

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
June 16, 2009

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 16, 2009, in the Auditorium in 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. Richard M. Eccles
Mr. Frank J. Koziol
Mr. William D. O'Connor
Dr. William H. Spitz

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

OTHERS: Approximately 350 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

Mr. Webb announced that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held for Board members regarding personnel matters at 6:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Mr. Webb announced that the closing of pools and the pay to play will not be given consideration under the budget which will be voted upon this evening. Therefore, there will be no closing of pools and there will be no activities fees charged.

Public Comment

Ms. Cindy Bowman and Ryan Link, Feasterville, PA, represents swimming and Ryan is a student swimmer and the club has grown extensively this year. On behalf of Core swimming and the entire swimming community Ms. Bowman would like to thank the Board for supporting the program and helping the program grow as a swimming community.

Mr. Ryan Heinze (passed).
Mr. Steve Heinze (passed).
Ms. Paula Miller (passed).

Ms. Louise Boyd, Furlong, PA, President of the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers and teacher at Neshaminy High School addressed Board President, Ritchie Webb. On several occasions, including the April 28th public meeting, you stated that the Board has an open invitation to the NFT should they decide they want to talk to us to settle a contract that expired 351 days ago. On that subject Ms. Boyd stated that if you are serious about wanting to return to the bargaining table then please contact me directly. My contact information has not changed since this process began over one year ago. Stop the public posturing. The principle reason for me speaking this evening is to address the 2009 budget and its inverse affect on the education of our

students. On April 29th the District Administration recommended a budget which it acknowledged contained something for everyone to hate. Yet, it also claimed to cut \$10M while only producing minimal alterations to the educational program. The later assertion was rightly challenged by many of the Neshaminy community at the May meeting. One of those individuals who spoke so passionately and eloquently about topics such as middle school world language program was NFT Vice President, Ann Schmidt. She asked the Board if it had solicited the opinions of any of its professional staff outside the Administration. She also challenged the Board to reconcile the proposed budget with its lofty mission statement. By the end of that meeting several of the Board members seemed to clearly understand that the few local speakers at these meetings do not speak for the entire community. Then at the June 2nd Work Session the District's Business Administrator, Mr. Paradise, reported on 11 budget items for which the Board had asked for estimates of savings. These items included, but were not limited to the elimination of elementary school counselors, elementary school librarians, reading specialists, middle school IOP, District's Alternative Program, and Middle School Athletics.

These program cuts would be in addition to the deep program and staffing cuts that have already been proposed. Not only would these further cuts diminish the quality of education and program delivery by eliminating jobs of countless number of dedicated employees, many of whom live in the district, they lack any serious financial consideration. Despite Board member, Mr. Koziol's, sarcastic comment recently made about the district no longer being able to serve as the "good ship lolly pop" the Board is already posed to adopt a final budget that yields an average tax increase that is less than what homeowners are to expect under the clearly defined Homestead Rebate Act. In conclusion, Ms. Boyd wanted to remind the Board that unlike the final budget document that was proposed in April, these additional 11 cuts are not being recommended by the Central Administration. Ms. Boyd would also like to remind the Board members of several statements that were made in May. Mr. Eccles stated that any program affected by budget cuts is unacceptable. Mr. Koziol stated that Mr. Paradise and Dr. Muenker told us what to do in prior budget years and we did not do it, we have to stand up and do what is right and follow these men's suggestions. Dr. Spitz stated that none of us like to make cuts in education programs and I hope that the final budget that is passed in June will not have some of the educational impact that is in this budget. Mr. Blasch stated that I hope that when we do vote on the final budget that it won't have as much of an impact on the educational programs. Mr. Webb stated that I am going to roger what everyone else said. These cuts will truly bring to fruition Mr. Eccles comment at the August Board meeting when he declared that Neshaminy was experiencing its darkest day.

Mr. Dan Gallagher, Levittown, PA, the community aquatics director for Neshaminy School District thanked those responsible for keeping us in business so the teachers can teach swimming and the swimmers can swim and that the program can continue to teach swimming to the community. Thank you!

Mrs. Anna Marie Miller, Langhorne, PA, resident of 19 years and raising two children, one in elementary school and one in middle school. Both public and private schools have been used by the children. The community of Middletown township from the prospective of a parent raising children within the community. Mrs. Miller has a prospective of two middle schools within the district. She has met various staff from Maple Point Middle School. Exceptional teachers are serving our children and the district ranks in the top of the state in testing. The resources are superior to the private school that Mrs. Miller was using. The yearly tax bill does not begin to touch the cost of private schooling. Maple Point does have an excessive amount of students 1300-1400. The school nurse was alone most of the days this year and it is a ratio of 1000 students to one nurse. She is an exceptional woman. Performance and longevity of the staff is directly related to compensation and working conditions. There are teachers with three decades of experience changing the lives of my daughters in this district. Do not overload classrooms so that the staff feels overwhelmed. This happens during school closures. It is a good idea to compensate the teachers well because well compensated staff enjoy serving and are very productive. Cost cutting is however necessary. Maybe the district staff would consider a 1% cut if it were only to last one year and no one was laid off. Maybe savings could occur on the electric bill. Put a hold on sports equipment and teacher's early retirement. Rental of Neshaminy Middle could be put to use. Vice President Joe Biden was in Maple Point speaking this year and he stated "Education is a matter of national security."

Mrs. Claudia Wallace, Feasterville, PA (passed).

Mrs. Darlene Hauss, Langhorne, PA, stated that she is self-employed and stated that graduation was a beautiful ceremony, however, graduation should try to be held indoors in future years so there is not a last minute call at 4:00 p.m. when students need to be there are 5:15. Guests are difficult to receive communication the last minute.

Mr. Shawn Robinson, Feasterville, PA, stated that he is a Junior and member of the Neshaminy Swim team. Shawn thanked the Board for saving the pool. Shawn is now a captain and he can follow his duties as a captain. May Neshaminy Swim team have a good year this upcoming season.

Ms. Amanda Swords, Langhorne, PA (passed).

Ms. Ann Marie Swords, Langhorne, PA (passed).

Ms. Natalie Caruso, Langhorne, PA, stated that she is a member of the Core Swim team stated that the team is very proud of its efforts and work. There is a sense of pride when the members dive into the pool. This is our pool and safe haven. To the swimmers, the pool is important. Our family away from home is here and this is where we belong. Thank you for not shutting the pool and keeping the hopes and dreams of many swimmers. The pool is important to free swims and physical education, Neshaminy aquatics and lifeguards in training. The pools benefit people in many ways, such as exercise, therapy, sports and recreation.

Mr. Joseph Caruso, Langhorne, PA (passed).

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, thanked Mr. Koziol and Mr. Blasch for their hard work as Board members and work on the budget. Mr. Rodos is saddened that the discussion of school board meetings usually centers around finances and rarely about education. Start now to plan ahead. Mr. Rodos would like to see busing less people and lesser distance. Plan ahead and please do not forget that the education of 8,800 students depends on the decisions that are made each year. Please do not let the students down.

Mr. Butch McClinton, Levittown, PA, stated that if staffing cuts are made the programs will become weaker. Take away and eventually it will come falling down. Programs will become weaker. Mr. McClinton's son is studying to become a music teacher and come back to Neshaminy to teach other students music. Mr. McClinton is concerned that Council Rock and Pennsbury are more concerned about music programs and are not making cuts to same. Music is in our entire household. Think about the cuts before voting upon same. Music is a vital tool in everyone's life.

Mr. Devon Paragini (passed).

Mrs. Paragini (passed).

Mr. Larry Pastore, Laurel Oaks, PA, stated that the Board found a path to a zero tax increase. Will the Board have the courage to take it. Mr. Pastore feels that the taxpayers will be punished once again. After producing a \$14M budget deficit and a tax increase of 12.5% and in May, 2009 there were \$10M in cuts and a result of 3.6% increase. Right under the Act 1 cap of 4.1%. It is real money and it's not a game. It is financial pain to a struggling community and the unemployment rate is 8% and foreclosures are triple. Feel and understand the taxpayer anger is at an all time high at every level. There does not appear to be a strategic plan and the proof is a \$14M deficit. There is not a lot of concern about the new teacher's contract and staffing and the ongoing expense of same, public workers pension refunding, and reduced tax revenues due to foreclosures. What cuts were needed for a zero increase and there was no answer given. Mr. Pastore thinks that taxpayers should challenge a \$10M solution to a \$14M problem that we have. Eleven areas of potential cuts were identified. The June deadline would not allow for consideration of \$7M in additional budget cuts. All require analysis. Scrutiny and discussions are required and it takes time. Mr. Pastore has heard this argument over many years. Student performance and teacher performance does not demonstrate a return on investment compared to other school districts. The union contracts are the biggest problem which need to be supported. It is currently a premium contract. Mr. Pastore disagrees with the previous speaker and the vast majority of residents within the community agree. How can you in good conscience continue to burden the taxpayers of this district year in and year out. Lack of planning and fiscal skills in terms of Board management. Mr. Webb will not budge on the teacher's contract. Take the time to review the new cuts and make the tough decisions. Go into the details to have quality education at affordable levels. Union teachers and support staff need to share in the pain of this community. Mr. Pastore stated some of the comments of Mr. Koziol from the prior board meeting.

Mrs. Susan Loncosky, Langhorne, PA, stated that she has three children in the district. Please get serious with the teacher's contract and do something. Tax increases are reality and hopefully it will not be a large increase. Our district has the best teachers. An elementary school needs to be closed and if it really needs to happen, discussions need to start. Please don't cut programs. Rumors are being heard by the students. Get serious and teachers need to realize that they may have to give back. It's reality that people need to contribute towards health care. Don't take away necessary things.

Mr. Webb stated that a letter will leave his office tomorrow addressed to Ms. Boyd in order to initiate a meeting.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Muenker introduced Officer Daniel Deacon (Middletown Township Police Department) and Public Safety Director Patrick McGinty (Middletown Township). Dr. Muenker presented a plaque to Officer Daniel Deacon for his outstanding service as the D.A.R.E. Officer to Middletown Township elementary schools in the Neshaminy School District.

Dr. Muenker introduced Terri Porter, AE teacher from Maple Point Middle School. Ms. Porter and the 9th grade team of students (Future Problem Solvers) were recognized by the Board of School Directors and were given a certificate for their participation in the International Competition which was held at the University of Michigan. The students were: Corinne Donnelly, Colleen Gallagher, Brad Johnson, and Cali Nelson.

Ms. Corrine Donnelly thanked the Administration and Board for their continued support of the program.

The 11th grade Future Problems Solvers and Coach Joe Pimble were not present but Dr. Muenker acknowledged their participation. Those students were: Mark Eisen, Alex Karpa, Abbie Keating, and Allison Rotteveel.

Dr. Muenker also congratulated the Lacrosse Team for their successful season and many accomplishments.

Tawanka Learning Center received an award for volunteerism. Tawanka Learning Center collected food for the Bucks County Housing Authority community pantry.

Albert Schweitzer received a grant from Lowes to be used for horticultural studies.

Dr. Muenker commented on Graduation and congratulated everyone for their hard work and success in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of May 12 and June 2, 2009. Upon motion of Mr. Blasch and seconded by Mr. Koziol the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 12 and June 2, 2009.

Approval of Treasurer's Report, Check Register, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax –

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- May, 2009 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – May 2009
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for May and June 2009

Approval of Bids

Dr. Muenker presented the following bids. Information was presented prior to the meeting.

Bid No. 10-5 Transportation Parts Supplies

Amount: \$116,807.07

Bid Description: Various supplies for the maintenance of District vehicles for school year 2009/2010. Quantities on this bid are estimated. The actual quantities purchased may vary from this estimate but will not exceed the total recommended for award.

Bid No. 10-09 Classroom & Art Aid Supplies

June 16, 2009

Amount: \$24,059.80

Bid Description: Classroom and art supplies for the 2009/2010 school year which include: paints, drawing paper, brushes, markers, yarn, cloth, and other arts and crafts materials for classroom use.

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

The Board unanimously approved said items.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Elections – Certified Personnel
- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Elections – Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves – Certified Personnel

Dr. Muenker stated that on page 44, person #5 is withdrawing their request for sabbatical leave. The motion this evening will include employees one through four.

Dr. Muenker recommended the approval of the personnel report for certified and support personnel.

Mr. Koziol moved the Certified and Support Personnel Actions be approved. Mr. Koutsouradis seconded same.

Dr. Spitz made a motion to amend the Personnel Report on page 43 to have the salary indicated there to reflect that it will be as per the NSDAA contract.

The motion was seconded. Mr. Webb asked for a vote on the amendment. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Webb asked to go back to the original motion to accept the Personnel Report as presented by Dr. Muenker. We have a motion to accept and a second. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Approval of Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day Reporting

Mr. Koutsouradis presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, all public schools are to be open each school year for at least one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction for pupils; and

WHEREAS, exceptions to the requirement for 180 days of instruction or to the daily school hours may be made based upon Section 1504, as amended by Act 80 of 1969; and

WHEREAS, the proposed *Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day Reporting* outlines PDE approved Act 80 exception activities for the 2008-09 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt the attached *Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day Reporting* for the 2008-09 school year.

Mr. Eccles seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/consultants for the 2009 – 10 Fiscal Year

Mr. Eccles presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the district Facilities Department must use the professional services of various firms in order to ensure compliance with the many federal and state mandates concerning school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Department must also use professional consultants/engineers to develop bid specifications for other related facility improvements during the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following list of professional service vendors be accepted for use during the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2009-10

The professionals/consultants anticipated for use during the next fiscal year along with examples of the work that will be required are listed below.

- Consolidated Engineers – boilers and other mechanical engineering.
- Colm Engineering – exterior doors and other structural engineering.
- Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. – roof replacements and similar projects.
- Eagle Industrial Hygiene Associates, Inc. – asbestos related compliance.
- Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. – HVAC control systems.
- Environmental Control Systems, Inc. – hazardous waste disposal, underground storage tanks regulations.
- D.A.D. & Associates, Inc. – boilers and cooling tower water treatment.
- Quality Control Laboratories (QC Labs) – pools and water testing.
- Parry's Project Management – logistic services – High School and others if needed.
- The Wire Runner – District wide life safety services; fire, smoke, burglar alarms.
- Liberty Environmental – Department of Environmental Protection air quality reports for district.
- 1Source Safety & Health, Inc. - District's professional for air testing.
- Best Locks, Inc. - patented locks for all doors and all buildings.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Elementary Furniture Purchases

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, some of the elementary school furniture is old and in desperate need of replacement. The situation has become a safety issue; and

WHEREAS, the issue has been discussed at several Facilities/Finance committee meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the purchase of elementary school furniture using the Capital Reserve Fund.

Mr. Eccles seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2008 – 09

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, each year the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with instructions from the Auditor General's Office, must increase its receipts and expenditures budget by the total amount of other programs; and

WHEREAS, this amount represents previously approved federal and other special program receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the total 2008 – 09 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$191,066,107. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2008 – 2009

Description	District Fund No.	Amount of Revenue
Drug Free Schools Grant	40	15,153.00
Title I – Revision	42	4,927.00
TruMark Financial Credit Union Grant	44	500.00
Academic Achievement Awards Grant	46	1,000.00
Summer P.A.S.S. Program	48	10,000.00
Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth	49	67,512.00
PA Assoc. of School Retirees	50	500.00
Middletown Community Foundation	52	4,000.00
PA Assoc. of School Retirees	53	500.00
Bucks County Court Grant for Summer P.A.S.S.	56	2,000.00
Academic Achievement Awards Grant - carryover	59	191.00
Pre-K Counts Grant	60	78,000.00
Carol M. White, Active Healthy Kids Grant - carryover	61	1,165.00
Progress Monitoring Data Grant – Carryover	62	6,243.00
School Improvement Grant	63	18,000.00
Classroom for the Future Program	65	88,225.00
Drug Free Schools Grant	66	19,899.00
Title III – Language Instruction for ESL Students	69	23,099.00
Teen Pregnancy & Parenting Program	70	20,580.00
E.L.E.C.T. Fatherhood Program	71	70,006.00
Sea World/Busch Gardens Grant – carryover	72	6,312.00
PA Accountability Block Grant – carryover	73	21,089.00
E.L.E.C.T. Grant	74	244,981.00
D.A.R.E. Grant	75	10,057.00
Title II, Part A – Carryover	76	24,472.00
Title I – Carryover	80	110,278.00
Title II, Part A – Carryover	82	91,815.00
Title II, Part A – Carryover	83	1,942.00
Title V – Carryover	84	174.00
Title I – Carryover	88	1,865.00
Title I – Parent Involvement Everitt	89	500.00
Title I – Parent Involvement Ferderbar	90	500.00
Title I – Parent Involvement Hoover	91	500.00
Inclusive Practice Grant	92	7,500.00
Title III – Lang Instruct for ESL Students - Carryover	97	2,119.00
Classroom for the Future Program – Carryover	98	832.00
Pre-K Counts Grant – Carryover	99	86.00
Total Other Program Receipts		\$956,522.00

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Food Service Budget and Possible Price Increase

Mr. O'Connor presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, significant reduced revenues, along with increased delivery and fuel charges, and aging cafeteria equipment that needs to be repaired and replaced; and

WHEREAS, based on projected sales for 2009-10, student meal prices will need to increase to maintain the financial integrity of the school lunch program and the food service fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following student lunch prices will go into effect September 2009:

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$2.05

Secondary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$2.45

This represents a \$.10 per lunch increase.

No change in student breakfast prices is recommended.

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 ayes (Mr. Webb, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Blasch, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Eccles, Mr. O'Connor and Dr. Spitz) and 1 nay (Mr. Koziol). Mr. Koziol said he did find a problem with this. It is another tax on our people. We just passed a twenty five cent increase at the end of August or beginning of September of last year. With this increase it becomes over a ten percent raise on this in one year. It seems excessive. I also see a tremendous amount of purchasing of capital equipment that is causing an increase in the depreciation rate and helps causing that deficit. I think that this raise is too high and should be cut.

Motion: Year End Budget Transfers

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Public School Code of 1949 requires that line item "...sums appropriated to specific purposes in the budget..." not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, under the school accounting system, line items have been determined to be major object levels within specific subfunctions; and

WHEREAS, year-end adjustments by the Business Office and Auditors may cause such line items to be exceeded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with directions from the Auditor General's office, authorizes the Administration to make those necessary budget transfers within and between accounts to prevent any possible over expenditure without exceeding the total budget for 2008-09.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

2009 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2009, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. **Aggregate Amount Available for Homestead and Farmstead Real Estate Tax Reduction.** The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2009:

a. **Gambling Tax Funds.** The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$3,591,049.74.

b. **Remaining Property Tax Reduction Funds.** Funds will be available during the school year for real estate reduction as a result of undistributed funds from the property tax reduction funds received in 2008-2009. These funds will be added to the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$356.75.

c. **Philadelphia Tax Credit Reimbursement Funds.** PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$-0-.

d. **Other Sources.** No funds will be available during the 2009-2010 school year for real estate tax reduction other than the gambling tax funds, remaining property tax reduction funds and Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.) and (c.) of Section 1 of this Resolution.

e. **Aggregate Amount Available.** Adding the amounts set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.), (c) and (d) of Section 1 of this Resolution, the aggregate amount available during the 2009-2010 school year for real estate tax reduction is \$3,591,406.49.

2. **Homestead/Farmstead Numbers.** Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

a. **Homestead Property Number.** The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 17,016.

b. **Farmstead Property Number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 2.

c. **Homestead/Farmstead Combined Number.** The aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 17,018.

3. **Real Estate Tax Reduction Calculation.** The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(d) aggregate amount during the 2009-10 school year for real estate tax reduction of \$3,591,406.49 by the paragraph (2)(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 17,018, before considering the assessed value of approved homestead and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount, the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$211.04.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion

amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$2,424 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 17,010 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$ -0-. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$211.04, the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$211.04.

4. **Homestead Exclusion Calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$211.04 by the School District real estate tax rate of 152.0 mills (.1520), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$1,388, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$2,776.

5. **Homestead/Farmstead Exclusion Authorization – July 1 Tax Bills.** The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$1,388. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$2,776. For purposes of this Resolution, "approved homestead" and "approved farmstead" shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, 2009 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, 2009 and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills for tax periods beginning prior to July 1, 2009.

RESOLUTION adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009.

ATTEST:

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Deborah Spadaccino
Assistant Board Secretary

By: _____
Ritchie Webb, President

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Non- Renewal and Demotion of Certified Staff

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District has approved the opening of the reconstructed Neshaminy High School in September 2009 with a change in the grade configuration from 10 – 12 to 9 – 12; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District has experienced substantial declining enrollment since the 1999 - 2000 school year and each successive year thereafter through and including the 2008 – 2009 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this alteration will result in the non-renewal and demotion of certified staff as per the attached list effective August 30, 2009.

NON-RENEWAL AND DEMOTION OF CERTIFIED STAFF

NAME	GRADE OR SUBJECT ASSIGNED	REASON
Donna Emig	Elementary Education (Buck)	Non-Renewal
Tracy Humbert	Librarian (Buck)	Non-Renewal
Jeff Rodos	Special Education (Buck)	Non-Renewal
Jennifer Bennett	Elementary Education (Everitt)	Non-Renewal
Ashley Patrick	Music (Everitt)	Non-Renewal
Thomas McGinnis	Music (Ferderbar)	Non-Renewal
Mary Susan Kane	Elementary Education (Hoover)	Non-Renewal
Jamie David	Special Education (Schweitzer)	Non-Renewal
Jason Davis	Health & Physical Education (Maple Point)	Non-Renewal
Diane Mershon	Technology Education- Carl Sandburg/Maple Point	Non-Renewal
Anita Moore	Business (High School)	Non-Renewal
Brian Sherrer	Technology Education (High School)	Non-Renewal
Lori Weidner	Music (Schweitzer)	Non-Renewal
David Martys	Health & Physical Education (TLC)	Non-Renewal
Rena Schimmel	Elementary (Hoover) (from full contract to .5 contract)	Demotion
Vanessa Robtison	Technology Education (M.P.) (from full contract to .8 contract)	Demotion
Daniel Weiner	Music (Poquessing) (from full contract to .4 contract)	Demotion

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Dr. Muenker provided a statement to the Board and public regarding said Adoption of the 2009-10 Budget.

Motion: Adoption of the 2009 – 10 Budget

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors received a 2009-10 *Working Draft Budget* from the administration on January 13, 2009. The Board has reviewed and adopted a *Preliminary Budget* on February 10, 2009 and subsequently adopted a *Proposed Final Budget* on May 12, 2009, all in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. Notice of intent to adopt the budget has been duly advertised as required by law and the budget was also made public throughout the process on PDE Form 2028 as required by law.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors must adopt a *Final Operating Budget* for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt a *Final Operating Budget* of all funds in the amount of \$173,999,098 together with -

- Capital Improvement Projects including Neshaminy High School construction in the amount of \$12,225,888
- Capital Reserve Fund \$153,314
- Federal and other programs in the amount of \$5,861,216; and
- Carry-over purchase orders of \$169,955

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the capital projects budget will be funded from proceeds of the General Obligation Bond Issues - Series of 2004, 2006, and 2007 Series B. The federal programs budget will be funded by specific federal grants and in order to fund the general fund budget the following taxes are hereby levied:

1. Real Estate Tax	152.0 mills
2. Interim Real Estate Tax	152.0 mills
3. Per Capita Tax - School Code	\$5.00
4. Per Capita Tax - Act 511	\$10.00
5. Local Services Tax (formerly OPT/EMS)	\$10.00
6. Business Privilege Tax	1 mill wholesale, 1.5 mills retail, \$5.00 license fee
7. Mercantile Tax	1 mill wholesale, 1.5 mills retail, \$2.00 license fee
8. Real Estate Transfer Tax	1%
9. Amusement Tax	10%, as amended by current law

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested. The motion passed with 8 ayes (Mr. Webb, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Blasch, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Eccles, Mr. O'Connor and Dr. Spitz and 1 nay (Mr. Koziol).

Federal Programs

Dr. Muenker stated that summary reflects a grand total of \$2.4M for the year.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

Mrs. Lisa Reiser, Langhorne, PA, stated that she is stay at home mom. Mrs. Reiser wished she wasn't at the meeting because she missed her daughter's championship softball game to be present. This is not the first time she has missed one of her children's events. She believes that staying informed and getting involved with school board issues will benefit her children and the community in a bigger way. As Administrators and Board members decisions must be made which are what you believe are the better of options. The district has been in something of a crisis closing a \$14M budget gap without raising taxes over the Act 1 limit is a monumental task. It has to be done, but at what costs. The process is done, time has run out and budget is what it is. When the dust settles, what happens with the students. Have we really done our best in considering education first and find a way to make it manageable. Have we acted in a way that preserves the academic excellence in the district and makes our community a desirable place to live or are we slowly eroding the programs, staff and facilities, just to make the numbers work. As we move forward Mrs. Reiser urges the Board to be strategic in planning. Allow the time to make proper decisions which clearly preserve the academics while demonstrating sound management of finances, staff and many other resources. We must become more proactive.

Mr. Solis Basen, Villages of Flowers Mills, Langhorne, PA, hoped that the reaching out of the Board and Teachers will stop the embarrassment this has caused the district over the last year. Let's hope and pray that this works out. Thank you for both sides to agreeing to come together to resume talks.

Mr. Basen thanked the entire Board for their efforts and thanked Mr. Koziol and Mr. Blasch for their tiring efforts. Mr. Basen also thanked Dr. Muenker.

Mrs. Marianne O'Connor, Levittown, PA, stated that she is the President of the Neshaminy High School Music Boosters and shared wonderful news about the cruise to Bermuda. All top honors were received by the students. Five months of competition have been taking place and Neshaminy's Concert Choir and Men's Choir took first place amongst every choir from all over the country who participated in the competition. Congratulations to the students and teachers!!

Board Comment

Mr. Koziol responded to the "good ship lolly pop" comment and there is a 16% real unemployment rate, long term interest rates are inching up, Dow Jones is diving and bigger problems are around the corner. This will be the day that this Board had the opportunity to bring in a budget of zero and bring it in balance. It was there and it was chosen not to do this. The Board also chose to keep open a swimming pool, but kindergarten (full day) was not a good thing to have in the community, even though 480 other school districts have same.

Mr. Koziol thanked the many people who got involved in the budget process. Mr. Koziol thanked all the speakers at the meetings and speaking their peace. Special thanks to the men of Flowers Mill who continue to be present at the Board meetings. Thanks for fighting for the equity. Notes have been reviewed. The simple formula to success is persistence over resistance equals results.

Mr. Koutsouradis stated that it would be great if everyone got what they wanted, but that is not how it works. None of these cuts are cuts that this Board wanted to make. Compromise is not easy, but it needs to occur. Please remember the word compromise.

Mr. O'Connor stated that the students who attended this evenings meeting deserved a round of applause. Mr. O'Connor explained to students that the budgetary process is not an easy one. Caution needs to be in place. Other opportunities will arise for further cuts. Students should not feel ignored. Not one Board member ever lost site of the education and students of Neshaminy. The students are the reason why the Board members work for you.

Mr. Blasch suggested that he would be willing to participate in a group to begin the process of closure of additional facilities.

Dr. Spitz stated that \$92 for the average taxpayer is the increase. Middle school sports were not eliminated, pool closures did not occur, elementary guidance counselors and reading specialists were not eliminated and elementary librarians were not eliminated. The items on the list were not part of the budget process.

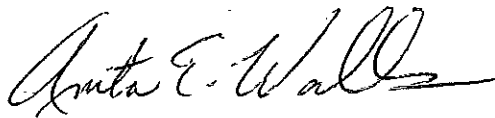
Dr. Muenker advised that Dr. Robert McGee will be the new Neshaminy High School Principal.

Resident was concerned about busing for kindergarten students and the raising of taxes. Mr. Webb stated that a tax increase of \$92 will occur. Resident stated that the Administrators received a raise. Resident is concerned about kindergarten transportation.

Adjournment

Mr. Blasch moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary