

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(WORK SESSION/PUBLIC MEETING)
August 28, 2007

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on August 28, 2007, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Mrs. Sue C. Barrett, Vice President
Mr. Joseph R. Blasch
Mr. Jason Bowman
Ms. Irene M. Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Frank J. Koziol
Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Paul J. Kadri
Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan
Dr. Geeta A. Heble

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

OTHERS: Approximately 25 persons from the public, staff and press

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Public Comment

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA, thanked the Board members and Administration for attending the tax reform meeting that was held yesterday. Mr. Basen hopes that something develops from the meeting. Mr. Basen especially thanked those that spoke at the meeting. Mr. Basen stated that he asked seven months ago why the PSSA test scores were so low and the district costs are so high compared to all the other neighboring school districts. Mr. Basen asked last month why the cost to educate a student was much higher than the neighboring districts. Mr. Basen stated that the answer he received was that we will check and get back with an answer. Mr. Basen stated that the Courier reported that Pennsbury had one educator for every 23 students. Council Rock had one for every 24 students. Neshaminy has one for every 14 students. Mr. Basen is looking for some true answers.

Mrs. Meg Offenback, PTO President of Samuel Everitt Elementary School, who is attending this evening as a representative of the Executive Board and many concerned parents of Everitt school. Mrs. Offenback expressed concern regarding the hiring process of the new principal. Mrs. Offenback advised that they have been informed that Dr. McKee will come back as temporary principal. They would like to thank her for stepping up and coming back until the new principal is in place. Mrs. Offenback advised that concerns are addressed to the Administration and Board. We as the Everitt community are very upset with how the hiring process was used to replace Dr. McKee. She informed the district of her retirement in April with her intentions of retiring in June, 2007 and yet after 4 ½ months of using this current hiring process we are unable to have the new principal in place for the students first day of school September 5. They find it unacceptable considering the amount of time to find a replacement. What an injustice provided to all the

students and parents. Another district school has a new principal in place for the beginning of school. Why was Everitt not provided the same kind of process? Selecting a principal for Everitt should have been a higher priority due to the tragic loss that was experienced at the end of the school year. Security and stability will be needed by the students on the first day of school. Higher regard and more consideration were expected during this hiring process. Mrs. Offenback does appreciate the effort and hard work in finding a new principal and is aware they are supposed to be presented this evening; however, we also know that nothing can be changed at this point. We would like the hiring process to be evaluated and maybe changed in the future. We feel the first priority should be the best interest of the students. They should have a new principal in their school, whatever that school may be, on the first day that the students start back to school. On behalf of the Samuel Everitt family Mrs. Offenback thanked the Board and Administration for their time and hard work and listening to the concerns.

Mr. Marvin Dickler, Langhorne, PA, attended the meeting yesterday and publicly announced that he complimented the speakers who represented Neshaminy and Middletown at the meeting. Dr. Spitz did an outstanding job of sticking to the point. Mr. O'Connor also did an outstanding job. Mr. Paradise also made a presentation and all three spoke on the subject and were fully prepared. Three outstanding representatives from Neshaminy spoke at the meeting.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Langhorne, PA, welcomed all back from summer vacation. The upcoming year will be very stressful with the construction at the high school and contract negotiations. Mr. Rodos congratulated the progress being made at the high school. The upcoming contract negotiations are the perfect opportunity to install full day kindergarten at selected schools. Mr. Rodos stated that Pennsbury has provided full day kindergarten in selected schools. Mr. Rodos urged Neshaminy to do the same. The state of Pennsylvania is willing to fund these full day kindergarten classes. Mr. Rodos urged the Board to rethink the district's position on health care for retirees. Mr. Rodos believes that the test scores for Neshaminy are pretty good up until the 11th grade. Mr. Rodos knows that high school is a time which many teenagers lose interest in studying. Parents lose interest in what the students are doing. Getting the parents more involved can be one of the solutions to rising test scores in the high school.

Mrs. Debbie Matlack, Levittown, PA, member of the PTO at Everitt Elementary, stated that the community has heard several rumors that the school will be closing and most of the presentations which took place had Everitt closing. Mrs. Matlack was told that 2009 would be the year for the decision to be made for the elementary closing. How soon will the community be informed? Mrs. Matlack is also concerned about full day kindergarten. When students are young it is the best time to get them excited about school and teaching them. New pre-K is a wonderful idea. Mrs. Matlack is also concerned about leaving a principal at one school until retirement. One person at one school for too long is not beneficial. Moving these individuals would be an asset to all the schools. New blood and new ideas are good. Mrs. Matlack questioned the hiring process and the posting of jobs. Mrs. Matlack will be sending a letter regarding the contract issues. Possibly the teachers could contribute to their health care in order to defer costs. Mrs. Matlack would like the Monday after Easter re-evaluated since it is no longer a holiday. It is very hard for families to visit with relatives for that holiday. Mrs. Matlack thanked that Board for listening.

4. Announcements

No announcements.

5. Items for Discussion

a) High School Construction Update

Mr. Paradise provided a brief summary since Mr. Spahr had a calendar change.

- The district is 56 weeks into the project with 112 weeks to go
- G wing is on schedule and will be completed by the second semester
- Connection wing and knuckle areas are the focus of construction at this time
- Kitchen/Cafeteria area has been totally renovated
- Band room will be approximately 2 ½ weeks late and ready by the third week of September

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- Gym Addition off the back of Gym 3 with climbing wall and challenge course will be available by the end of October
- Hockey field issues have been resolved regarding the crown and elevations
- Project is on budget and on time
- More comprehensive report will be provided in September

Mr. Bowman commented that he took a tour of the project and progression is wonderful. The Cafeteria and Gym 3 area are incredible. The staff is receiving some very unique instructional prep areas which will be very beneficial. The new student entrance and main street are wonderful for traffic flow and all new areas are state of the art. Mr. Bowman thanked Mr. Paradise, Mr. Minotti and Reynolds for all their efforts on this project.

6. Items for Approval

a) Overnight Trips

- i) Neshaminy High School Student Delegates Program to PSBA Student Leadership Conference, Hershey, PA – October 3 -5, 2007
- ii) Neshaminy High School Wrestling Team to King of the Mountain Tournament at Central Mountain High School, Mill Hall, PA – December 14, 2007
- iii) Neshaminy High School Wrestling Team Invitation Tournament in Lancaster, - PA December 26 – 28, 2007

There was Board consensus for the above trips.

b) Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund Account

Mr. Paradise advised that this is an account opened in conjunction with the 2007 series Bond issue proceeds for the high school project in order to invest. The School Code requires that the Board approve any accounts opened.

c) Approval of PlanCon H – High School Financing

Mr. Paradise advised that the District will submit a second PlanCon H in order to get subsidy on the additional financing.

Mrs. Barrett questioned what the state reimbursement will be on the project. Mr. Paradise advised that the district will know upon approval of the final step. It will ultimately differ slightly from the estimate. Mr. Paradise will research the estimated amount provided previously and advise.

7. Items for Information

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri announced that at the public meeting this evening the Administration is recommending the hiring of four administrators, two vice-principals and two principals. Mr. Kadri would like to advise that the closing of buildings in the upcoming years will be a totally public process. No concrete information is available regarding the closure of any buildings at this time. This is purely the understanding phase. Mr. Kadri noted to the Everitt parents that he would like to provide them with the information regarding the hiring process.

Mr. Kadri stated that two professional development days will take place in August. Curriculum mapping took place today. Every teacher was present and participated in the activity. Orientation for the 10th graders took place today. Participation was wonderful.

Mr. Kadri thanked the support staff for a wonderful job in preparing the schools for opening day.

Mr. Kadri announced that PlanCon G and PlanCon K have both been received and approved. Mr. Kadri noted this for the record. (See Attachment A).

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Mr. Kadri announced that two Supervisors from Lower Southampton and the School District have met to discuss a potential community center or recreation center. The Township will do a needs analysis. A follow up meeting will probably take place at the end of the year to discuss the issue further.

Mr. Kadri advised that a new phone system is in place for the district (215) 809- 6000.

Mr. Kadri advised that the new website will be launched next week. Parents and community members will be able to register and receive benefits from the site.

9. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Mr. Bowman advised a meeting will take place in September.

b) Educational Development

Dr. Spitz advised that an e-mail was sent to Dr. Costanzo regarding upcoming topics for the fall.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb advised that a meeting will take place in September/October.

d) IU Board

Dr. Spitz advised that no August meeting took place.

e) Education Foundation

Mrs. Cummings reported that the Fall Fundraiser will take place on October 19, 2007 at Kings Caterers from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Tickets are \$30.00. Raffle baskets and cash bar will be available. All proceeds benefit the grant program. Call 215-809-6000 for tickets.

f) Technical School

Ms. Boyle advised that PSSA scores have gone up for the 4th consecutive year. The new auditorium is underway.

g) Technology

Mr. Blasch advised that a meeting took place on August 20th. Technology had many updates during the summer and thanks to all for the hard work done. There were over 536 new telephones installed over the summer. Every teacher in the district will have their own telephone line. Data warehouse is still being developed and worked on.

Mr. Eccles advised that the Fact Finding Committee has met and is gathering information from surrounding districts pending the upcoming negotiations. Mr. Eccles noted that comments and suggestions should be e-mailed to the district or mailed to the Superintendent's office.

10. Future Topics

Mr. Webb asked that Mr. Basen's questions regarding student/teacher ratio should be addressed and also Mr. Rodos' questions regarding full day kindergarten.

Dr. Spitz advised that he will research Mr. Basen's question and provide an answer.

Mr. Eccles suggested a Question and Answer Session take place at the end of the Board meetings for the public to speak with individual Board members. Dialogue can take place for 10-15 minutes after the meeting.

11. Agenda Development for the August 28, 2007 Public Meeting

12. Other Board Business

Mr. Koziol inquired what the district is doing regarding students and drugs/alcohol within the district and what precautionary steps are being taken to protect the students.

Mr. Kadri advised that the Commonwealth of PA provides certain legal limitations with regard to this issue. The Board can create policies and Mr. Profy will be providing a legal opinion in the near future.

13. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

PUBLIC MEETING

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the June 19, 2007 and July 10, 2007 public meetings. Upon motion of Dr. Spitz and seconded by Mr. Bowman, the Board approved the minutes of the June 19, 2007 and July 10, 2007 public meetings. The Board unanimously approved the minutes.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- June, 2007 and July, 2007 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – June, 2007 and July, 2007

Board members made several inquiries regarding the check register. Mr. Paradise provided a response to same.

Mr. Bowman requested a detailed accounting of the checks provided to Middletown Township for fees regarding permits and inspections.

Ms. Boyle raised a question regarding photocopying costs. Mr. Eccles requested that Mr. Paradise provide an explanation for same since the question was raised.

Mrs. Cummings made an inquiry regarding MVP Sports Training. Mr. Kadri addressed the issue and stated that the service will not be provided this year.

Mr. Koziol inquired regarding the Xerox Corporation. Mr. Paradise stated that this year the district is involved in a multi-year contract with Xerox. Upon expiration of the contract the district will revisit same.

Mr. Bowman moved the June, 2007 and July, 2007 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, Check Registers for June, 2007 and July, 2007 be accepted. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, and investments.

Certified and Support Personnel Reports

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

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

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- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- 2007-08 Recommended Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries

Dr. Muenker advised that some positions still need to be filled between now and the first day of school.

Dr. Muenker requested approval of the personnel report as presented.

Mr. Koziol requested a job description for the Faculty Manager overseeing all the extra-curricular sports. Board discussion ensued regarding the extra-curricular staff and salaries. Mr. Koziol suggested a study take place to see if all the positions are necessary.

Dr. Spitz moved the personnel report be accepted. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board approved the personnel report by a vote of eight ayes and one nay (Mr. Koziol).

Mr. Kadri introduced to the following new Administrators:

- Stephanie Miguelez – Principal – Schweitzer Elementary School
- Andre Modica – Principal – Everitt Elementary School
- Beth Pirozolla-Fox – Assistant Principal, Maple Point Middle School
- Clarke Stoneback – Assistant Principal, Neshaminy Middle School

Motion: Approval of Plancon H – High School Financing

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors has embarked on a long term renovation and construction plan for the Neshaminy High School; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive the maximum reimbursement available from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the filing of certain documents during the process is required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes the Administration to submit the next step in the PlanCon process.

PlanCon H: High School Financing

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board is also approving the transmittal sheet necessary for submission of the above document to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Establishment of PA School District Liquid Asset Fund Account

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, a new account is required by Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund for the 2007 Bond Investments Fund; and

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 account with Pennsylvania School District Liquid Asset Fund in the name of Neshaminy School District, Account No. 1730040129.

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Federal Programs

Mr. Kadri advised that a few grants are still and pending and the district is awaiting notification prior to September.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

None.

Board Comment

None.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary