

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
December 5, 2011

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on December 5, 2011, in the District Offices Board Room at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President  
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Vice President  
Ms. Irene M. Boyle  
Mr. Scott Congdon  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. William Oettinger

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Dr. Geeta Heble  
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger  
Mr. Anthony Devlin

**INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**OTHERS:** Approximately 120 persons from the public, staff and press

**SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** James A. Downey, III, Esquire

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**Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

None

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Muenker advised the Board on the Following:

- Neshaminy High School's Family & Consumer Science Majors donated 302 Turkey Soup Meals to Aid For Friends.
- Neshaminy High School Interact Club will be collecting new pajamas for the holiday season. The collection will take place December 1<sup>st</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Carl Sandburg's 8<sup>th</sup> grade Family & Consumer Science students constructed reusable grocery bags for the annual food drive.
- The Oliver Heckman Community was able to donate 15 full Thanksgiving Day meals to some families in need and collected over 250 coats.

**Public Comment**

Tom Miller, truck driver, Middletown Township resident, remarked that a tenth grader who spoke at a previous meeting had some excellent comments. Mr. Miller added that all the speakers who come out to give their opinions about the teachers' demands show strength and courage. He expressed his support for the Board

and the concerned members of the community. He stated that the Board should not lose confidence at the sparse display of signs supporting the Board's position. He assured the Board that the community strongly supports them.

Charles Alfonso, semi-retired business executive, Middletown Township resident, expressed his admiration and appreciation for the departing School Board. He stated that they have shown a heroic stance in the face of adversity. He commended Mr. Webb and the other Board members for their stamina, conviction and moral fiber. He wished the two new members well and reminded everyone that the goal is for the good of the district and the children.

Mike Caputo, retired, Penndel resident, welcomed the new Board members. He applauded the Board members for giving the students a voice. He said the Mr. Webb and the members have worked tirelessly and are determined to settle on a fair contract. He added that the community has rallied around the Board time and time again. He concluded by conveying his gratitude to the Board and reiterated that the community is behind them one hundred per cent.

Almando Carrasquillo, retired State Trooper, Middletown Township resident, thanked the Board members for their service and urged them to re-elect Mr. Webb as Board President. He stated that at this time, we cannot afford to lose the momentum that has been created. Mr. Carrasquillo also thanked Mr. Miller for his comments this evening and said he hopes that more concerned taxpayers will come forward and speak out.

Larry Pastor, business executive, Middletown Township resident, offered his support for Mr. Webb as School Board President. He commented that Mr. Webb has succeeded in stabilizing a budget that for years was destroyed by unaffordable union contracts. He declared that Mr. Webb has been the best Board President that he has seen. He also affirmed his support for Mr. Koutsouradis as Board Vice President and said he has been a key leader on the Board. Mr. Pastor said that the district must press forward because there is much more work to do. He said the new Board needs to set a new direction and leave the NFT leadership behind if they choose to continue to obstruct progress and hurt the students. He ended by wishing the two new members, Mr. Shubin and Mr. Sposato well in their new positions.

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville resident, addressed the School Board asking them to remain with the same Board leadership that has served for the past year. He voiced his support for Mr. Webb and Mr. Koutsouradis as President and Vice President of the Board. He said the Board has made a commitment to restoring Neshaminy to excellence and initiating reforms and progress.

#### **Reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors**

In accordance with the State Code, the Board held its reorganization meeting.

**a) Administering of Oaths of Office**

The loyalty of oaths of office was administered to Mr. Richard Webb, Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Mrs. Susan Cummings, Mr. Mark Shubin, and Mr. Anthony Sposato by District Justice John Waltman.

**b) Election of Temporary President**

Mr. Webb requested nominations be presented for Temporary President for the reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Koutsouradis nominated Ms. Boyle, and Mr. Webb seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Board moved the nominations for Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. Ms. Boyle was unanimously elected Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

**c) Certificates of Elections Read**

Ms. Boyle read the certificates of election for Mrs. Susan Cummings, Mr. Webb, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Mark Shubin, and Mr. Anthony Sposato.

**d) Election of President**

Ms. Boyle requested nominations be presented for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Congdon nominated Mr. Koutsouradis. Mr. Koutsouradis respectfully declined nomination for President of the Neshaminy School Board stating that the Board needs to remain united and now is not the right time for a change in leadership. Mr. Koutsouradis nominated Mr. Webb and Mr. Morris seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously moved that nominations for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed.

Ms. Boyle requested a roll call. The roll call tally indicated a vote of nine ayes, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Morris, Mr. Oettinger, Mr. Webb, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and zero nays.

Mr. Webb was unanimously elected President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

**e) Election of Vice President**

Mr. Webb requested nominations be presented for Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Morris nominated Mr. Koutsouradis and Mr. Webb seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Webb moved that nominations for Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. The Board unanimously approved to close nominations for vice President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed.

Mr. Webb requested a roll call. The roll call tally indicated a vote of nine ayes, (Mr. Webb, Mr. Oettinger, Mr. Sposato, Mr. Morris, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Shubin, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Congdon, and Ms. Boyle), and zero nays.

Mr. Koutsouradis was unanimously elected Vice President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

**Motion: Appointment of Solicitor**

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS The School Board Policy #100 requires during the month of December that the Board of School Directors appoint a solicitor for a one year term.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of School directors reappoint the law firm of Begley, Carlin & Mandio as Solicitor of the Neshaminy School District in accordance with its fee letter dated November 28, 2011.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

**Motion: Approval of Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Webb read the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors must adopt and publish a schedule of Public Meetings for 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached 2012 School Board Meeting Calendar be adopted by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

**Other Board Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville resident, congratulated Mr. Webb and Mr. Koutsouradis for being re-elected Board President and Vice President and said he hopes the coming year will be even more productive. He welcomed the two new Board members and said he hopes they can help bring Neshaminy back to what it once was. He added that there is strong community support for the Neshaminy School Board. He urged the teachers to think about what motivated them to become teachers and stand up to their leadership and stop the impasse.

Mike Caputo, retired, Penndel resident, said he and many members of the community are proud that the Board has remained unified and that they have sent the right message. He said the community is determined to work hard for change that will insure quality education and a fair and equitable contract that is affordable.

**Board Comment**

Mr. Shubin thanked his family and the many people who provided their support during his election. He said he looks forward to the journey ahead and is proud to be a member of the Neshaminy School Board. He stated that this is an opportunity to reflect on what has been accomplished and now to look for ways to improve. Mr. Shubin reiterated that the financial facts dictate what can be achieved. He remarked that it is imperative that a contract be put in place for 2012 that enables the district to move forward with a reform in mind. He said that the district needs to insure that the best teachers are in the classrooms and the best possible education will be provided to the students. Mr. Shubin encouraged parents and members of the community to become involved and help the districts' efforts in moving forward.

Mr. Koutsouradis thanked the Honorable Judge John Waltman for his time and service in the swearing in of the new members and Board Officers.

Mr. Sposato thanked his wife and citizens who supported and voted for him. He said he takes his commitment very seriously and hopes to see Neshaminy School District become great once again. He stated that he looks forward to working with the teachers and he knows that together they can make Neshaminy a great school district for the sake of the children.

Mr. Congdon welcomed the new Board members and said he is available for any assistance they may need. He also thanked Judge Waltman for his appearance. He said he would like to volunteer for the Ad Hoc committee should he be needed. He added his thanks to Mr. Webb and Mr. Koutsouradis for serving as Board President and Vice President and said he looks forward to working together in the coming year.

Mrs. Cummings welcomed the new Board members and thanked Judge Waltman. She also thanked Mr. Webb and Mr. Koutsouradis for their service as Board President and Vice President for the coming year.

Mr. Webb thanked Judge Waltman for attending the meeting and swearing in the members. Mr. Webb expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Neshaminy School Board. He stated that all the

other members work very hard as well, sometimes behind the scenes, and he voiced his gratitude for their dedication.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Shubin moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Sposato seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary