

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
June 20, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 20, 2006, in the District Offices Board Room in 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 Blasch
Mr. Jason Bowman
Mr. Frank 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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ms. Irene Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings

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

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:
Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

Call to Order

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Steve Rodos, Flowers Mill, Langhorne, I came here tonight primarily to ask for an increase in one of your general fund revenues but with the new budget that you just put out I see that you included it and that was the real estate transfer taxes from prior years. The taxes were increased by \$250,000. Mr. Rodos stated that the general fund revenue was increased by \$2.5M. Mr. Rodos wanted to know why Sesame Place is capped at the amount of \$660,000 amusement taxes. Attendance at the facility keeps rising and why should they pay the same amount in amusement taxes.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson said he had no report.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of May 17, June 1 and June 8, 2006. Upon motion of Mr. Eccles and seconded by Dr. Spitz the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 17, June 1 and June 8, 2006. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Mr. Eccles said he would like to announce that two board members, Ms. Irene Boyle and Mrs. Susan Cummings will not be here tonight. Mrs. Cummings is having surgery and Ms. Boyle is on a scheduled business engagement.

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

- May 2006 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – May 2006
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for May 2006

Mr. Bowman moved the May, 2006 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for May, 2006, and the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for May, 2006 be approved. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check register and the personal and per capita tax exonerations. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for approval:

Bid: 07-07 Science Supplies

Bid Amount: \$11,613.50

Various supplies for the instruction of science curricula district-wide for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

Bid: 07-09 Classroom & Art Aid Supplies

Bid Amount: \$38,016.42

Classroom and art supplies for the 2006 – 2007 school year which include: paints, drawing paper, brushes, markers, yarn, cloth, and other arts and crafts materials for classroom use.

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

The Board unanimously approved the bids. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Elections – Certified Personnel
- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Elections – Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves – Certified Personnel
- 2006 Summer School Staff
- 2006 Summer Support Staff
- Addendum to Summer School Staff

Dr. Muenker recommended the approval of the personnel report for certified and support personnel.

Mr. Blasch moved the personnel actions be approved. Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. Mr. Eccles asked if there were any questions or concerns.

Mr. Koziol said that when we were going through the budget, one of the places we were never able to touch was the labor costs, the contracted people, the people who hold positions in our school district are eighty percent of our costs. Our total budget is based on people costs. We are now presented with hiring management people here and not knowing their qualifications. Dr. Muenker asked which page Mr. Koziol was referring to. Mr. Koziol said we are not privy to who else did you look at, what was your story, how did you arrive at that position. I think if we were going to arrive at that position and if we are going to be responsible for the budget and eighty percent of it is people, that these key positions that we are involved in as a board, I

think we should have something to say as far as who is selected for them. On the sabbatical leaves, they have to be approved by the board before the administration approves it, correct. Dr. Muenker said that it is a board approval request that is correct. Mr. Koziol asked why do we need a lead teacher for the summer school. Mrs. Barrett said that it is number 17 on the 2006 Summer School Staff. Mr. Koziol asked what are we leading here. Dr. Muenker said the whole summer school program, the Fine Arts Program. Mr. Wilson said that for the Summer Stock and the Fine Arts Program, it is usually in a different facility; the lead teacher has always coordinated and been responsible for those performances. Mr. Koziol asked if that is something we can cut. Mr. Paradise said that the summer school is a self supporting program. It brings in receipts which usually exceed what the expenditures are, but the whole program is set up to completely be self supporting based on all the salaries.

Dr. Spitz responded to Mr. Koziol's concerns. Over 22 appointments have been made over the past years and never has a board member asked to be involved in the decision making process. Frankly, that is not a board function. The board's concern should be that the process which candidates are interviewed and selected is a fair and open process. It is the Administration's position to recommend individuals and the board's function to approve or disapprove certain individuals.

Board discussion ensued regarding possibly having a personnel committee. All board members were in agreement that Mr. Koziol's point was well taken.

Mrs. Barrett said that she thinks we do need a personnel committee.

Mr. Koziol said he had one more question, what is the program we are running at Tawanka for the summer?

Mr. Wyatt responded that the summer PASS program will provide programming for 64 middle school age students all identified through counselors that they would benefit from such type of program. A PSSA tutorial program is built into the program. The program has existed for the last five years.

Mr. Eccles said he would like a roll call vote. There were four ayes: Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman and Dr. Spitz. There were two nays: Mr. Koziol and Mr. Webb. Mr. Eccles abstained. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Mr. Profy said the motion fails for lack of receiving five affirmative votes.

Mr. Wilson said can we vote on the administrators separately.

Mr. Wilson asked if we could separate the administrators and vote separately on them and then perhaps Mr. Eccles would not have to abstain.

Mr. Profy said yes we could.

Mr. Bowman asked to make a motion to approve the personnel report to approve the summer help.

Mr. Webb said he would like to make a motion that we approve it all separate of the administrators, Item #4.

Mr. Bowman asked why are we removing #4?

Mr. Profy said we do not have a second to the motion. Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Bowman asked why are you suggesting that we remove item #4? Mr. Webb said item #4 is questionable.

Further board discussion took place regarding certain applicants on the personnel report.

Mr. Profy said his understanding is that the motion is to approve the personnel report with item #4 excluded. No action would be taken on Item #4.

Mr. Profy said the motion that you had on the floor failed by virtue of receiving only four affirmative votes. So that motion is no longer on the floor. It didn't fail due to a tie; it failed because it only received four votes.

Mr. Eccles said there is a motion on the floor to approve the personnel report minus #4 on page 64. Mr. Eccles asked for a roll call. There were three ayes: Mr. Blasch, Mr. Koziol, and Mr. Webb. There were three nays: Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Bowman, and Dr. Spitz. Mr. Eccles abstained. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Dr. Spitz said he would like to make a motion that we approve the personnel report minus the summer staff positions. Mr. Bowman seconded that motion.

Mr. Eccles said the motion on the floor was to approve the personnel report minus the summer intern positions. Mr. Eccles asked for a roll call vote. There were four ayes: Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Eccles, and Dr. Spitz. There were three nays: Mr. Blasch, Mr. Koziol, and Mr. Webb. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Mr. Wilson said he wished we could publicly comment on some of the questions you asked, Mr. Webb, because I could answer why that person was not chosen for the position, but you can do that in your personnel committee.

Mr. Eccles asked if there were any other motions on the table? Mr. Koziol said he would like to make a motion that we approve the summer hires. Mr. Blasch seconded that.

Mr. Eccles asked for a roll call: There were six ayes: Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Koziol, Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb. Mr. Eccles abstained. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present. Mr. Eccles stated the motion passes.

Mr. Webb asked that we bypass this, and later on take a five minute recess. Then we would bring this back up after that recess.

Motion: Approval of Strategic Plan

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District is required to submit a Strategic Plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education; and

WHEREAS, a 21 member Strategic Planning Team met on January 19 and 20, 2006 to develop the framework and the strategies for the Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, three action teams representing 43 members of our school and community cooperatively developed the proposed action plans; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Planning Team met on May 4, 2006 to review the action plans; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors reviewed and discussed the Strategic Plan at the Work Session on June 8, 2006.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the Neshaminy School District's Strategic Plan and authorize Administration to submit the plan to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the implementation of the financial components will be dependent upon School Board approval of the annual operating budgets of the Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

Under the authority of Act 52 of 1978, The Local Government Unit Debt Act and the Internal Revenue Code, the Neshaminy School District is permitted to borrow an amount of money up to its cumulative cash flow deficit. The District's 2006-07 cumulative cash flow deficit has been projected to be \$15,084,931. The Business Office has requested quotations from banks and other financial institutions.

I, therefore, move the following:

TO CERTIFY the projected cumulative cash flow deficit at \$15,084,931 for the 2006-07 fiscal year; and

TO ACCEPT the proposal from Wachovia Bank, National Association to borrow the amount of \$14,960,000 on July 10, 2006, maturing on June 29, 2007, at a net interest cost of 3.855% per annum; and

TO OBTAIN a written legal opinion from the School District Solicitor as to the legality and validity of the Note and other legal matters pertaining to the issuance of the Note pursuant to the proposal from Wachovia Bank, National Association; and

TO AUTHORIZE the officers of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Business Administrator, subject to the written legal opinion from the School District Solicitor, to execute the necessary documents for completion and issuance of the Note.

Mr. Profy said there should be two additional items added that there would be a private sale of the tax and revenue anticipation note to Wachovia Bank and the purchase price for that note would be \$15,084,931. The coupon rate for the note would be 4.75%.

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Budgetary Increase for the 2005 - 06 Federal and Other Programs

Mr. Blasch presented the following:

WHEREAS, each year the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with instructions from the Auditor General's office, must increase its receipts and expenditures budget by the total amount of other programs; and

WHEREAS, this amount represents previously approved federal and other special program receipts and expenditures for the current fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the total 2005-06 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$162,400,873. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

**Neshaminy School District
Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2005 - 2006**

Description	District Fund No.	Amount of Revenue
High School Construction	07	\$2,428,998.00
Academic Achievement Awards Grant	40	11,988.00
Hands on Learning Mini-Grant, Hoover	41	10,000.00
Title III-Language Instruction for ESL Students	42	22,480.00
Teen Pregnancy & Parenting Program	43	20,580.00
Educational Assistance Program	44	292,432.00
Drug Free Schools Grant	45	32,088.00
D.A.R.E. Grant	47	22,727.00
Lower South Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant	48	500.00
Title III-Language Instruc. For ESL Stud-Carryover	49	12,380.00
Title I - Carryover	50	134,470.00
Title IIA - Carryover	51	96,136.00
Hoover Title I Parent Involvement Mini-Grant	54	500.00
Title III-Language Instruc. For ESL Stud-Carryover	58	1,721.00
PANA Keystone Healthy Zone Mini-Grant	59	2,000.00
Hands on Learning Mini-Grant	60	1,292.00
Progress Monitoring Data Grant-Carryover	62	12,340.00
School Performance Incentive Award-Carryover	63	2,906.00
Title II, Part A - Carryover	66	14,448.00
Carol M. White, Active Healthy Kids Grant	67	90,765.00
E.L.E.C.T. Grant	69	245,970.00
E.L.E.C.T. Fatherhood Program	70	60,000.00
Neshaminy Reads	71	750.00
Sea World/Busch Gardens Grant	72	7,216.00
National Fish and Wildlife Grant	73	20,000.00
Alternative Education for Disruptive Youth	74	95,095.00
Kids in Need Grant-Maple Point Middle School	75	500.00
Inclusive Practice Grant	79	10,000.00
Giant Foods Store Grant	80	1,000.00
Drug Free Schools Grant-Carryover	84	27,187.00
Carol M. White, Active Healthy Kids Grant-carryover	87	66,673.00
Title III-Lang. Instruc. For ESL Students-Carryover	91	31,788.00
High School Construction	96	646,851.00
Summer P.A.S.S. Program	97	10,000.00
Safe Schools Initiative Grant	98	9,386.00
PA Accountability Grant	99	631,521.00

Total Other Program Receipts

\$5,074,688.00

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Year End Budget Transfers

Mr. Bowman presented the following:

WHEREAS, Section 687 of the Public School Code of 1949 requires that line item "...sums appropriated to specific purposes in the budget..." not be exceeded; and

WHEREAS, under the school accounting system, line items have been determined to be major object levels within specific subfunctions; and

WHEREAS, year-end adjustments by the Business Office and Auditors may cause such line items to be exceeded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, in accordance with directions from the Auditor General's office, authorizes the Administration to make those necessary budget transfers within and between accounts to prevent any possible over expenditure without exceeding the total budget for 2005-06.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2006 - 07

Mr. Blasch presented the following:

WHEREAS, the district Facilities Department must use the professional services of various firms in order to ensure compliance with the many federal and state mandates concerning school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Facilities Department must also use professional consultants/engineers to develop bid specifications for other related facility improvements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following list of professional service vendors be accepted for use during the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2006-2007

The professionals/consultants anticipated for use during the next fiscal year along with examples of the work that will be required are listed below.

- **Consolidated Engineers** - boilers and other mechanical engineering.
- **Colm Engineering** - exterior doors and other structural engineering.
- **Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc.** - roof replacements and similar projects.
- **Eagle Industrial Hygiene Associates, Inc.** - asbestos related compliance.
- **Siemens Building Technologies, Inc.** - HVAC control systems.
- **Environmental Control Systems, Inc.** - hazardous waste disposal, underground storage tanks regulations.
- **D.A.D. & Associates, Inc.** - boilers and cooling tower water treatment.
- **Quality Control Laboratories (QC Labs)** - pools and water testing.
- **Parry's Project Management** - logistic services - High School, Poquessing, Pearl Buck.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Approval of New Board Policy #522 – Student Wellness

Mrs. Barrett presented the following:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District recognizes that student wellness and proper nutrition are related to students' physical well-being, growth, development and readiness to learn, and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors is committed to providing a school environment that promotes student wellness, proper nutrition, nutrition education, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning experience, and

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:

Policy 522 – Student Wellness

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

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Motion: Approval of Revised Board Policy#505 - Discipline

Mrs. Barrett presented the following:

WHEREAS, the effective discipline should serve two purposes: First, it should prevent a reoccurrence of a particular misbehavior in a student, and, second, it should be a learning experience for the student, and

WHEREAS, discipline is a more than *making* a student do what is right, it should encourage a student to *choose* to do what is right, and

WHEREAS, the District's philosophy on a positive and proactive approach to discipline shall be implemented consistently across all educational levels, and

WHEREAS, in working to maintain the standards of discipline, it is further assumed that all necessary support services will be brought into play, and

WHEREAS, the basic responsibility of maintenance of discipline in the classroom shall rest with the classroom teacher, and

WHEREAS, implementation of established discipline policies of the Board is a joint responsibility of the teachers and the administrators, and

- **Capital Improvement Projects including Poquessing and High School construction in the amount of \$38,040,000**
- **Federal and other programs in the amount of \$3,273,266; and**
- **Carry-over purchase orders of \$113,980**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the capital projects budget will be funded from the proceeds of the General Obligation Bond Issues, Series of 2004 and 2006. The federal programs budget will be funded by specific federal grants. In order to fund the general fund budget, \$7,000,000 of the fund balance will be allocated and the following taxes are levied:

1. Real Estate Tax	137.4 mills (an increase of 3.5 mills or 2.6%)
2. Interim Real Estate Tax	137.4 mills
3. Per Capita Tax – School Code	\$5.00
4. Per Capita Tax – Act 511	\$10.00
5. OPT/EMS Tax	\$10.00
6. Business Privilege Tax	1 mill wholesale 1.5 mills retail \$5.00 license fee
7. Mercantile Tax	1 mill wholesale 1.5 mills retail \$2.00 license fee
8. Real Estate Transfer Tax	1%
9. Amusement Tax	10%, as amended by current law

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Paradise further explained certain budgetary items included in the motion.

Mr. Koziol was concerned that \$7M from the fund balance was being used toward the budgetary expenses. Mr. Koziol feels the budget needed to be cut further. The savings are being used.

Mr. Paradise stated that the total number of employees is actually down by 5.5.

By a roll call vote, the Board approved the motion. There were six ayes: Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Mr. Eccles, Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb. There was one nay: Mr. Koziol. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Mr. Bowman said that I know we are going to recess now, can he suggest that we meet in Executive Session with Mr. Wilson, Dr. Muenker and Mr. Wyatt so that possibly some of Mr. Webb's concerns can be addressed?

At 8:10 pm, Mr. Eccles announced that we would take a ten minute recess and resume the meeting at 8:20 pm.

The meeting resumed at 8:20 pm.

Mr. Eccles said we would need someone to make a motion.

Mr. Webb said he would like to make a motion. Mr. Webb said that first, he needed some clarification and he is satisfied that the process was not tainted and he does apologize if he gave that impression.

Mr. Webb made a motion that we approve the personnel report as submitted by Mr. Wilson. Mr. Eccles said the administrative positions. Mr. Webb said are we not approving the whole thing. Dr. Spitz said we have already approved the summer positions. So it will be everything except the summer jobs.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The motion of the personnel report as amended was approved unanimously. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson stated that federal programs are wrapping up and the district received \$1.9M.

Other Board Business

Mr. Bowman read the following statement:

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors is very proud to announce the selection of Paul J. Kadri as the next Superintendent of the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Kadri will replace Howard Wilson, who we thank for his service over the past four years.

Mr. Kadri is a dynamic and active leader who we believe will continue Neshaminy's great traditions, while at the same time pointing the District in new directions to help our students reach their full potential as productive citizens and leaders well into the 21st century.

Mr. Kadri comes to Neshaminy from the Moorestown Township School District, where he has led one of New Jersey's top-rated academic school districts for the past four years. Prior to that, he was an Assistant Superintendent in the Trenton School District, and a Special Assistant on the School Leadership Team in the Newark School District.

We believe that Paul's focus on "students first", as well as his background and expertise in finance, technology and assessment, will lead Neshaminy to higher academic achievements, while maintaining sound fiscal responsibility. In addition, we expect that Superintendent Kadri will be very visible in the Neshaminy community as he continues his long history of involvement in volunteerism, charitable work, and higher learning.

Mr. Kadri has a Bachelor of Science degree from Johns Hopkins University, and an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. He has completed coursework in the Graduate School of Education at Penn, and is presently completing his doctoral studies in the School of Education at the University of Delaware.

We are very excited to have Paul Kadri in Neshaminy, and we hope that all members of the community will welcome him openly as we strive to provide the best possible public education for our children.

Mr. Profy stated the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors announces its intention to appoint Paul J. Kadri as the District Superintendent for a term of four years. The Solicitor is directed to prepare and forward a Superintendent employment contract to Mr. Kadri for execution and submission to the Board. The Board will continue this regular meeting until June 28, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at this location for the purpose of approving the Superintendent employment contract.

Mrs. Barrett moved the motion.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Bowman said he had a comment from Mrs. Cummings.

"I am sorry that I am unable to attend this evening's meeting due to a required hospitalization. I firmly support the selection of Mr. Paul Kadri as the next Superintendent of Neshaminy School District and would have voted in favor of this appointment were I able to attend."

Mrs. Barrett stated that Ms. Boyle also highly supports Mr. Kadri for the position of District Superintendent.

The motion was unanimously approved the motion. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Mr. Profy said we would need a separate motion to not adjourn this meeting but rather to continue this meeting to Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 7:00 pm at this location.

Mr. Blasch moved the motion and Mr. Koziol seconded it.

The motion was unanimously approved. Ms. Boyle and Mrs. Cummings were not present.

Public Comment

Mr. Steve Rodos, Flowers Mill, Langhorne, stated that the Board should not pat themselves too hard for the reductions in the budget. Mr. Rodos was very concerned about the actions regarding the administrative hirings. There is a great disservice to the Administration. An appearance to the public is given that it is who you know and not what you know. Mr. Rodos thanked everyone for changing their votes.

Mr. Chris Graham, Langhorne Borough, was concerned about the graduation which took place last Wednesday. Neshaminy Administration owes all the graduates, the parents, families and friends a sincere and heartfelt apology for its lack of sensitivity and planning regarding the decision to go ahead with the commencement exercises. Why with the pending weather conditions was the graduation not postponed to the next evening. Why was the decision not made to postpone the ceremony? There was great risk and liability that the district accepted in holding the ceremony. Mr. Graham felt if an Administrator's child was graduating that evening it would have been different. In your minds it might have been just another graduation ceremony, however, our children deserve better. They deserve to be recognized for their completing twelve years of hard work. For students not attending college this is the only graduation they will ever experience. Mr. Graham feels the Administration stole the day from the students. Mr. Graham would like the Administrators who made the decision to go forward with the ceremony to issue a public apology for their actions.

Mr. Webb would like to address the gentleman's concerns. Mr. Webb noted that he has received inquiries from a few parents as to whether they could get some cap and gowns to take additional photos.

Mr. Graham noted that no planning was involved.

Mr. Wyatt noted that steps were discussed the morning after the graduation ceremony. All of the student speakers have been contacted and asked if they would like to record their speeches and have them played over Neshaminy cable. Some have already accepted that invitation. The teacher advisor has already recorded her speech. A video roll call will take place with each graduating student's picture being displayed and a variety of candidate photos from the ceremony will be displayed. A trailer will be added to the ceremony to address some issues presented by some members of the community.

Caps and gowns would be available for use by the students.

Board Comment

Mr. Eccles noted that he was distraught when he left the graduation and felt bad for the families of all the graduates. Mr. Eccles said that there is no way to make up the evening, but the district will do its best. The board has no direct input on whether or not the graduation is a go, it is an Administrative decision. Mr. Eccles would like to direct this issue to the Board policy committee to see if there were any mistakes made, and to

see if there are avenues that can be pursued in years to come to prevent this type of situation in the future. Mr. Eccles apologized on behalf of the board.

Mrs. Barrett hoped that procedures could be implemented in order to prevent this from happening in the future. Mrs. Barrett noted that the certified staff has given a check in the amount of \$500 toward the SAGE program. Information concerning SAGE will be provided on the website.

Adjournment

Mr. Profy advised that this meeting cannot be adjourned but will be continued on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the District Offices Board Room located at Maple Point. This portion of the meeting was concluded at 8:50 p.m.

Mr. Bowman wished Mr. Wilson the best in his future endeavors and thanked him for his years of service to Neshaminy School District.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary