

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
(PUBLIC MEETING)  
May 17, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on May 17, 2006, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Dr. Sandra Costanzo  
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise  
Ms. Jacqueline Rattigan  
Mr. Bruce Wyatt

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:**

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

**SECRETARY:**

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**OTHERS:** Approximately 14 persons from the public, staff and press

---

**Call to Order**

Mrs. Barrett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mrs. Barrett requested those in attendance join in the salute to the flag.

**Announcements**

Mrs. Barrett announced that Mr. Rick Eccles would not be present this evening due to the fact that he was attending an awards ceremony at Carl Sandburg for his son.

Dr. Muenker advised that Mr. Wilson had a family friend pass away and would not be in attendance this evening.

Dr. Muenker advised that Neshaminy School District has received a letter from the Pennsylvania Department of Education regarding Plancon Part E: Design Development which is to be recorded into the minutes, and a true and correct copy of said approval letter is attached hereto and made a part hereof. (See Attachment A).

**Public Comment**

Mr. Elliot Pressman, Langhorne, PA, stated that he thanked the board for the progress made in the renovations and additions work at Neshaminy High School. Mr. Pressman's children will attend and he is very interested in the progress. Mr. Pressman also works for Siemens Building Technologies. One of the managers was at the meeting last Thursday and heard unfounded information. The statement was that Siemens Controls, Alternate 13, which is a \$135,000 deduct to the school district, that deduct would be eroded in three years by our service contract. This is not true. The simple explanation is in a letter from the Solicitor and Business Manager. Please make sure you consider under Alternate 13 using Siemens Building Technologies. This

deduct savings is real. Siemens is a \$100 billion dollar company and has been working within the school district for over fifty years. Siemens is very qualified to do the project. Please put the \$135,000 to good use.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Langhorne, PA, wanted to bring up three points:

- Hire a new superintendent within the ranks of Neshaminy School District because too much is going on within Neshaminy School District
- Starting a new high school
- Technology issues
- Thanked in advance for the anticipated approval of the S.A.G.E. contract
- Tawanka School – Give serious thought for the new high school to include a wing for the alternative school and at that point the Tawanka building could be closed

Mrs. Barrett welcomed all audience members and thanked them for their interest. Mrs. Barrett also thanked the members of the T.V. viewing audience for their interest.

### **Student Representative Report**

Miss Melissa Stack provided the following report:

- Ice Cream Social will be held this upcoming Monday and the monies raised will go towards the Memorial Garden
- Volleyball Tournament will take place in the next couple weeks
- Basketball Tournament was a success raising \$400.00 and the monies are going towards helping the children of Uganda
- Spring sports ( Softball, Volleyball and Soccer Teams) are doing extremely well

### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the April 18, 2006 public meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Blasch and seconded by Mr. Bowman, the Board approved the minutes of the April 18, 2006 public meeting with eight ayes. Mr. Eccles was not present at the meeting.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Muenker advised that at all levels, elementary, secondary and high school, the district is very busy. The district is bringing to a close another great year at Neshaminy. Many activities are going on throughout the district.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- April, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – April, 2006
- Investments for Approval
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-4) which includes 4 transactions
- Personal & Per Capita Tax Exonerations for April, 2006 totaling 193 exonerations

Mr. Bowman moved the April, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, Check Registers for April, 2006, Investments, Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 06-4) and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for April, 2006 be approved. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol inquired regarding a check to Shamokin Area School District for tuition. Dr. Muenker responded that this item had to do with an alternative placement and that more information would be gotten for Mr. Koziol regarding same.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, investments, budget transfer report and personal and per capita tax exonerations. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Bids**

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids:

Bid No. 06-44 Temporary Locker Supply and Installation

Bid Amount: \$23,800.00

The bid is for supply and installation of 626 temporary student lockers during high school renovations. Lockers will be installed between June 26 - August 25, 2006. Removal is not included and will be done by the demolition contractor awarded the Demo Prime contract.

Mr. Blasch moved the bid be approved and Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the bid. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Bid No. 07-11 School Agendas

Bid Amount: \$21,579.35

The bid is for agendas – both student and teacher editions for all secondary schools.

Mr. Wyatt presented the following information regarding the school agendas:

- School agendas are used in all secondary schools
- Playwickian newspaper provided a pro/con article
- Ms. Gould, Faculty Advisor to the Playwickian, accepted the challenge and a survey of students, staff and parents was conducted and a pro/con article was developed
- Over 500 students surveyed from all grade levels
- 14 questions were asked of the students
- Provided board members with a copy of the Playwickian and survey results

Ms. Melissa Stack presented the results of the survey with Board members:

- Teachers stated that 90% of Honors and AP level students used the agendas
- 73% of College Prep level used agenda books
- 37% of Career Prep level used agenda books
- 82% of Parents stated that they encourage their student to use the agenda book
- 47% of all students from Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors stated that they use their agenda books

In summary, Mr. Wyatt advised that the Administration believes that they have created an expectation for the students at the high school to use the agenda books. It is an organizational tool which is helpful to students. More time will be spent on in-servicing the staff on the importance of all level of students using the agenda books. The Administration feels that it is an overall important piece of communication used at the district. The Administration recommends that the Board continues their support of the agenda book purchase for all students.

Mr. Wyatt further advised that the student discipline code is included in the agenda handbook. That discipline code is a document that must be provided to students and parents must sign off. Approximately 30%-40% of the cost of the agenda book is the discipline portion of the handbook.

Board discussion ensued regarding the use and importance of the student agenda handbooks. Further discussion took place regarding the survey results.

Mr. Webb made a motion to have the bid be tabled and the matter be sent to the Education Development Committee. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was requested by Mrs. Barrett on the motion to table. The roll call tally indicated the motion to table prevailed with five ayes, Mr. Webb, Mr. Koziol, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Blasch and Mrs. Barrett and three nays, Dr. Spitz, Mrs. Cummings and Ms. Boyle. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Dr. Spitz advised that a special meeting of the Education Development Committee will take place in order to consider this issue.

**Certified and Support Personnel Reports**

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

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

Mr. Bowman moved the personnel report be accepted. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Dr. Spitz advised that Mr. Wyatt will be retiring from the district with over 36 years of service to the district. Dr. Spitz congratulated Mr. Wyatt on a job well done.

Mr. Koziol inquired regarding an individual requesting sick leave and the hiring of three special education positions.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel report. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Motion: Letter of Engagement Between Neshaminy School District and S.A.G.E.**

Mrs. Barrett presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District solicitor and legal counsel representing S.A.G.E. have worked out a letter of agreement; and**

**WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District encourages volunteers in our community to serve the children in our school district.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the cooperative agreement with S.A.G.E. to begin a volunteer program in the Neshaminy School District in the fall of 2006.**

Dr. Koziol seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Motion: Approval of the 2006-07 Preliminary Budget**

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors has received and reviewed a working draft budget for the 2006-07 fiscal year; and**

**WHEREAS, as set forth in Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, the President of the Board of School Directors shall certify to the Pennsylvania Department of Education that**

the proposed budget was prepared, presented, and will be made available for public inspection using the uniform form furnished by the Department of Education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the proposed budget as of May 17, 2006, be made available to the public for review in preparation of the final budget, with additional changes, to be adopted during the month of June 2006.

Mr. Paradise advised that issues still remain unresolved at the present time. Mr. Paradise advised that fuel oil prices will be adding significantly to the budget. The primary purpose this evening is to make the budget document a public document.

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Motion: Appointment of Treasurer**

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, each year during the month of May the Board must elect a Treasurer to serve for the year beginning July 1, 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Joseph V. Paradise, Business Administrator, be appointed Treasurer of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors for the above term, beginning July 1, 2006.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Motion: Approval of the Langhorne Borough Tax Collector**

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Langhorne Borough Tax Collector shall collect school taxes levied within the Borough by Neshaminy School District pursuant to 53 P.S. Sec. 46084; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 53 P.S. Sec. 45901, Langhorne Borough appointed Eilyn M. Schoen as tax collector due to the resignation of John T. Kimmel, Sr.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Eilyn M. Schoen is recognized by Neshaminy School District as the tax collector for Langhorne Borough.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Motion: Approval of Agreement for Exchange of Services with Lower Southampton Township**

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Township and the District mutually acknowledge and agree that they are desirous of entering into an Agreement to provide for the mutual exchange of certain services, to the benefit of each party; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the District have agreed upon a schedule of services to be exchanged between the parties hereto, which same schedule shall form the basis of this Municipal Cooperative Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Township and the District desire to memorialize the terms, conditions and provisions of their understanding with respect to the exchange of services under this Agreement; and

**WHEREAS, the parties hereto have been authorized by the General Assembly to enter into intermunicipal cooperative agreements, under and pursuant to the authority set forth under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law, 53 Pa.C.S.A. § 2301, et seq., and specifically, as provided by 53 Pa.C.S.A. § 2303(b).**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District enter into the annexed Municipal Cooperative Agreement with Lower Southampton Township as permitted under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Law of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.**

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Mr. Tack spoke to the Board regarding the bids that were received and the type of construction market that presently exists today. Many other projects have come in over bid. Mr. Tack has spoken with nine contractors over the last several days. Two contractors stated that they would be interested in rebidding the project if it were rebid. However, there is no certainty that they will actually bid same.

Mr. Tack advised the board that it would be in the district's best interest to accept the general trades contract and do not reject same at this time. If the project is re-bid the district runs the risk of delaying the project due to the fact that a significant amount of the work needs to be completed before classes begin in September. Re-bidding will cause delays with other contractors and they will begin to file for delay costs.

Mr. Koziol inquired whether the cost of the project could increase over the years as contractor costs may escalate due to inflation. Mr. Tack advised that the amounts bid are the prices the district will incur. Contractors cannot increase district costs due to inflation.

Mr. Tack suggested holding a special board meeting on June 1, 2006.

Mrs. Barrett questioned the insurance coverage. Mr. Tack advised either the district covers the insurance or the contractors provide the insurance. Mr. Tack recommended that the contractor's insurance be used due to the fact that the owner insurance costs have risen over 30%.

**Motion: Approval of Motion to Re-Bid Drywall Portion of the Bidding Process**

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

**WHEREAS, the District did not receive any bid responses for "Contract 06-37, Drywall and Acoustical Ceiling Construction" when bids were opened on May 9, 2006.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the above work is authorized for re-bid with bid results due by May 31, 2006.**

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

**Federal Programs**

Dr. Muenker thanked Dr. Costanzo for a job well done with regards to the grants received by the district this year.

**Other Board Business**

Mr. Webb stated that a Finance Committee would be set in the near future.

Dr. Spitz requested that Mr. Paradise provide a summary as to where the district is with the traffic study. Mr. Paradise stated that the district has complied with all the requirements as noted in the 63 point letter received from Middletown Township. The district is waiting for a reply from the Township. The district is waiting for a written response in order that PDE is comfortable with the issues and the district will be given approval to award the construction bids.

Mr. Paradise stated that it is his intention to contact the Township or Mr. Young in order to get an up-date.

There was board consensus to have a meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA stated that he was disappointed to hear that there was no real update on the traffic impact study. Mr. O'Connor is aware that the district may be awaiting information from the Township, however, when you manage a project you cannot allow yourself to be in that position to wait for information. No one is pushing the blame on any one person; however, there is a problem with communications between the district and Middletown Township. Mr. O'Connor made a call and learned that the engineer for Middletown Township was scheduled to have their findings of reviewing the traffic impact study due at the end of business today. This update should not be coming from me. There should be a constant communication between the Township and the district. These are things that need to occur clearly and constantly. The district's relationship with Middletown Township has been very strained. Mr. O'Connor would like to see the district follow up with the Township diligently at all times and not take a wait and see approach.

Mr. O'Connor further stated that the weather season coming up could cause delays. The district should not take any chances in delaying this project. If there has been nothing learned over the past four years is that delays only cost money. Lastly, this is a large scale and Mr. O'Connor wondered whether there is anything that the district can or should be doing as an employer to make sure that the contractors are using either U.S. citizens or documented workers. The great thing about this project is that local people are obtaining work; however, make sure that they are documented workers and U.S. Citizens.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Langhorne, PA stated that Mr. Wyatt, who is retiring in less than a month, has given his all to get the agenda handbooks in the hands of the students. This Board goes to extremes. The Board is trying to cut every little expenditure under the sun, and this particular expenditure basically is meaningless. The Board could approve same and attempt to get advertising for the covers; however, this issue was disgracefully handled by the Board.

**Board Comment**

Dr. Spitz apologized that not more of the Board members could attend the Sandburg or high school academic recognition programs. All Board members were invited and Dr. Spitz wishes that he could have attended.

Mrs. Barrett thanked the Board for approving S.A.G.E. Mrs. Barrett thanked Dr. Costanzo for all the help she provided with S.A.G.E. The Senior Task Force in Lower Southampton is very interested in the program and Mr. Steve Rodos. Mrs. Barrett stated that everyone knows that there cannot be too many caring, concerned adults in our student's lives. We look forward to beginning the program.

**Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion with eight ayes. Mr. Eccles was not present. Mrs. Barrett adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary