

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
May 25, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on May 25, 2004, in the Auditorium of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. William H. Spitz, Vice-President
Mrs. Sue C. Barrett
Mrs. June R. Bostwick
Mr. Jason Bowman
Ms. Carol A. Drioli
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mrs. Kimberly Jowett
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. P. Howard Wilson
Dr. Raymond J. Boccuti
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Mr. Harry P. Jones
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mr. Richard S. Marotto
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

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

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Miss Stephanie Huston

Call to Order

Dr. Spitz called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Spitz requested those in attendance join in the salute to the flag.

Announcements

No announcements.

Student Representative Report

Miss Stephanie Huston, President of the Student Council at Neshaminy High School, thanked the entire School Board for the experience of attending school board meetings. Miss Huston noted that this will be her last meeting that she will attend and it has been an awesome learning experience and a great way to stay involved in the community. Miss Huston provided the following information:

- Student Council elections took place on this date.
- AP testing is over and final exams are taking place for seniors.
- Graduation will take place on Monday, June 14, 2004.

Miss Huston noted that her fellow student council officers and she have a final statement regarding the referendum for the new high school. "Many students are very disappointed and even though we will be gone soon our siblings will have to attend Neshaminy. Many of us had hopes to live here when we were older with our children. I myself am very disappointed. Going to school is like a job for us. We are there seven hours a day five days a week. How many of you would go to a job where there are mice and cockroaches everywhere, leaking ceilings with missing tiles, no air conditioning, and barely working heat. This decision may be good for

you right now. But there is obviously no concern for the younger generations of students and the future of the Neshaminy community. Five years from now when it comes time for my class to move back home from college there will be no surprise when we move into the other school districts because they have better schools. This decision has been made only to benefit the members of the community with little regard to the students. I am very concerned and scared about our schools renovations because it will be a very long, hard, expensive journey. I can only hope that my generation will be able to take care of our younger generations of students and provide them with proper schools and equipment.”

Dr. Spitz thanked Miss Huston and Miss Recupido for their service as student representatives for this year.

Board Recognition

Dr. Costanzo advised that on April 23-24, 2004 the 9th grade Problem Solving Team from Neshaminy Middle competed at the state finals in Harrisburg, PA. The topic was media impact. The team will now represent Pennsylvania at the international competition to be held at the University of Kentucky on June 3-6, 2004. Approximately 65 states, provincials, national teams from the United States, Canada, Australia, South Korea and New Zealand will compete at the middle division level. The topic will be immigration. Advisor, Mr. Kevin Knowles, has led the team. Dr. Costanzo introduced the team members: Christina Amisson, Adam Averbuch, Jonathan Kalinowski, and Kristin Raudonis. Dr. Costanzo introduced Mr. Kevin Knowles.

Mr. Knowles presented proclamations and a citation from Representative Matthew Wright and Senator Tommy Tomlinson to the students. Mr. Knowles further advised that these students have been working on problem solving for years at Neshaminy Middle as part of the academic enrichment program for gifted students.

Mr. Knowles thanked the School Board and Administration for their support in this program. The students will do their best at the competition in Kentucky.

Public Comment

Mr. Gil Howland, Langhorne, PA, stated that the last time he was in this building it was called Maple Point High School, but of course he is one of the long standing supporters of the high school and he wishes it were Maple Point High School. Mr. Howland has been watching the Hollywood films on TV, but he cannot get it to change. Mr. Howland has seen the one from May 11, 2004. Mr. Howland is a maintenance guy. When his home starts falling apart he fixes it. New windows, doors, new refrigerator, etc. Mr. Howland feels the maintenance in Neshaminy School District has gone to hell over the past twenty years. It has not been done. Mr. Howland stated that on one of the films he viewed the Superintendent stating that transportation could be cut. Don't need school buses, let them walk. Mr. Howland used to walk to school and took subways and buses for ten cents. Mr. Howland saw an article in the paper where maintenance has been cut. \$331,000 worth of construction and repair requests from schools across the district, but \$655,000 of requests still on the budget. Mr. Howland referred to the \$500,000 set aside for maintenance and an additional \$500,000 would bring the fund up to \$1M. Mr. Howland noted that \$10M has been spent just recently at Maple Point. Mr. Howland passed by the lockers and noted that the lockers are scratched up. Mr. Howland noted the \$25M that just got approved can only be used for maintenance. It took a long time for the buildings to decay and they have decayed enough that \$25M worth of maintenance is necessary. Mr. Howland noted that taxpayers were not willing to spend \$97M. Mr. Howland stated that a plan needs to be devised to get rid of the high school and add on to Maple Point, two floors in the rear and it would be made for \$50M.

Mr. Kevin Yeingst, Feasterville, PA, made reference to an editorial that was written by Council Rock North parent, Catherine Saylor, Upper Makefield, who has nothing to do with Neshaminy. This comes from a parent who is going through renovations. “She is disgusted with the renovations going on at Council Rock. Here are a few examples, students don't have a lunchroom to eat in, and they need to eat in hallways or have food trucked in. Music classes have been canceled or closed. Sometimes they practice outside if the weather is nice, because there are no rooms during renovations. She advised Neshaminy citizens to wake up and learn a lesson from their situation.” Mr. Yeingst advised for everyone to read her editorial in the Courier Times. Mr. Yeingst is concerned that the citizens do not realize what is going to happen or what has gone on in other

districts. Mr. Yeingst stated that we have been set back two-three years with discussions on building a new high school. Something needs to be done quickly, however, not so quickly that the district overlooks the important things, like large enough classrooms, making it efficient so students can travel from class to class easily, eliminate the extra exterior doors. This will be a big process, but it needs to be done, so that three years down the road we are not going over the same things. There is no easy or safe way to renovate while students are in the building. My children will not be in the school while asbestos is removed. These things need to be considered quickly, but we cannot overlook the important thing, giving them a good environment to attend school, a proper environment for the future. This renovation needs to last twenty years. Mr. Yeingst read a letter from his wife, Lorraine, who was at home with the children and could not attend the school board meeting this evening:

“Thanks to all the voters who voted “yes” for the new high school and especially the O’Connor’s for their tireless efforts. When I was looking for a community I wanted to raise my children in, Feasterville seemed like an ideal town. We moved here and in the beginning we were very happy with our choice. However, we were disappointed when we discovered that the high school was in such horrid condition. I didn’t really worry about it because I assumed that the community would see the problem and take care of it. A new building would be built which was discussed over the last three years. Then we started going to meetings and realized that there was a bigger problem than the condition of the school. The condition of the citizens. I was sickened to my stomach. I never realized how selfish the community is. People were shouting and cursing at school board members, at board meetings and at senior citizen centers. As I was handing out flyers to adults they were making rude comments. Some people said, “No thanks, I am Catholic.” Does that mean because you are Catholic you don’t care about students that go to public school? Our taxes pay for the children to attend Catholic school. Why do the people who vote no have such a problem with paying taxes for our kids to have a safe, healthy, learning environment. Tell me honestly, will 22 cents a day really break you. That equals approximately \$80.00 a year. We are not talking about hundreds or thousands of dollars. I don’t know of one person who lost their house or car because they spent \$80 more in their personal budget than they should have. I could never look into my child’s face and think that they are not worth \$80, whatever they attend, Catholic, public or private school. Whatever happened to the golden rule? Do unto to others as you would want them to do unto you. One thing I didn’t understand was how the CARE community could raise so much money for their campaign against BFT to afford the yard signs, the full page ads in the Courier Times and the flyers. They claim they can’t afford \$80 in taxes a year. Some people gave more than \$80 just for that campaign.”

Mr. Eric Rooney, Langhorne, PA congratulated Tyson Moyer, Valedictorian of the high school class and Mr. Rooney noted that Tyson has worked very hard and deserves to be valedictorian. Mr. Rooney also recognized Robin Schleifer, for her hard work and accomplishments. Mr. Rooney provided the following statement:

“At the last school board meeting I spoke about an issue that is very dear to me. That issue is my desire to be recognized at graduation for my position in the class. For the last several months I have fervently pursued this desire and I have been nothing short of willing to compromise with the Neshaminy administration. When I initially embarked upon trying to reach some type of resolution with the Neshaminy administration I had nothing but high hopes. I strongly believe that Neshaminy will be quick to recognize what was occurring was undoubtedly wrong, and I believed that they would be nothing but sympathetic to a student who has worked so hard in the past to promote the integrity of the Neshaminy name. However, I could not have been more wrong. My quest to be recognized for my position has opened my eyes and left me questioning as to how much I am truly valued by the school district. After placing my fate into the Neshaminy School Board hands at the last meeting I was informed by Mr. Wilson that Neshaminy still refuses to recognize me at graduation ceremonies. According to Mr. Wilson Neshaminy just doesn’t have that extra whole ten minute time span in which to recognize a student who finishes high school ranked in the number one or two position of the class. To me the idea of providing student’s recognition based on their rank upon 60% completion of their senior year, but at the same time, not providing students with recognition based upon their rank at the

completion of their senior year is absurd. I know that Neshaminy will be quick to cite the fact that grades are not due into the computer until after graduation ceremonies occur while defending their policy. However, there are several reasons as to why this is not a viable excuse. First, seniors get out of school a week earlier than under classman. This week long period provides more than ample time to calculate a student's rank. Especially in my case where determining whether I rank in the number one or two position is completely independent of any other students ranking or GPA. Another fact that I want to cite is that if someone were in the exact opposite position as I am, say they were going to graduate depending on whether they were going to pass the fourth and fifth marking period of a class, it is Neshaminy policy to consult prior to graduation ceremonies whether these students obtained the necessary standards in order to graduate. This idea of checking grades before graduation ceremonies is not new. I simply want to be recognized for my number one position. Neshaminy never developed a written policy as to how these positions will ever be determined, and I cannot help but feel that I am bearing the burden of such negligence. I can't help believe that none of you can honestly stand before me and tell me there is nothing wrong with the policy that leaves a person who graduates in the number one or two position completely unnoticed at graduation. I have given so much to this school. I have not missed a day in the last six years. Every time we take PSSA tests or any other state testing I have ranked in the 99 percentile. Not once anything below. I have given so much to the school and dedicated so much to the good name of Neshaminy. I only want ten minutes to be recognized for the fact that I will be ranked one or two. I have determined mathematically that pending an "A" on one last math final I will be ranked number one in my class. I have taken 21 finals at Neshaminy. All 21 I have received "A's"; I have no reason to believe that I will get anything besides as "A" on that final. I just want Neshaminy to look into this. Please, ten minutes for something that I have dedicated my life to for the last four years. I really don't think that it is too much to ask. Parents love graduation ceremonies. They take great honor in seeing their kids graduate. Will ten minutes really kill anyone? I don't think it will make much of a difference, but it would mean the world of difference to me. Thank you."

Mr. Jay Dombach, Langhorne, PA, conveyed information that he received on Thursday. Mr. Dombach asked why the entrance to the high school was being paved when construction is expected to begin in another year or so. The answer that Mr. Dombach received was that the best estimate would be three years before construction equipment would be running up and down the roads. Mr. Dombach was surprised since he thought there was a plan to move on with and begin construction rolling. Mr. Dombach stated that there is absolutely no plan to move on and the school board needs to determine whether 9-12 or 10-12 in the high school and how many students will be housed in the high school. Once the decision is made what type of high school a decision needs to be made regarding the needs of teachers, students and administration. All that information needs to be placed into a bid package and send it out to bids, and hopefully, we will get more than three bids. It was estimated that the district would receive 10-12 bids and then narrow it down. Plancon B takes 9-12 months and it is essential since the state determines whether the district's plan is okay and how much money will be reimbursed. Again, the public will need to be reeducated. The school board may decide that a vote will need to take place again. Mr. Dombach noted that information he got from the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting is that it would take three years before construction would actually begin at the high school and Mr. Dombach wanted the public to know that voting "NO" in April set the project back three years and costs would be escalating over the three years. Further, interest rates will also climb over the years from the record lows.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Wilson noted that in response to a public comment made earlier, this Superintendent never, ever, said that transportation would be eliminated. Mr. Wilson reassured all the parents in the school district that he has not recommended the elimination of transportation during the budget process.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Ms. Drioli and seconded by Mr. Bowman, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 28, 2004 Public Meeting. Mr. Eccles was absent.

Approval of Treasurer's Report, Bills for Payment, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax – Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- April, 2004 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Bills for payment Check Register – April, 2004
- Escrow Fund, Three Capital Project Funds, Several Investment Funds
- New Investment with Citizens Bank
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations reports for April, 2004

Mr. Webb moved the April, 2004 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the April, 2004 bills for payment, Budget, Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds, April, 2004 personal and per capita tax exonerations be approved. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Ms. Drioli inquired where Clark Brothers Maintenance, Inc. was located. Mr. Paradise was unaware and would research the question.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, bills for payment, investments, escrow funds, three capital project funds, and exonerations of personal and per capita tax. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Approval of Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for approval:

Bid No. 05-16 Transportation Parts Supplies

Bid Amount: \$81,946.86

Various supplies for the maintenance of District vehicles for SY 2004/2005. Quantities on this bid are estimated. The actual quantities purchased may vary from this estimate but will not exceed the total recommended for award.

Bid No. 05-13 Classroom & Art Aids

Bid Amount: \$34,473.46

Classroom and art supplies for the 2004/2005 school year which include: paints, drawing paper, brushes, markers, yarn, cloth, and other arts and crafts materials for classroom use.

Mr. Webb moved the two bids be approved. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the two bids. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Wilson presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel/Administrative Positions
- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel

The personnel information appears on pages 61 through 67.

Mr. Wilson requested approval of the personnel report as presented.

Mr. Bowman moved the personnel report be accepted. Ms. Drioli seconded the motion.

Mrs. Barrett commented regarding the Elections of Certified Personnel, number 5. This is an Administrative contractual issue. At this point and time Mrs. Barrett would not state a name, but spoke to the cost to the district. Mrs. Barrett noted that this Administrator presently is covered by the Administrative contract. That means that this person, as well as the other Administrators in the district, receive a 3% increase in salary annually. This Administrator is asking this board to increase that by 2% making the final increase 5%. Mrs. Barrett noted that the district is in the middle of the budget, and as far as Mrs. Barrett is concerned this is a contract, we don't need to break it or amend it. Basically we need to say "No" to this increase.

Mrs. Barrett wanted to also speak regarding the effect that this increase has on the retirement system for PSERS. Basically, this person is nearing retirement and PSERS is very sensitive to any change in a base salary, because this can make a person's retirement a lot more over the course of the rest of their lives. Mrs. Barrett is asking the board on this issue to vote "No."

Mrs. Barrett requested a roll call vote. The roll call tally indicated that the Personnel Report was passed by a vote of five ayes (Mrs. Bostwick, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Mrs. Jowett, Dr. Spitz) two nays (Mrs. Barrett and Mr. Webb) one abstention (Mr. Bowman). Mr. Eccles was not present.

Ms. Drioli addressed the issue by stating that this was discussed in an Executive Session and Mrs. Barrett certainly does have every right to her opinion. This is an incentive to have a transition work smoothly. It is nowhere near the last incentive that was given to someone in this position. Ms. Drioli stated that this board is not negligent, but is being extremely frugal in the sense that the board is doing what is best for the district and what the board feels is in the best interest of a transitional period. Despite the appearance, the board took it under advisement and gave it great thought and consideration.

Dr. Spitz noted that this increase is in no way a retirement incentive. It is an increase in salary and is based on discussions that were held in Executive Session. The board discussed the reasons for the increase in salary in comparison to other Administrators in the area.

Mrs. Barrett requested the Solicitor to speak with the Board regarding a possible retirement code violation. Mr. Profy responded that the action the board has taken has given an individual Administrator an increase in his salary. This is based on performance and comparability with others in the same position in other school districts. It is the Solicitor's opinion that it is a salary increase that would be recognized by Pennsylvania State School Employees Retirement, and would not be in violation of any of the regulations.

Motion: Appointment of Treasurer

Mrs. Jowett 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, 2004.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, that Joseph V. Paradise, Business Administrator, be appointed Treasurer of Neshaminy Board of School Directors for the term, beginning July 1, 2004, with no additional compensation.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

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

Motion: 2004-2005 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors has received and reviewed a working draft budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in Section 687 of the Pennsylvania Public School Code, this document shall be made available for public inspection 30 days prior to final adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the preliminary budget as of May 25, 2004, 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, 2004.

Ms. Drioli seconded the motion.

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

Motion: Approval of Bucks County Technical High School 2004-2005 Budget

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

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

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 2004-2005 Bucks County Technical High School budget in the amount of \$15,081,503 with the Neshaminy School District 2004-2005 net fiscal payment to be \$2,699,006.

Ms. Cummings seconded the motion.

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

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson advised that an additional grant was received for Title III Language Instruction for limited English proficient and immigrant students. That grant was in the amount of \$46,725.00. Total Federal grants this year were \$1,471,000.

Other Board Business

Mr. Webb informed that the "A" Wing roof at the high school needs repair. The board decided that a decision would be made after the referendum took place. Mr. Webb noted that repair would be necessary regardless of the outcome of the referendum. Mr. Webb noted that three prices were received for the repair. The Finance Committee recommends the estimate of \$313,368.00 with a 15 year warranty.

Mr. Webb made a motion to amend the agenda. Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion to amend the agenda. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve the bid of \$313,368.00 to repair the "A" wing roof at Neshaminy High School.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mr. Profy advised that the motion would be appropriate and Mr. Paradise has explained that it is part of the state cooperative bidding process and this specific item is being acquired through the state cooperative state system.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Bowman, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli, Mrs. Jowett, Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb) zero nays, one abstention (Mrs. Bostwick). Mr. Eccles was not present.

Ms. Drioli requested that the Lacrosse team matter be addressed.

Mr. Wilson noted that there is currently a lawsuit against the PIAA that has been filed for equal sports for men and women's teams. Right now with the addition of girl's lacrosse for the fall the district is even. If the district adds another boy's sports, the district will not be even. The Administration is recommending waiting for a ruling and determination from PIAA regarding the suit against the PIAA, since many other districts are in the same situation. A resolution might be that is an additional boy's lacrosse team you might need to add competition cheerleading. Mr. Wilson is a supporter of any co-curricular program, including boys and girl's lacrosse, Mr. Wilson feels the district should wait and see what happens with the current lawsuit and discussions. The board has the authority, if you so choose, to add boy's lacrosse next year. Mr. Wilson hopes that transportation will be provided for the sport if same is established.

Ms. Drioli suggested that possibly a not so popular sport be replaced with lacrosse. Mr. Wilson noted that it is very difficult to eliminate any co-curricular sport. Mr. Wilson noted that he added \$15,000 to the budget for next year's girl's team that is on a pilot project.

Mr. Wilson advised that this issue would be placed on the June Work Session agenda.

Mr. Webb questioned an invoice that was received from ATS&R in the amount of \$96,000 originally sent December 1, 2003 for services provided July through October, 2003. The latest invoice was dated May 4, 2004. Mr. Webb suggested the auditors review the invoice for double billing.

Mrs. Barrett thought that only \$1.6M would be paid to ATS&R.

Mr. Wilson advised that the district was unaware of receiving this bill in December, 2003. ATS&R advised that this was work that the previous board requested. Mr. Wilson noted that it certainly is work that the previous board asked the company to perform. The work involved looking at Poquessing renovations. Mr. Wilson suggested that he could speak with ATS&R regarding a reduction in the billing.

Mr. Profy recommended that the Business Administrator and Superintendent review the matter with the service provider and report back to the board. Mr. Profy does not feel that it is an issue at the level of auditors. The auditor's function is to review the books and records of the school district and after completion of a specified period.

Mr. Webb inquired that since the budget is called the Superintendent's Budget, is the Superintendent endorsing the budget. Dr. Spitz noted that the budget is simply for public review and the district is continuing to work on the budget and the final budget, which will be passed in June, will be different.

Dr. Spitz noted that if anyone has questions regarding the budget they should forward same to the Superintendent and administration.

Mr. Webb addressed the three year issue regarding construction at the high school. The remark was made in conjunction with the paving of roads. The Finance Committee has recently been concentrating 99% of the time regarding the budget. Once the budget is approved the Committee can proceed with the high school issue.

Ms. Drioli noted that construction vehicles would not be using the common entrance.

Mrs. Bostwick is concerned regarding an exact accusation that was made that the budget always has a 10% built in fluff. Mrs. Bostwick would like to have the Finance Committee show in figures that this is not true. Mr. Webb stated that he believes that there is no fluff and hopes that further reductions can be made to the budget.

Mrs. Jowett inquired whether the date of June 29, 2004 was the correct date for the Public meeting. Mr. Wilson noted that the budget needs to be available for public review for a thirty day period.

Mrs. Barrett would like to see the tax dollars go into the classroom and make them work for the district. Think about the students and their education. Example, a chemistry teacher at the high school had \$800 to spend for supplies ten years ago. Last year he only had \$300. Safety goggles are a necessity and they cost \$6.00 each and he has approximately 100 students. Mrs. Barrett would like to see the money go into the classroom. The whole reason is for the students. The budget needs to be tight.

Ms. Drioli noted that the majority of the budget is for the teachers and personnel. The district has buildings to maintain. Special education is a large line item. There is only one way to do it, raise taxes. Twenty percent of the budget goes into the classroom. The only place the district can cut is in the classroom.

Correspondence

The Board Secretary advised that there was no correspondence.

Public Comment

Ms. Helen Ratner, Langhorne, PA, noted that she is on the Township Park and Recreation Board and recently the Neshaminy Arts Program was displayed. There is a lot of talent in the district not only in arts, but also music. Ms. Ratner believes that the people in the district do not take advantage of same as much as they should. Ms. Ratner does not have any children in the district, but she does have nieces and nephews. Ms. Ratner attends the events and encourages people within the district to take advantage of the performances.

Mr. Solis Basen, Langhorne, PA noted that in the Preliminary budget there is no place that shows federal subsidies. What happens when these subsidies come in? Mr. Basen noted that many communities have imposed an earned income tax of .01% which the state matches the funds. Mr. Basen inquired whether anything is being done with that situation. Mr. Basen questioned why the middle bid was accepted for the roof repair, not the low or the high bid.

Mr. Kevin Knowles, Teacher, Neshaminy School District, is concerned about cuts that need to be made. An entire team is being cut at Neshaminy Middle. Percentage cuts are even more difficult. Example, Art teacher will be 80% in one building and travel to another for one period. Last year, four different math teachers were working on one team. Mr. Knowles is concerned that the teacher loses an entire period to travel to another building. The schedule is already a nightmare. Mr. Knowles urged the board to look closely when those types of cuts are necessary. It makes it impossible to deal with the scheduling in a building.

Mr. Gil Howland, Langhorne, PA noted that the discussion regarding the transportation was on TV, taped at a school board meeting. It was about a transportation budget with an increase from \$6M to \$8M and Mr. Paradise was trying to explain that \$700 was going to go for benefits and medical costs. Mr. Howland noted that the Superintendent stated that he knew ways to cut the budget. Mr. Howland does not mean that the buses should stop. That was a joke, however, it was not taken in that manner.

Mr. Howland cannot stand when maintenance is cut. Mr. Howland noted that when someone goes after a master's degree, it is not always a master's degree in what they are teaching. The district needs to pay these teachers at a master's degree rate. The district should not be required to pay for the teacher's tuition for the degree if it is not a degree in what they are teaching at the district.

Mr. Paradise responded to questions raised:

- Federal revenue will be added to the final budget. Federal revenue does not affect the bottom line. The Federal government does not provide the district with any funds without instructing the district how to spend same.
- There is a proposal in Harrisburg wherein districts must adopt a 1/10 of 1% income tax and, if so, the state would be involved. Purely a proposal and not available at this time.
- Regarding the roof bid, the board chose the low bid, but the middle option of the work to be performed.

Board Comment

No Board comment.

Adjournment

Dr. Spitz moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Bowman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary