

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

WORK SESSION/PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
August 28, 2012

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session/public board meeting on August 28, 2012 in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Performing Arts Center at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mr. Scott E. Congdon
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. William Oettinger
Mr. Mark Shubin
Mr. Anthony Sposato

ADMINISTRATORS:

Dr. Jacqueline A. Rattigan
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Geeta A. Heble
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger
Mr. Anthony Devlin

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Vice President

OTHERS: Approximately 75 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire
Chuck N. Sweet, Esquire

Mr. Webb stated that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held regarding personnel and contract issues.

PUBLIC WORK SESSION

1. Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

None

4. Public Comment

Angie Manning, school teacher in Burlington County New Jersey, Langhorne, thanked Mr. Webb and Mr. Sweet for coming out to the Q and A session. She stated that another Q and A session will be held on September 24, Twining Hall, Trevoise Fire Department from 6 to 8 p.m.

Harriet Schnitzer, Bensalem, sited an example of a young student who attended TLC and achieved remarkable success as a published author. Mrs. Schnitzer implored the Board to reconsider their decision regarding TLC.

Casey Young, 11th grader, Langhorne, explained how TLC benefited him in his life and studies and voiced his disappointment upon hearing that the program has been cut. He speculated that since the Board was unable to formulate any ideas to save the program, perhaps they could use a student's perspective in this matter.

Steve Young, writer, Langhorne, asked the Board if the TLC students who are being assimilated back into the mainstream high school have problems coping, will TLC be reassembled to help these students.

Steve Rodos, semi-retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, remarked perhaps now is not the best time to attempt plan number 3 of the McKissick Report due to contract negotiations, hiring a new superintendent, etc. Mr. Rodos mentioned the cost of plan number 3 is more than he would like to see the district undertake at this time. He said that plan number 1 seems to be the better option and, if needed, the district could always upgrade to plan number 3 at a future time. Mr. Rodos asked if the elimination of the instructional period in middle school has already been decided.

5. Items for Approval Tonight

Dr. Rattigan advised the Board on the following:

- a) **Non-Renewal and Demotion of Staff**
- b) **Approval of Facility Renovations – PlanCon A**
- c) **Approval for building usage for the Bucks County Challenger Flag Football**

Dr. Rattigan advised that the above two motions will be presented later this evening for the Board's approval.

6. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Rattigan advised the Board on the following:

- Neshaminy School District made AYP for the 4th consecutive year.
- Congratulations to Junior, Danielle Finley, placed 2nd in an entrepreneurship competition at Bloomsburg.
- Family and Consumer Science Department awarded financial gifts to graduating seniors going into a FCS related field.
- IBM Grant Supports Summer Elementary Stem Academy at Neshaminy.
- Gave an update on the IOP Program in the middle schools
- Gave an update on the TLC Program
- Thanked cabinet members, the middle school administrators, and the middle school supervisor.

7. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Ms. Boyle advised the Board that no date has been set for the next meeting as of yet, but topics will include the length of time for public comment and the computer usage policy.

b) Educational Development

Mr. Shubin informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for September 24th, and October 15th. The agenda will include increased discussion on Stem, increased work on AYP for next year, and PSSA scores.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb advised the Board that a date has not yet been set.

d) IU Board

Mrs. Cummings was not present.

e) Technical School

Mr. Koutsouradis was not present.

f) Technology

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that a date has not yet been set.

h) Ad Hoc Facility Use Update

Mr. Oettinger announced to the Board that at the last meeting, which was on August 14th, the committee reviewed the McKissick report. The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th, at 6 p.m.

8. Future Topics

None

9. Agenda Development for the August 28, 2012 Public Board Meeting

None

10. Other Board Business

Mr. Shubin made a motion to establish a community committee for school consolidation in Neshaminy.

Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of seven ayes, and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present).

11. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Oettinger seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

PUBLIC BOARD SESSION

Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of June 26, 2012. Upon motion of Mr. Morris and seconded by Mr. Congdon the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the June 26, 2012 Public Meeting. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present).

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

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following for approval:

- June and July, 2012 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register - June and July, 2012
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for June, 2012

Ms. Boyle moved the June and July, 2012, Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, Check Register for June and July, 2012, and the Personal and per capita tax exonerations for June, 2012 be approved. Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris inquired what the amounts represent under the Independent Blue Cross section on page 40.

Mrs. Markowitz responded that they are the Independent Blue Cross payments for June and July.

Mr. Morris asked was that just for the NFT.

Mrs. Markowitz responded that it was for all employees in the district.

The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and one nay, (Mr. Morris). (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Dr. Rattigan presented the following for approval:

- Elections – Certified Personnel
- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Elections – Support Personnel
- Resignation Leaves - Support Personnel

Mr. Shubin moved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports be approved. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked if the certified staff still received the \$27,500 retirement incentive.

Dr. Rattigan responded that they are.

The motion passed by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Extra-Curricular Activities Report

Dr. Rattigan presented the following for approval:

- Extra-Curricular Staff and Salary Report

Mr. Morris made a motion to separate on pg. 74, line item number 11, 12, 13, 14, 30, 31, 34, 35; Pg. 75, line item number, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 29, 30, 31, 32, 37, 38, 45, 46; Pg. 65, line item number, 9, 10, 11, 12, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 34, 35; Pg. 77, line item number, 30, 31, 32, 42, 43, 44; Pg. 79, line item number, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25.

Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays.

Mr. Shubin made a motion to accept the remaining line items of Dr. Rattigan's Extra-Curricular Staff and Salary Report and Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Mr. Webb made a motion to withhold approval of the separated line items that Mr. Morris referenced. Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of five ayes, one nay, (Mr. Shubin), and one abstention, (Mr. Congdon). (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Motion: Non-Renewal and Demotion of staff

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, The Board of School Directors directed the then Superintendent, Business Administrator and such other members of the School District's Administration team who the then Superintendent deemed necessary to undertake various studies related to program requirements, staffing capacities and needs; and

WHEREAS, The then Superintendent and other School District Officials did conduct such studies and prepared for consideration by the Board, a plan detailing such findings and recommendations to these matters, copy of which is attached to and incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the then Superintendent has recommended the curtailment or alteration of the District's Education Program as set forth in the attachment incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, The current Acting Superintendent concurs with the recommendation of the prior Superintendent and has also recommended the curtailment or alteration of the District's Education Program as set forth in the attachment incorporated into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, The Board hereby concurs with the prior Superintendent's and current Acting Superintendent's recommendation and authorizes the current Acting Superintendent to undertake such measures as are necessary and prudent to implement the recommended courses of action and to undertake such other actions as are necessary to advance and to carry into effect the purposes of this Resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Board of School Directors approves the annexed curtailment or alteration of the District's Education Program and approves the resulting non-renewal and demotion of certified staff as per the attached list effective September 4, 2012.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present).

Motion: Settlement of Assessment Appeal

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

Mr. Profy, IV, recommends to the Board that they settle the following Tax Year Assessments regarding TMP #21-010-049, Lower Southampton Township, property of 250 Bustleton, L.P. for the following amounts:

\$60,050 – 2011 Tax Year Assessment
\$60,050 – 2012 Tax Year Assessment
\$67,000 – 2013 Tax Year Assessment
\$67,000 – 2014 Tax Year Assessment
\$67,000 – 2015 Tax Year Assessment

A form of Settlement Stipulation is attached hereto. Neither party can appeal this assessment until after the 2015 Tax Year.

Authorize Solicitor to sign Stipulation to said effect on part of School District.

Mr. Oettinger seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of seven ayes, and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Motion: Approval of Facility Renovations – PlanCon A

Mr. Congdon presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, McKissick Associates conducted an updated Facilities study to assess the several options of building closures; and

WHEREAS, in order to receive state reimbursement, the filing of PlanCon A with the Pennsylvania Department of Education is required by October 1, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorizes McKissick Associates to work with the Administration to prepare the PlanCon submission materials for option number ____ of the McKissick report dated August 14, 2012.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin clarified that at this time the Board is not committing to anything specific but rather to ensure that the district receives PlanCon A funding.

Mr. Profy stated that this statement is accurate.

Mr. Webb asked how much money the district would receive from the PlanCon A funding.

Mrs. Markowitz stated \$3.8 million throughout the course of the bond.

Mr. Morris asked for more details on site location and how the location is chosen.

Mr. Shubin deferred the question to Mr. Minotti.

Mr. Congdon also asked that Mr. Minotti make a comparison of the costs between building a new school versus renovations to older schools.

Mr. Minotti explained how the location is recommended according to the McKissick report and what factors are taken into consideration. He also explained the cost difference that Mr. Congdon mentioned.

Mr. Webb asked if McKissick Associates stated that they needed an answer immediately.

Mr. Minotti responded that Mr. McKissick wishes to receive a response expeditiously so there will not be any delay in submitting the request for the PlanCon A funding.

Mr. Webb stated that the reason he is voting no is because he is uncomfortable going forward without including the public.

Mr. Webb requested a roll call tally and the tally indicated that the motion failed by a vote of four ayes, (Mr. Congdon, Mr. Shubin, Mr. Sposato, and Mr. Oettinger), and three nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Webb). (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Profy advised the Board on the following:

Recommendation to settle pending 2006 through 2013 Tax Year Assessment Appeals of McStome, Inc. and Kravco, Inc. as follows:

McStome, Inc.

Settlement Assessment

Kravco, Inc.

22-057-020-001 \$10,679,000.00 - 2006 Tax Year Assessment
 \$10,679,000.00 - 2007 Tax Year Assessment
 \$10,679,000.00 - 2008 Tax Year Assessment
 \$10,679,000.00 - 2009 Tax Year Assessment
 \$9,850,000.00 - 2010 Tax Year Assessment
 \$9,790,000.00 - 2011 Tax Year Assessment
 9,254,000.00 - 2012 Tax Year Assessment
 \$8,618,000.00 - 2013 Tax Year Assessment

McStome, Inc.
Kravco, Inc.

Settlement Assessment

22-040-029-002 \$133,600.00 – 2006 Tax Year Assessment
 \$133,600.00 – 2007 Tax Year Assessment
 \$133,600.00 – 2008 Tax Year Assessment
 \$133,600.00 – 2009 Tax Year Assessment
Tax Assessment Appeals of School District for Tax
Years 2010 through 2013 are to be Withdrawn
Without Prejudice.

McStome, Inc.
Kravco, Inc.

Settlement Assessment

22-040-029-003 \$238,000.00 – 2006 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2007 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2008 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2009 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2010 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2011 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2012 Tax Year Assessment
 \$238,000.00 – 2013 Tax Year Assessment

Mr. Webb made a motion to accept Mr. Profy's report and Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of seven ayes, and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve Bucks County Challenger Flag Football League for the building usage of Neshaminy facilities on Sundays from September 23rd through November 18th, subject to insurance and reimbursement for all expenses.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of seven ayes and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mrs. Cummings were not present.)

Federal Programs

Dr. Rattigan advised the Board that there were four additional grants, which brings the total for federal programs and grants to \$1,076,734.00.

Other Board Business

Mr. Congdon asked for verification that the Approval of Facility Renovations PlanCon A will be an agenda item at the September 11th meeting.

Mr. Webb confirmed that it will be an agenda item for the next public board meeting.

Mr. Morris asked if the three teachers and two part-time teachers mentioned under the Grant Program Title II are being hired.

Dr. Heble stated that she would look into the matter and get back to him.

Public Comment

Steve Young, writer, Langhorne, questioned the actual number of students involved in TLC and asked for clarification on the number discrepancy. Mr. Young reiterated the importance of having a plan in place for those students who need an alternative to the main stream school system.

Steve Rodos, semi-retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, mentioned that if the Board rejects the recommendation of the McKissick report it would necessitate another recommendation from a different firm, which may delay the entire matter another year or year and a half.

Ben Schuhardt stated that while he understands the community's attachment and strong feelings for neighborhood schools it does not alter the fact that some tough decisions must be made to consolidate the schools and save money. He asked for the community and the Board to come together and make these difficult choices.

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville, asked Ms. Boyle if the Policy Meeting could be moved back from the 5 p.m. time schedule to a more convenient time for the public. He stated that he thinks now is the time to make a decision regarding consolidating the schools; however, he agrees that the public should be involved in the decision and he is confident that a decision can be made and the district can acquire the funding that is necessary. Mr. Pirritano remarked that he was disappointed in the attitude of the NFT's president for displaying inappropriate outbursts while the Board was discussing important financial issues. He concluded by declaring his support for a longer school day.

Almando Carrasquillo, private investigator, Villages of Flowers Mill, thanked Mr. Webb for taking the time to explain the district's financial situation and he added that the public supports the Board in all financial decisions and he doesn't feel that any excess in funds is deserved by the NFT at this time. Mr. Carrasquillo expressed his offense at the NFT president's guffawing during the meeting when matters of financial difficulty to the district were discussed. He suggested that the agenda for the Ad Hoc meetings be posted in advance.

Angie Manning, teacher in Burlington County, NJ, Langhorne resident, requested that the school district provide advanced notice of assignments to parents of a.m. or p.m. kindergarten students. She also asked for an update on the court hearing.

Board Comment

Mr. Oettinger reminded the public of the Ad Hoc meeting on September 10th to discuss the McKissick Report.

Mr. Webb reiterated that those interested in voicing their opinion on the subject should attend the Ad Hoc Committee meeting on September 10th.

Mr. Shubin thanked Dr. Rattigan for filling in as acting superintendent during the transition period. He also thanked the search committee and Mr. Webb for their hard work in finding a new superintendent. He welcomed Mr. Copeland to the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Shubin said he looks forward to a continued partnership between the Board and members of the community to move Neshaminy forward and to create a better school district for the students.

Dr. Rattigan answered Mr. Young's question regarding the number of students attending TLC stating that some of the students graduated and some of them were to go back to the high school on a split schedule. Dr. Rattigan noted that if a student was not doing well in main stream there are other options put in place. Dr. Rattigan explained that the maximum size class, and transportation issues, and also last minute registration all contribute to the time when classroom assignments are given out.

Mr. Sweet stated that the court appearance on August 14th, to supervise the bargaining sessions was denied. Mr. Sweet said that there will be a total of nine dates set up for bargaining sessions between August 29th, and the end of September. He also stated that the Judge made it clear that he would not be pleased with a strike during these bargaining sessions.

Mr. Webb stated that he will agree with the wishes of the public.

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary