

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
April 28, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on April 28, 2004, in the auditorium of the Lower Southampton Elementary School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Dr. William H. Spitz, Vice President
Mrs. Sue C. Barrett
Mr. Jason Bowman
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mrs. Kimberly Jowett
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. P. Howard Wilson
Dr. Raymond J. Boccuti
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Mr. Harry P. Jones
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mr. Richard S. Marotto
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mrs. June R. Bostwick
Ms. Carol A. Drioli

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 60 persons from the public, staff and press

Call to Order

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

No announcements.

Student Representative Report

No Student Representative Report.

Mr. Eccles made the following statement:

“Yesterday the voting and taxpaying public spoke. They spoke loud and clear and in record numbers. The voter turn-out exceeded my expectations, in some areas 50% plus of registered voters voted and 37% overall came out and pulled the lever. Our community became involved in this issue and our community responded. This is what the referendum was all about, voters input. As a school board member one of our main goals is to get the community involved, this we have done. More people have taken an interest in our district’s activities than ever before. We will all be better off for what we have learned and discovered through this process. We have set the standard. The board needs to be commended in their efforts for supplying accurate information to the public and for agreeing to this process. There are really no winners or losers in reference to this issue. We as a community have decided that we cannot build a new high school and spend \$97million dollars. Now we must all come together and unite. We no longer need to know who’s who; I did that, are you with me or against me, and what side are you on. We must work on a plan that will continue to exemplify the Neshaminy

tradition, enhance our children's education and satisfy our building needs ever mindful of our spending limits. We must work as a team, share ideas, think outside the box and develop a plan that this community can live with. Emotions are running high, let's pull together, get to know each other, we might be surprised what will happen. Look at your neighbor; we have learned a valuable lesson. We have learned that many people do care about the education of our children. We just have different ways of showing it. There is no doubt that this community will rise to the occasion for this community does want the best for our kids and we will somehow make it work. We are all in this together, be thankful for what we have and let's build for our children's and communities future. Thank you."

Public Comment

Mrs. Barbara Hordis, Langhorne, PA, advised that she has two children in college, one in high school and one at Neshaminy Middle. Mrs. Hordis thinks that it is extremely unfortunate that there were 11,000 foolish votes yesterday. Mrs. Hordis urged the Board to remember that it is very easy to say "no" and be difficult and Mrs. Hordis has every hope that the Board will be able to succeed in the far more difficult path of finding a way to provide a Neshaminy level of quality education for the students in a building that is deteriorating and inadequate for the current needs, technology needs, going forward in order to continue to provide the Neshaminy level of quality education for the students. Mrs. Hordis urged the Board to take into account the health and safety concerns, as well as the other educational concerns. Mrs. Hordis hopes to be able to support the Board and do whatever she can to find a consensus in providing a quality education.

Mrs. Joan Thomas, Langhorne, PA, wondered whether the Board is going to consider the BASCO reports and whether the Board was going to advise tonight regarding some of those estimates or would the Board look at completely new. Mrs. Thomas wondered whether since the roof leaks are a problem would it be possible to start the roof renovation this summer and remove the asbestos while the students are not in school. Many parents are concerned about the students being in school during the renovations and when the asbestos is being removed.

Mrs. Martha Lindner, Langhorne, PA stated the following:

"The public has spoken. It is now time to unite our community. We have common goals. First, to educate our children, our children must have the best education that money can buy. Quality in teachers, quality in our school buildings. Second, we must reconstruct Neshaminy High School into a building of the twenty-first century. In doing so we must find a reasonable price that our community can afford. Third, I immediately recommend to the facilities committee to meet as soon as possible. They should be directed to start the process of reconstruction on Neshaminy High School. It is time to come together to meet these goals. We must put aside our differences and give our children the best possible education. This can be a win, win situation. I am asking each Board member tonight to declare their position in reconstructing the Neshaminy High School. Thank you."

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA, former teacher, coach, administrator at Neshaminy High School for a total of 34 years plus 6 years teaching in other states, stated the following:

"When a teacher came up to me on Election Day at the Hoover School and asked me how many years I spent at Neshaminy, I said 34. She said how can you be behind this movement to stop quality education. I said to her, "Are telling me if you don't have a new building you will not have quality education?" Why don't you say to me let's get more qualified teachers, give me a teacher that is going to stay late, give me a teacher that calls home and tell parents when things are not going well, give me a teacher that is going to write recommendations, help students find colleges. That is quality education. Not a building. A building does not make education. There is no one in this school district that loves this school district as much as I. Anyone who has been here will always tell you that I have stood up time and time again. Mr. Spitz knows it. Praising this school. The art program, music program, fine arts program. All the programs. Neshaminy has a tradition. The taxpayers pay the bill.

The taxpayers built this community. They have been here for years. In the paper there is a misunderstanding that this is between the aged and young. An entire family worked a poll for me, two students in high school, mother and father in their thirties. I have students graduated four years ago putting out literature. I have college graduates and people that I coached years ago that sent me \$100 checks stating don't let them tear that school down. I had people write me letters, past graduates, doctors, lawyers, saying I want to be able to come to that school and walk the hallways and say "This is where I had my classes, this is where I played my sports." Neshaminy has an unbelievable tradition. When you are elected we live in a representative democracy. Everyone cannot go one place to vote, each district elects people to represent them. You do not represent yourself, you represent the people. If you have a feel of the community you know what the community wants. When Mr. Webb asked me, "How are your figures out there? I guarantee you that it will be no lower than 60% and go as high as 70%. I know my community. I have been involved for so many years. I walk I talk, I know the community. When you are elected you have a responsibility not only for the best education that you can provide, but you have a responsibility to the people of this community who help make Neshaminy great. These people are the ones that went to concerts years ago, N club, on trips, bands overseas. These are the same people. They are still here. Some of the people are hurting and they do not want to move. I am asking you as a Board to go into your reconstruction, bring this school up to the 21st century, new science wings, sloped roofs, the best you can give at a cost that can make everyone proud. I know that you can do it. Peace. It is time to get together and work for the same objective."

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA, stated:

"We do have to look to the future. The search for alternatives must be done both carefully and expeditiously. It must follow a methodology that is going to be above reproach. I respectfully recommend that all nine Board members work together and construct an RFP, a request for proposal. Outline both the must haves, and want to haves for whatever this reconstructed building will be. How much square footage per student will be required? What are the science lab requirements? Size of cafeterias? Also, identify the things that are desirable, but not necessary. Whether you want a 9th grade in the building? What parts of the current building can possibly be salvaged versus the ones that need to be replaced? This RFP should be sent to multiple architects for bidding. Look at all your options and make a decision based on what the last twelve months have shown you. I also urge you to work with some of the New Jersey based firms who are themselves required to stay within the limits of referendums. Their experience is in developing alternatives for cost conscience communities. I also remind our community that while this process is ongoing, there are immediate needs at the high school. Leaky roofs with a cost of \$500,000 and other immediate needs. Support this Board while they take care of these immediate needs. Lastly, thank you Mr. Eccles for your heartfelt speech. Very appropriate and well done. Thank you."

Mrs. Marianne O'Connor, Langhorne, PA sent out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked with Building For Tomorrow, their donations, support, and time. It was great to see everyone keep to the same standard that was started from the beginning. Respect, stay with facts, and not getting emotionally into altercations. Everyone showed a lot of class. Best that could have been done. Mrs. O'Connor requested that the Board, as a community member, do work expeditiously. Mrs. O'Connor would hate to see a year from now that the District is still where we are right now. Politics got us where we are, and caused what happened yesterday. Please, don't allow politics to direct where this Board is going to go. You need to get together, find all your options, new, renovation and reconstruction. Whatever option it is, you need to look at multiple ways and decide what is best for everyone to meet those needs. Please, do not let politics be the driving force on your decision.

Mr. Jay Dombach, Langhorne, PA commented that it is the Board's responsibility to show that this vote was not, as summarized by Ben Franklin, penny wise and pound foolish. Mr. Dombach also clarified that despite the fact that the Board felt that they needed the referendum because we live in a democracy, we do not have a democracy. Next time that phrase is used the constitutional convention should be read and see what

government was actually formed, or read the Fourth Article of the United States Constitution which tells us what form of government we have. Further, if you listen to the words of the Pledge of the Allegiance and it tells you the form of government and hence it is not a democracy. It is also not a representative democracy. The founding fathers feared democracy, and the vote was the reason why. People are not informed and they do not come out and vote.

Mrs. Rita Geddes, Feasterville, PA stated that the Building for Tomorrow people stuck to a high standard and Mrs. Geddes finds it important that the community come together, however, it is interesting that the people requesting that we come together are the individuals who made this a very personal campaign. There was a lot of slander and bad mouthing of the people on the Building for Tomorrow committee, which was totally unnecessary. That is what is making it very hard to come together at this point and to really look forward and work with people to resolve this issue. Mrs. Geddes asked the Board to consider the children. Mrs. Geddes will have two children at the high school during the renovation/reconstruction. Both Mrs. Geddes' children have asthma, as does 20% of the student population. It is a major, major health concern for them at the high school. The Environmental Protection Agency recommends that no students be in buildings during renovations. That is their recommendation. What are you going to do for the students? Where are you going to educate them and where are going to provide a program that will be equivalent to what they receive at the high school? Mrs. Geddes' daughter had pneumonia and it was during the renovations at Ferderbar Elementary School. She was sick from September through December, and her asthma is extremely mild. She needs no daily medication, yet she had pneumonia nearly that whole period of time. Where are the students going to go? How will you assure their safety? If the students are not safe, the District will pay.

Mr. Joe DeAngelis, Middletown Township, made the Board aware that for the process of reconstruction that will be coming up the Board should act as quickly as possible, regardless of the plan and regardless of how much money will be necessary. Mr. DeAngelis is a trader and he advised that rates will be skyrocketing. Mr. DeAngelis noted that the country was at a low and it is creeping up. Example, if the District borrows \$65M, if rates went up 1%, an additional \$14M will be necessary. If rates went up 2%, on \$65M, it would be an additional \$30M. Rates will be going up between 1-2%. If rates go up 3% it will cost an additional \$45M. It is unlikely, however, possible. Mr. DeAngelis stressed to act as soon as possible. Get the bond financing as soon as possible, because the longer the District waits, the more money it will cost the taxpayers.

Mrs. Debbie Bolendorff, Feasterville, PA advised that her child goes to Catholic school so that the "no" decision should have been a great victory in my eyes. However, it was not. A new school means more revenue for our towns, increased property values and better teachers. Not saying that our teachers are bad. People will want to move into our District and teachers will want to teach in our schools. Students will want to learn. Everyone craves state of the art. Council Rock is always the district that is compared too. It is that way because of the school being up to date. So, enter new teachers who want to work at the district. People in our District are selling homes and moving into Council Rock school district because of said appeal. A new school in our District is what we need. Yes, our taxes will go up. Mrs. Bolendorff's property is assessed at 4700 and her taxes would go up \$10.83 a month. Taxes will increase every year. It is a small price to pay for what will be a hefty increase in our town's overall worth.

Mr. Richard Edelman, Oakford, PA stated that he is 57 years old and he has lived for 53 years in Neshaminy School District. Graduated Neshaminy High School in 1964. Mr. Edelman noted that we decided not only once, but twice, that the people in Neshaminy School District do not and cannot afford a new high school. Mr. Edelman feels that the district must come up with a plan to renovate the school, take it to the condition that it should be in today, because it was let go and deteriorated, we cannot let that happen once it is brought up to code. Mr. Edelman noted that money has been squandered over the course of the years, Maple Point being one of them. Mr. Edelman feels it is time to spend the money wisely, because there are many people in this district that cannot and should not be forced to move from their homes because there are some people who feel that their kids should be attending a school like Council Rock. If you would like your children go to a school like Council Rock, then move to Council Rock School District.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Langhorne, PA commended both the residents of Neshaminy School and the Board for taking this whole process to fruition. Both sides felt positively about their own positions, and it was done in keeping within the democratic society in which we live. Mr. Rodos expects the Board to go forward from here and keep doing the best for the community. Mr. Rodos thanked Mrs. Barrett for attending a meeting with Dr. Costanzo, myself and representatives from SAGE whereby we can get the seniors involved in helping out within the schools.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Wilson advised that Our Lady of Grace has requested field usage on a Sunday for an annual track meet and Guy's Bicycles is running a bicycle race on the facilities. The District has always provided the facilities for use.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Mrs. Jowett and seconded by Dr. Spitz, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 23, 2004 and April 14, 2004 Public Meetings. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were absent.

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

- March, 2004 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Bills for payment Check Register – March, 2004
- Escrow Fund, Three Capital Project Funds, Several Investment Funds
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 04-6)
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations reports for March, 2004

Mr. Bowman moved the March, 2004 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the March, 2004 bills for payment, Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 04-6), Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds February, 2004 personal and per capita tax exonerations be approved. Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, bills for payment, investments, escrow funds, three capital project funds, budget transfer report and exonerations of personal and per capita tax. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were not present.

Dr. Spitz commented that the Board in the past discussed an issue regarding consultants that the Board may use on occasion for various items that the Board does not specifically vote upon.

Mr. Paradise responded that at the beginning of the fiscal year the District will present to the Board a list of those individuals and the approximate projects that they will be involved with and the District hopes to provide that sometime in July for the next school year.

Approval of Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for approval:

Bid No. 04-29 Band Uniforms

Bid Amount: \$88,109.75

Uniforms for Neshaminy High School Marching Bands.

Mr. Paradise responded to Dr. Spitz's question from the Work Session that the District is not accepting the low bid due to the fact that it does not meet the specifications. The matter has been reviewed by the Solicitor and it is an acceptable reason to reject the bid. Mr. Paradise had a three page memo from Mr. Hoss and Mr. Lipton detailing why the low bid is not to specifications.

Bid No. 05-10 Science Supplies

Bid Amount: \$12,541.27

Various supplies for the instruction of science curricula district-wide for the 2004-2005 school year.

Bid No. 05-11 Bituminous Concrete Paving, Resurfacing and Repair

Bid Amount: \$194,971.00

Paving repairs at Neshaminy High School, Sandburg Middle School, Ferderbar Elementary School, and Miller Elementary School.

Mr. Paradise noted that the funds are coming from the \$25M capital improvement note.

Dr. Spitz inquired why the low bid is not being taken at each location and the entire amount is being awarded to one vendor at all four locations. Dr. Spitz felt that if they are bid separately, could they not be awarding separate contracts. Mr. Paradise advised that the work was not bid separately. Mr. Paradise noted that work will not proceed until summer, and it could be voted upon at the next Work Session.

Mr. Eccles asked if there was Board consensus to move forward and re-look at the bid. Mr. Webb suggested that the bid be reexamined.

Mr. Minotti advised that the paving was bid in a package because the economy scale the District would receive is a better price. Heavy equipment will be required and in order to receive a good price if the job is packaged together for a few schools to receive the best aggregate price. Mr. Minotti feels that if it were bid individually the price would be higher.

Mr. Eccles noted that it does not cost the District money to rebid. Mr. Minotti noted that if it were rebid it would not be completed this summer.

Mr. Profy noted that the bid documents provide that the award will be made to the lowest bid in the aggregate. Mr. Profy noted that if that is the manner the bid was structured, the District does not have the option of selecting the low component bids at this point. Mr. Profy suggested that in the future the District could consider allocating same so the District has the right to pick specific work based on the bid for that component. Mr. Profy advised that not having done that for this specific bid, the District is not in a position to select out the low components.

Dr. Spitz advised that he would be in favor of the aggregate bid and in the future the District can re-spec future bids. Mr. Paradise noted that past history has shown that higher prices are usually received when bid separately. If the District rejects a bid it is very dangerous. Circumstances could lend to receiving higher prices, i.e. weather warming, etc.

Mr. Bowman moved the three bids be approved. Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the three bids. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were not present.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Wilson presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves of Certified Personnel

The personnel information appears on pages 75 through 79.

Mr. Wilson noted that the first name on the Long-term Substitute list has withdrawn and will return to his present position.

Mr. Wilson requested approval of the personnel report as presented.

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

The Board unanimously approved the personnel actions. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were not present.

Mrs. Barrett noted that one of the Long Term Substitute Positions is listed as a relative of Board or Neshaminy Management Team Member. Mrs. Barrett advised that she does not think it is correct for the District to employ relatives of senior administrators. Mrs. Barrett, therefore, will vote "No" on the Long Term Substitute positions, position number 1.

Motion: Approval of the IU Special Education Contracted Services for 2004-2005

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District is required by law to provide special education and related services to children from pre-school through age twenty-one; and

WHEREAS, a significant number of our students have severe mental and physical disabilities for which we do not operate programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the contract for special education services with Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 for the 2004-2005 school year.

Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were not present.

Motion: Revised 2003-2004 School Calendar

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, inclement weather forced the closing of schools on January 26, January 28 and March 19, 2004, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, it is necessary to revise the calendar in order to meet the minimum state child accounting and attendance regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors approves the attached revised school calendar that schedules the last day for students in grades Kindergarten through 11 as June 18, 2004.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that June 14, 2004 is designated as the date for the Neshaminy High School graduation.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were not present.

Motion: Revision/Adoption of Policies 119 and 525

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, new policies and revisions are recommended by the administration to the Board Policies Committee for review; and

WHEREAS, recommended policies meet the requirements of Federal Law; and

WHEREAS, after review by the Board Policies Committee the District is ready to recommend

New Policy 525 – Student Recruitment

Revised Policy 119 – Parental Review of Curricula

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said Policies be revised and approved by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Ms. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Bostwick and Ms. Drioli were not present.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson advised that there has been no change in Federal programs and the grants total \$1.4M to date. It does not include the accountability grant, because that is a Pennsylvania grant. One more small grant in the amount of \$10,000 for the summer pass program.

Other Board Business

Dr. Spitz reminded that the IU Legislative Dinner and Meeting will take place April 29th in Doylestown at 6:30 p.m. This will be a chance to interact with state legislatures.

Correspondence

The Board Secretary advised that there was no correspondence.

Public Comment

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA thanked all the voters. Mr. Lindner stated that it was a thrill to see the number of people who voted on both sides. Mr. Lindner was disappointed that one person used the phrase 11,000 foolish voters. Mr. Lindner believes that the voter takes the time to study both sides of the issue and vote what they believe is the right side. Majority rules. Mr. Lindner thanked all voters on both sides. Mr. Lindner found that the polls on election and the environment were very good. During the campaign signs were stolen, over 300, but the thrill is democracy working. Mr. Lindner thanked the people for taking time, being leaders and making sacrifices. Mr. Lindner thanked Mr. O'Connor and his wife and everyone that helped both sides. Mr. Lindner stressed that the Board must start now, don't waste time. The public wants to see movement.

Mr. Mike Bittner, Feasterville, PA, noted that he had to wait in line to vote. Mr. Bittner noted that he had received so much information that he did not know what was real or accurate. Mr. Bittner has lived in Feasterville all his life. Mr. Bittner is a high school teacher in New Jersey in a school reconstructed ten years ago. Unfortunately, with interest rates going up, all the delay is costing the taxpayer money. The people who are trying to decide whether to move on or build on to our current homes do not know whether they can afford to do same. Mr. Bittner's house is 50 years old and it has not been assessed. Something needs to happen quickly. Many of his neighbors are seniors and are on fixed incomes. Mr. Bittner noted that schools are starting before Labor Day for 2004-2005 school year. Allowances should be made for those people who were not aware of this situation. Vacation homes have been booked and Mr. Bittner did not think Neshaminy ever started before Labor Day. Mr. Bittner feels more advance notice should have been given for this issue.

Board Comment

Mr. Webb noted that three meetings are scheduled for the Facilities and Finance Committee. The first one is scheduled for May 12. Mr. Webb noted that the budget has not been addressed to date due to the referendum. Mr. Webb requested Mr. Paradise to make the high school an agenda item for the meeting. Mr. Webb noted that he has heard from the audience about working together, and Mr. Webb agrees with that 100% and Mr. Webb pledges to do that. Mr. Webb would like to hear the other Board members state the same. It is important that the Board get on the right path and the spirit of cooperation, even though differences may have existed. Mr. Webb challenges the other Board members to publicly say the same.

Mrs. Barrett pledged to be cooperative to do the best job that she can do. Mrs. Barrett is not living in a vacuum. Mrs. Barrett noted that if anyone has thoughts, desires, hopes for what we will do at the high school, she would like to hear them. "Please let her know, it is important. Yesterday the people spoke. They spoke to this Board and they spoke to each other. Our finances are limited, hear us please. We want the best that we can afford. Please go back, please rethink and bring to us a plan that works. So we need to hear that plan. Please watch in the paper for the Finance and Facilities meetings. Any Board member will listen to your thinking regarding this issue." Mrs. Barrett stated, "That even though it has been a difficult time our community awareness has been raised to the fact that we do need to take care of our buildings. This is a positive that has come out of the referendum. It costs money to keep up the buildings. Our money needs to be used wisely, it is limited. Above all, we are here solely to educate our children. Real estate needs to be taken care of. The bottom line is the kids. We want our money to be spent wisely, so we want new programs that we have the money to finance them." Mrs. Barrett provided the statement from George Washington Carver that touched her heart and soul, "How far you go in life depends on you being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and the strong because someday in life you will have been all of these."

Mr. Bowman noted that the last year has been extremely difficult year for this community. The referendum and high school issue has torn the community. Mr. Bowman noted the sense of community; there are not too many places like Neshaminy. Incredibly strong community exists, evident through both sides of this issue. Mr. Bowman agrees with the other Board members and Mr. Eccles opening statement that it is time to work as a board, a time to work as an entire community, bring our community back together. A solution will be found to the problem and our students will receive the best place for them to be educated. A completely up to date building, technologically advanced building and our students will continue to receive the best education in the area. An economic way will be found for this community in order to do same.

Mr. Eccles noted that there is a law that states that we cannot act upon the school project or borrow money for 155 days, so those of you who are watching the interest rates, mark your calendar for 155 days. The meetings are set up and the committee is meeting.

Mr. Profy advised that it is 155 days from April 27, 2004. Mr. Eccles noted that the Board is not watching interest rates going up. The Board is locked in by the agreement signed in the referendum.

Mr. Bowman asked for clarification. The referendum question was to construct a new Neshaminy High School. Does the Board have the ability to borrow debt if we are pursuing a project other than a completely new high school?

Mr. Profy advised that the Board must define what the project was. The project was to build a new school. Mr. Profy noted that the Board can borrow money for other purposes, including capital improvements, which would include renovations.

Mr. Profy advised that the Board can borrow money, but not for the purpose of constructing a new school. Mr. Profy advised that if the Board was planning for renovations they could act on that plan for renovations as soon as possible. Mr. Profy believes that would be a separate project from the construction of a new school. Mr. Profy has researched the Local Unit Government Debt Act and it states that you cannot borrow for the

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same purpose for which the referendum was held. The project was specifically the construction of a new high school.

Mr. Eccles inquired what steps would need to be taken. Mr. Profy advised that an Act 34 proceeding would be required or the District would need to follow the specifics provided for in the Local Government Unit Debt Act. Mr. Profy stated that the District can borrow money within the 155 day window.

Note: In attendance at the meeting were students from the Philosophy class: Dan Doran, Sean DeStephniss and LeeAnn Young.

Adjournment

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

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary