think about them as much as you thought about the seniors last year.

#### 5. Items for Discussion

##### a) High School Construction Update

- Reynolds Construction Presentation – Mr. Damion Spahr  
Mr. Spahr provided the following update:
  - Freshman arrive on Tuesday
  - Bus wing will be open the following week
  - Schedules have been met
  - \$45,000-\$50,000 set aside within the construction contingency to address open matters regarding safety issues and land development plan
  - Meeting took place on August 18<sup>th</sup> with the Township and a Planning Commission meeting will be held on September 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mr. Blasch inquired regarding the bus wing and Mr. Spahr reported that they will be functional on September 8<sup>th</sup>. The reason for the timing is to allow the asphalt a curing period.

Dr. Muenker advised that Dr. McGee has already shared the plan during orientation with the parents and it is noted on the website.

Mr. O'Connor raised concerns if there was inclement weather during this time period. Dr. Muenker assured Mr. O'Connor that the situation is being handled.

Mrs. Cummings inquired regarding students who would be driving to school. Drivers will remain in their typical spots in the back and front of building.

Dr. McGee stated that entering in the morning the buses will come up the entry lane and turn left and drop off will occur in front of the auditorium and some will go into circle one in front of the present main office and Gym 1. Seniors will come up entry drive and turn right and go towards the back parking lot.

Dr. Spitz inquired regarding the monthly report for May which does not contain an Executive Summary. Mr. Spahr apologized and stated that it was an oversight and copies will be provided. Contingency remaining for June and July, 2009 is about \$45,000.

Mr. O'Connor questioned the fire safety and fire alarms and fire doors. Has testing been completed and address these issues. Mr. Spahr advised that testing has occurred in the presence of contractors and township officials in order to receive certificates of occupancy. Temporary certificates may have been obtained for certain areas, however, they are addressed and the Township returns for a final inspection.

Mr. O'Connor asked whether there were concerns about adequate water pressure, etc. Mr. Spahr has not heard any concerns about water pressure.

Mr. O'Connor inquired regarding warranties, equipment, etc. Mr. Spahr stated that all warranties are in place and selling back is not productive and negligent and would not be recommended by Reynolds or ATS&R.

6. Items for Approval

a) Overnight Trips

- i. Neshaminy High School Cheerleading Competition – Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL -- March 11-15, 2010
- ii. Neshaminy High School Instrumental Music Department Trip to Orlando, FL/Bahamas Cruise – May 12-18, 2010

Dr. Rattigan presented the above trips for the Board's consideration at no cost to the district because the groups will perform fund raising activities.

There was Board consensus for said trips.

b) New Bank Account with Citizens Bank (Acct. #6224819029)

Dr. Muenker advised that motions will be presented later in the evening for four new bank accounts for the Board's approval. Dr. Muenker further advised that there will be two motions for the approval of the contracts for the confidential secretary group and the Neshaminy Administrative Support Association.

c) New Bank Account with Citizens Bank (Acct. #6223508909)

(See above)

d) New Bank Account with PNC Bank for Easy Procurement Card Program

(See above)

e) New Bank Account with PSDLAF for Easy Procurement Card Program (Acct. #1730042546)

(See above)

7. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Muenker advised that two successful orientation programs took place for the grade ten students. Grade nine orientation will take place on Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 11:00. The high school will start staggered with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade starting Tuesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> and grades 9-12 on Wednesday.

Middle School orientation will take place on Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

High School sports programs are underway, including band and cheerleading.

Dr. Muenker thanked the support staff for getting all the buildings ready for the opening of school. An excellent job has been done.

Student Assistance Program has been in place since 1987 and updates have been occurring and helping students reduce barriers to academic success, behavioral, health and attendance. Any referrals are welcome to this valuable program.

Dr. Muenker congratulated the Business Department from the Association of School Business Officials, specifically, Mr. Paradise and Mrs. Markowitz. Recognition is given to the fine achievement in financial reporting.

Dr. Muenker advised that Mr. Paradise is recuperating well and will be back into the fold sometime in September.

Mrs. Markowitz sent out real estate bills and noted that a printing error has occurred. Delinquent taxes should read that they are due December 31, 2009.

Family Consumer Science Department awarded scholarships to graduating seniors attending culinary school and the two recipients were Steven Nagel and Lauren Queen.

Business Taxes are due on September 1, 2009. Businesses are required to file Mercantile Tax Return and Business Privilege Tax Return. Questions should be directed to Berkheimer Associates.

8. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Ms. Boyle advised that updates will be made to the Search and Seizure Policy and looking at policy changes recommended by the Policy Violation Task Force. Date for said meeting has not been selected.

b) Educational Development

Dr. Spitz advised that meetings will take place on Mondays and the first meeting will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Agenda is to be determined.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb advised that a meeting date has not been set as of yet.

d) IU Board

Dr. Spitz advised that a meeting will be held in September.

e) Education Foundation

Dr. Muenker stated that a meeting is set for September 14<sup>th</sup>.

f) Technical School

Mr. Koutsouradis advised that a meeting took place last night with discussions regarding the new website and voice mail system.

g) Technology

Mr. Blasch advised that no meeting is set for September. A key personnel member was lost over the summer and the technology director has been very busy getting ready for the school year.

9. Future Topics

None.

10. Agenda Development for the August 25, 2009 Public Meeting

11. Other Board Business

Mr. O'Connor stated that the prior facilities study suggested that the elementary buildings were underutilized and Mr. O'Connor recommends that an ad hoc committee to obtain and analyze updated data to see if this is true. Mr. O'Connor wants to get a start on the procedure and form the committee as soon as possible.

Mr. Webb advised that Mr. Koziol and Mr. Eccles are not present and Mr. Webb assumed that the Board would like to have one person from each region participate on this committee.

Mr. Profy stated that it is the prerogative of the Board President to designate an ad hoc committee for that purpose. Mr. Webb would do so and would ask for volunteers.

**12. Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. O'Connor moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the June 16, 2009 public meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Blasch and seconded by Mr. Koutsouradis, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 16, 2009 public meeting. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Approval of Treasurer's Report, Check Registers, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax**

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- June, 2009 and July, 2009 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register -- June, 2009 and July, 2009
- Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax - July and August 2009

Mr. O'Connor inquired regarding a check register item for movement and storage of furniture for the high school reconstruction project and whether it was a bidding item or was that done subsequent thereto. Mr. Minotti stated that it was a soft cost in the budget and said contractor is a logistics specialist who decides what needs to get moved and what type of labor and manpower is necessary for said job. Regional meetings take place and recommendations regarding specific contractors are received. Mr. Paradise and Mr. Minotti interviewed and this was the best selection for the project at hand.

Dr. Spitz moved the June, 2009 and July, 2009 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for June, 2009 and July, 2009 and the Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax for July and August 2009. Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said items. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Certified and Support Personnel Reports**

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Addendum to Certified and Support Personnel Report

Dr. Muenker advised that the Board should also refer to the Addendum to allow for additional personnel to fill additional vacancies.

Mr. O'Connor stated that in year's past he has been critical of the processes used in Neshaminy. Dr. Muenker has been very informative regarding the interview process, scoring matrix, interview teams, etc. This has given the Board great confidence that this process was going to be above board. The best candidates for the positions have been chosen. Mr. O'Connor thanked Dr. Muenker and his cabinet.

Mr. O'Connor moved the Certified and Support Personnel Actions and Addendum to Certified and Support Personnel Report be approved. Mr. Blasch seconded same.

The Board unanimously approved same. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

August 25, 2009

---

Dr. Muenker introduced and welcomed the following:

- Ms. Kathleen Brewster, Principal at Schweitzer
- Ms. Lynn Knotts, Assistant Principal at High School
- Mrs. Lisa Pennington, Assistant Principal at High School
- Mr. Anthony Rybarczk, Principal at Hoover
- Dr. Charles D'Alfonso, Principal at Lower Southampton

**Motion: Approval of New Bank Account with Citizens Bank**

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors approve all bank accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the establishment of a Municipal Money Market Account with Citizens Bank in the name of Neshaminy School District, Account No. 6224819029.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Motion: Approval of New Bank Account with Citizens Bank**

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors approve all bank accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the establishment of a Municipal Money Market Account with Citizens Bank in the name of Neshaminy School District, Account No. 6223508909.

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Motion: Approval of New Bank Account with PNC Bank**

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors approve all bank accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the establishment of an Easy Procure Account with PNC Bank in the name of Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Motion: Approval of New Bank Account with PSDLAF**

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors approve all bank accounts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the establishment of an Easy Procure LAF Account with PSDLAF/PNC Bank in the name of Neshaminy School District, Account No 1730042546.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Motion: Ratification of Agreement Between the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Confidential Secretaries**

Mr. Koutsouradis presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Confidential Secretaries have participated in meet and discuss sessions; and

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Confidential Secretaries have accepted a proposed agreement.

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

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

Mr. Webb commented that this is a very good agreement and is very pleased that the secretaries and NASA has agreed to the Board's proposal. They have accepted the 15% payment on insurance, they have taken the change in the health plan from the current PC15 to Blue Cross 20/30/70 Plan and they have given up retirement benefits and they have reduced their opt out and there will be no double dipping. It is a very unselfish act upon their part, because some of them will be giving back. They care about the students and the community.

**Motion: Ratification of Agreement Between the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy Administrative Support Association**

Mr. O'Connor presented the following motion:

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

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy Administrative Support 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 Administrative Support Association and the Neshaminy School District commencing July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2012.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles and Mr. Koziol were not present.

**Federal Programs**

Dr. Muenker advised that Mr. Kane will monitor the federal programs for the upcoming year.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Marvin Dickler, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, stated that he is a frequent visitor to the meetings and he was surprised that the meeting was held in the auditorium and then to see the disrepair of the front curtain under the stage. Mr. Dickler noted that this meeting is on T.V. and this is not a destitute community.

Mrs. Mindy Anderson, Twin Oaks, Levittown, PA, Secretary, Neshaminy School District, provided to the Board Petitions that have been signed by the community to save the support staff jobs. Approximately 200 names appear and more will be forthcoming.

Board Comment

None.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. O'Connor moved the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Boyle seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita E. Walls". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Anita" being more prominent.

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary