

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
(PUBLIC MEETING)  
October 26, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on October 26, 2004, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President  
Dr. William H. Spitz, Vice-President  
Mrs. Sue C. Barrett  
Mrs. June R. Bostwick  
Mr. Jason Bowman  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Ms. Carol A. Drioli  
Mrs. Kimberly A. Jowett  
Mr. Ritchie Webb

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. P. Howard Wilson  
Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Dr. Sandra Costanzo  
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise  
Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan  
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**OTHERS:** Approximately 14 persons from the public, staff and press

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**Call to Order**

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

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

No Announcements.

**Student Representative Report**

Mr. Dustin Worthington and Ms. Danielle Cope provided the following report:

Mr. Dustin Worthington stated that too often school boards and the student body separate themselves and school boards do not often have the best interests of the students at heart. Mr. Worthington hoped that this board and the student body would be able to work together this upcoming year. Mr. Worthington noted that there is great parallel between the student representatives and school board members in working for the best interests of the students of the district. Mr. Worthington provided the following update of school activities:

- ✓ Homecoming Dance - changes took place in order to make it more appealing to the student population. Costumes were made part of the event. Positive feedback was received and attendance was greater.
- ✓ Plans in process for the Winter Ball.

**Comments from Public**

No public comment.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Wilson advised that the students and staff at Maple Point Middle School will be honoring Veterans. Further, Mr. Wilson noted that the Act 72 notices have been sent out to every household within the district. These notices have been forwarded by the County. The district is continuing with the No Child Left Behind law and board updates will continue on the progresses made.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Upon motion of Mrs. Jowett and seconded by Mr. Bowman, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 24, 2004 Public Meeting.

#### **Approval of Treasurer's Report, Bills for Payment, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax** – Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- August 2004 and September 2004 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Bills for payment Check Register – August 2004 and September 2004
- Escrow Fund, Three Capital Project Funds, Several Investment Funds
- New Investments
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 05-1)
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations – July and August 2004 totaling 458 exonerations and September 2004 totaling 1014 exonerations.

Dr. Spitz moved the August 2004 and September 2004 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the August 2004 and September 2004 bills for payment, Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds, New Investments, Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 05-1) and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations be approved, subject to audit. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, bills for payment, investments, escrow funds, and three capital project funds, new investments, budget transfer report and personal and per capita tax exonerations.

#### **Certified and Support Personnel Actions**

Mr. Wilson presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel
- Long Term Substitute Positions
- Day to Day Substitute Positions
- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Long Term Substitute Positions
- Day to Day Substitute Positions
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries Report

Mr. Wilson requested approval of the personnel report and Extra-Curricular staff and salaries report as presented.

Mrs. Barrett inquired regarding the teacher decertification process. Mr. Wilson advised that it was not unusual at this time of the year for teachers to request decertification and that this was occurring in most districts. This would allow the teacher to teach only the area in which they held a certificate and they would no longer need to teach for example, elementary education. Mr. Wilson noted that this does make it difficult in some instances for the district.

Mr. Bowman moved the personnel report be accepted. Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report.

**Motion: American Education Week**

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they'll need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and,

**WHEREAS**, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and,

**WHEREAS**, public education employees – be they custodians or teachers, bus drivers or librarians – work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and,

**WHEREAS**, public schools are community catalysts, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED**, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby proclaims November 14-20, 2004, as the 83<sup>rd</sup> annual observance of American Education Week.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**Motion: Renewal of Delta Community Supports Inc. Lease**

Ms. Drioli presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS**, the Neshaminy School District leased a portion of the Eisenhower facility to Delta Community Supports, Inc. since 1988; and,

**WHEREAS**, Delta Community Supports, Inc. wishes to renew its lease for an additional five year term and has entered into discussions with the school district's Business Administrator regarding the terms of the lease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the Business Administrator to finalize the terms and conditions of the lease and to enter into a lease renewal agreement with Delta Community Supports, Inc. for a new five-year term, under terms and conditions acceptable to the school district Solicitor and the Business Administrator.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

**Federal Programs**

Mr. Wilson advised that the active federal programs/grant allocation present total was \$1.8M. Dr. Costanzo was working diligently to obtain further grants. The newest grant received was for Obesity in Schools.

**Other Board Business**

Dr. Spitz advised board members that there still existed a vacancy for a board member from Neshaminy School District on the Tech School Board. The Tech School Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month at 8:00 p.m. Dr. Spitz noted that it was important that this position be filled since it is sometimes difficult to pass a motion since not enough board members are in attendance.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Barrett, Lower Southampton, PA noted that the Act 72 information that was provided to the public had an error on some of the forms. The error was that instead of naming Lower Southampton Township on the form it stated Lower Makefield Township. Mr. Barrett wished to bring this to the board's attention since he had received a few calls noting the error.

Mr. Paradise responded that the district was aware of the situation and was advised by the County to have the individuals cross out Lower Makefield and insert Lower Southampton Township. Mr. Paradise further noted that these forms were provided by the County and it was a County error.

Ms. Drioli urged everyone not to neglect the Act 72 forms which they received and to send in the Act 72 forms completed.

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA inquired if any information would be provided regarding the high school project.

Mr. Webb responded that a Facilities and Finance meeting was to take place on Wednesday, October 27, 2004. At the meeting discussions would include alternatives for the high school project, construction managers and Poquessing. The first part of the meeting would be devoted to the Poquessing project.

**Board Comment**

Mr. Eccles advised that the meeting in November would be a combined Work Session/Public Meeting which would take place on Tuesday, November 9, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary