

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
July 16, 2013

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on July 16, 2013, in the District Offices Board Room at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President  
Mr. Scott Congdon, Vice President  
Ms. Irene Boyle  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. William Oettinger  
Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Mrs. Therese Hinterberger

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**

Mr. Kim Koutsouradis

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

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

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Mr. Webb announced that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held where personnel issues were discussed.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

None

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Copland advised the Board on the following:

- Sandburg students give back to community.
- Sandburg students test boating skills at Core Creek Park.
- Neshaminy High School business student award winners.

**Certified and Support Personnel Actions**

Mr. Copland presented the following for approval:

- Elections – Certified Personnel
- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report

Mr. Copland recommended the approval of the personnel report for certified personnel.

Mr. Morris made a motion to separate item #1 from the Personnel Report and Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

July 16, 2013

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The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis was not present.)

Mr. Webb made a motion to accept item #1 in the Personnel Report and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 7 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention, (Mr. Morris abstained for the reason being that he believes that the hiring policy should be more transparent.) (Mr. Koutsouradis was not present.)

Mr. Webb made a motion to accept the remainder of the Personnel Report and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 8 ayes, and 0 nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis was not present.)

#### **Other Board Business**

None.

#### **Public Comment**

Ed Kern, retired, resident of Levittown, mentioned that he is still waiting for an answer to his question about what improvements and upgrades will be done to school buildings should the consolidation project go forward. He said he has done some investigating on his own and has determined that only windows and HVAC systems are planned for upgrades. Mr. Kern is concerned that other needed repairs will not be done due to lack of funds. He again asked for a referendum on the consolidation project.

Angie Manning, New Jersey school teacher, resident of Langhorne, stated that there are some taxpayers who want a referendum for the consolidation project and she provided the Board with copies of the signed petition requesting the referendum.

#### **Board Comment**

Mr. Copeland said that Board policy was explicitly followed in the selection process for hiring the Maple Point Middle School Principal.

Mr. Shubin asked Mr. Copeland to outline the process that was followed by the hiring committee.

Mr. Copeland stated that the applicants were narrowed down from a list of approximately 70 individuals. The hiring committee consisted of 2 teachers, 2 Maple Point parents, members of the administration, a principal and some cabinet members. The candidates viewed a DVD and performed a written evaluation of a teaching lesson. The final candidate was brought before the Board for approval. Mr. Copeland also did a site visit to the candidate's home school and interviewed supervisors and colleagues.

Mr. Shubin asked Mrs. Markowitz how much is in the current capitol reserve fund.

Mrs. Markowitz said it is currently at \$8.9 million and an additional \$1.4 million will be added to the fund, which will give close to \$10 million.

Mr. Shubin congratulated Dr. Rattigan on her new position of Superintendent with the Penridge School District.

Ms. Boyle thanked Dr. Rattigan for all her assistance over the years and wished her the best in her new endeavor. Additionally, she noted that Mr. Copeland did follow Board Policy during the hiring process for the Maple Point Principal position.

Mr. Oettinger asked for an overview on the full-day kindergarten project.

July 16, 2013

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Mr. Copeland said the lottery went well, with a minimum of disappointments. He said letters were sent out advising parents of who was selected for the full-day program and also of assignments for morning and afternoon sessions for other children not participating in the full-day program.

Mr. Congdon asked if any parents declined the full-day kindergarten after they had been selected in the lottery.

Mr. Copeland said there were some who declined the option.

Mr. Webb thanked Dr. Rattigan for her service over the past 30 years and wished her well.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Oettinger moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:27p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary