

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(PUBLIC MEETING)
April 18, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on April 18, 2006, 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
Ms. Irene M. Boyle
Mr. Frank J. Koziol
Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. P. Howard Wilson
Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mr. Bruce Wyatt

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, IV, Esquire

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Jason Bowman
Mrs. Susan Cummings

OTHERS: Approximately 11 persons from the public, staff and press

Call to Order

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

Announcements

Mr. Eccles advised that Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings would not be in attendance this evening due to prior commitments.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson advised that a letter was received from the Pennsylvania Department of Education stating that the non-compliant special education issues that were found during the review are now all in compliance.

Mr. Wilson advised that approval was received from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Education for Plancon Part D: Project Accounting Based on Estimates. A true and correct copy of said approval letter is attached hereto and made a part hereof. (See attached Exhibit A).

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the March 28, 2006 public meeting. Upon motion of Dr. Spitz and seconded by Ms. Boyle, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 28th Public Meeting. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

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, 2006 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – March, 2006
- Escrow Funds, Capital Improvement Funds, Investment Funds
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for March, 2006 totaling 181 requests for exonerations
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-3)

Mr. Paradise noted that on page 20 there is a new section summarizing the 2006 Bond Issue High School Construction Fund Accounts.

Mr. Webb moved the March, 2006 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the March, 2006 bills for payment, Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds, Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-3), and the personal and per capita tax exonerations for March, 2006. Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

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

Bids – Mr. Paradise presented the following bid for approval.

07-02 Athletic & Physical Education Supplies

Bid Amount: \$81,386.79

The bid is for physical education program supplies and various team sports for the school year 2006/2007.

07-05 Transportation Parts Supplies

Bid Amount: \$42,848.46

The bid is for various supplies for the maintenance of District vehicles for school year 2006/2007. Quantities on this bid are estimated. The actual quantities purchased may vary from this estimate but will not exceed the total recommended for award.

07-06 Magazine Subscriptions

Bid Amount: \$12,757.68

The bid is for magazines for school libraries, curriculum library, and classroom instruction for school year 2006/2007.

Mr. Paradise noted that the Magazine Subscriptions and Athletic and Physical Education Supplies come out of the per pupil allocation.

07-10 Bituminous Concrete Paving, Resurfacing and Repair

Bid Amount: \$89,039.00

The bid is for bituminous concrete paving, resurfacing and repair at Carl Sandburg/Albert Schweitzer complex.

Mr. Koziol moved the bids be approved and Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Bids. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves of Certified Personnel
- 2005/2006 Recommended Extra Curricular Staff and Salaries

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

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

Mr. Eccles noted that Mr. Wilson will be retiring at the end of this school year with almost 18 years in the district. Mr. Eccles stated that Mr. Wilson will be missed by all within the district and thanked Mr. Wilson for all he has done for the district.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Special Education Contracted Services for 2006-2007

Mr. Koziol 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 RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the contract for special education services with Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22 for the 2006 - 2007 school year.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Revised 2005-2006 School Calendar

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, inclement weather forced the closing of schools on December 9, 2005, February 13 and March 2, 2006, 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 16, and the last day for teachers as June 22, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that June 14, 2006 is designated as the date for the Neshaminy High School graduation.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol commented that three of the federal holidays are January 1st which is New Year's Day, February 20th is Washington's Birthday, and December 25th is Christmas Day and should be noted as such.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Approval of Bank Accounts with Citizens Bank

Mrs. Barrett presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Public School Code requires that the Board of School Directors approves all bank accounts; and

WHEREAS, the District is moving our main accounts to Citizens Bank in accordance with the recent RFP's in which Citizens offered to provide improved services at a lower net cost to the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors authorize the establishment of the accounts as listed on the attached page dated March 21, 2006.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: 2006-2007 Bucks County Technical High School Budget

Mrs. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to provide technical high school education for students, six Lower Bucks County School Districts cooperatively established the Bucks County Technical High School; and

WHEREAS, each participating school district must annually approve the Technical High School's annual budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the 2006-07 Bucks County Technical High School budget in the total amount of \$19,912,941 with the Neshaminy School District 2006-07 net fiscal payment to be \$3,680,486.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

Mr. Webb stated that he sat in on the budget meetings and was unhappy with the amount and thought that a better job could have been done. Mr. Koziol also sat in on the budget meetings and feels that the budget could have been cut by an additional \$200,000 which would have brought the budget down to 4% which is the cost of living in our area. Mr. Koziol urged Board members to vote against the budget.

Mr. Wilson noted that if this motion as written is voted down the district will not be authorized to make the payment of \$3.6M to the Technical School. Mr. Wilson noted that Neshaminy's "no" vote will not hold up the Tech School budget if the other district's approve.

Dr. Spitz made a motion to amend the current motion to strike the words "with the Neshaminy School District 2006-07 net fiscal payment to be \$3,680,486."

The Board unanimously approved to amend the motion to strike the words "with the Neshaminy School District 2006-07 net fiscal payment to be \$3,680,486." Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote. The roll call tally indicated the motion failed as amended with four nays (Mr. Webb, Mrs. Barrett, Ms. Boyle and Mr. Koziol) and three ayes (Mr. Blasch, Mr. Eccles and Dr. Spitz). Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Approval of Revised Board Policies #536 and 537

Mrs. Barrett 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:

**Revised Policy 536 – Administration of Medication
Revised Policy 537 – Administration of Medical Treatments**

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

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol questioned whether the policies are typed in accordance with the Federal government requirements or is this according to the district. Mr. Webb responded that this is in accordance with state law.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Bowman and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson reported that there was no change in the Federal programs.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Board Comment

Mr. Eccles made the following statement:

“At the last Board meeting I made some closing remarks that were meant to bring two governing bodies together. To have these two bodies work together, think together, and act together. I extended the olive branch in an attempt to keep this high school project on task. Well, I was stunned to receive a call from a reporter for the Bucks County Courier Times that faxed a letter to me from one supervisor that read like a “B” movie script. I must have offended a few supervisors with my let’s work together speech. I have served this community with dedication, integrity, and honesty for the last eight years and I will not sit idly by and have our Administrators, professional staff, and Board of School Directors belittled by a rogue, self-serving political circus or be the brunt of some group’s frustration by using words such as potentially incompetent, deplorable, unreliable or unprofessional. I find this tactic cold and unimaginative. We have also been accused of the disconnected nature of the district’s oversights. During this disconnected nature which began for the district years ago and approximately seven months ago for Middletown Township, our District Superintendent, Business Manager and Board President have remained consistent for the last three years. Middletown Township has changed Township Managers, not once, not twice, but three times since the beginning of the seven month process. Also, the Township Engineer has been changed and the Township Solicitor and the political climate have changed also. Who is disconnected? This is not meant to throw stones only at you the Township Supervisors. Look into the mirror and look at your own house before you lay blame on others. Please do not threaten the Neshaminy Board of School Directors with remarks like “I advise you to learn a lesson quickly.” What does that mean? What do you all have in store? Please, once again, keep you political agendas out of the school district. We do not need them, nor do we want them.

On a positive and upbeat note we have been informed by a Construction Manager that presently there were over 90 bidders anticipated to place bids on this project. This amount is higher than any

other project presently in their firm. Neshaminy must be doing something right. When you have nationally known architects and regionally known construction managers and engineers, good things happen. Rest assured that we as a Board are doing everything that we can to supply the students and taxpayers with a quality product and service. Once again, I will extend the Board's wish that we and Middletown Township work together to bring this project to fruition, on time and on budget. Thank you for everyone's time and patience. We will keep you informed on the progress of this project."

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Boyle seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary