

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(PUBLIC MEETING)
January 23, 2007

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on January 23, 2007, 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
Mr. Jason Bowman
Ms. Irene M. Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Frank J. Koziol
Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Paul J. Kadri
Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Dr. Geeta Heble
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

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

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

No announcements.

Public Comment

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA addressed the issue of raising the PSSA scores particularly in the high school. The trend of test scores in the 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade are above average compared to other schools in the area. However, in the 11th grade the district falls below average. It is important that when alternatives are considered for improving our schools it is necessary to identify the problem in order to make improvements. The district needs to look specifically at the high school to see what issues and reasons are causing this decline in test scores at the 11th grade level.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, advised that he also is still concerned with the test scores in the 11th grade. Mr. Rodos believes that students of Neshaminy School District would be better served by a full day kindergarten rather than half day. Mr. Rodos also stressed that all school buses should have seat belts.

Student Representative Report

Miss Stephanie Esposito, Neshaminy High School Student Council Historian, provided the following report:

- Laughing Stock will take place at the high school this Saturday
- All Sports Hall of Fame will take place on Saturday, January 27th at 9:00, 19 Athletes and 1 coach will be inducted

- Preparations are being made for the School Musical

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri announced that Dr. Muenker will make a special presentation to the following teachers for receiving Certification by the National Board. Dr. Muenker honored the following teachers and staff:

- Mr. Robert Wright, Physical Education Teacher, Maple Point Middle School
- Mrs. Stacy Flaville-Boop, English Teacher, Maple Point Middle School
- Ms. Margaret Gale, Guidance Counselor, Schweitzer Elementary
- Ms. Rosemary Horsley, Guidance Counselor, Maple Point Middle School
- Ms. Mary O'Pella, English Teacher, Neshaminy High School
- Ms. Carol Ritting, School Psychologist

Ms. Gale and Mrs. Flaville-Boop briefly advised the Board regarding the credits and courses that were needed to obtain the honored distinctions that they received.

Dr. Muenker recognized all these individuals and thanked them for their service to Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Eccles on behalf of the entire Board thanked the individuals and noted that it is refreshing to see that by them bettering themselves and achieving these high goals it is bettering the students of Neshaminy School District.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the November 28, 2006 and December 4, 2006 public meetings. Upon motion of Mr. Koziol and seconded by Ms. Boyle, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the November 28, 2006 and December 4, 2006 Public Meeting.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- November, 2006 and December, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – November, 2006 and December, 2006
- Investment Summary
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations – November, 2006 and December, 2006
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 07-2)

Mr. Blasch moved the November, 2006 and December, 2006 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, Check Registers for November, 2006 and December, 2006, Investment Summary and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for the month of November, 2006 and December, 2006, and the Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 07-2). Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol questioned check #166059 to PA Dept of Education for \$101,721. Mr. Kadri advised that it was a refund of grant money for tutoring services which was applied for last year to be for staffing costs. The district will again qualify for this grant again this year and the district was not penalized for returning same. The district is not able to spend the money for any other reasons than for what it was slated.

Mr. Koziol questioned check #166202 to Bucks County IU#22 for \$1,248,040.48. Mr. Paradise responded that this payment to the IU is one-fifth of what the district pays annually to the IU for services provided by them for certain students. Total payments are in excess of \$6M annually. These services are provided at the County level and Neshaminy does not have the ability to accommodate these special needs students.

Mr. Koziol questioned check #166232 to Dell Computers for \$468,978.52. Mr. Eccles questioned two checks to the Township of Middletown for Crossing Guards in the amounts of \$5,480.22 and \$3,803.68 and a check

to Middletown Township in the amount of \$331,553.82 for mercantile taxes. Mr. Paradise provided an explanation for each of these checks.

Ms. Barrett had a question regarding the Budget Transfer #3. Mr. Paradise explained that this is a reallocation of the needs. These funds are needed for alternative education van driver and teacher/coordinator account for Fund 64 for additional PASS students.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, and investments and Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 07-2).

Approval of Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids:

Bid No. 07-18 Chiller for Maple Point Middle School

Bid Amount: \$93,820.00

The bid is for the chiller which is 15 years old and services all the unit ventilators in the computer room and Tech Ed areas at Maple Point Middle School. The chiller is past its normal life cycle and needs to be replaced.

Bid No. 07-19 Boilers for Maple Point Middle School

Bid Amount: \$557,950.00

The bid is to replace the 1974 boilers and pumps in Maple Point with new more energy efficient boilers. The old boilers are beyond their useful life cycle and are inefficient. The price includes extended warranty for the burner and the hot water heater.

The Board unanimously approved the Bid No. 07-18 and Bid No. 07-19.

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

Mr. Webb noted that enrollment numbers are decreasing, however, employee figures seem to be rising. Mr. Webb suggested that a Personnel Committee be formed. Mr. Webb requested an analysis of numbers from 1996 through the present regarding student/teacher ratios.

Mr. Kadri responded that over the last six months he has attempted to understand exactly where Neshaminy is at with regards to this matter. As a new superintendent it is difficult to immediately discover where efficiencies can be achieved, and if so, there is a more gradual transition that must take place in order for the district to accomplish such efficiencies.

Mr. Kadri pointed out that over a period of time there could be a shifting of staff to accommodate certain needs in specific areas.

Mr. Koziol questioned the hiring of six new staff members and inquired if any positions were eliminated. Mr. Koziol stated that staffing does make up 80% of the budget and would like to maximize the use of staff. Dr. Muenker responded that staffing does not have a simple formula.

Mr. Koziol noted that PSBA is also highly recommending the use of a Personnel Committee as means to setting goals, etc. Mr. Koziol noted that he had literature available for all Board members regarding Personnel Committees and their effectiveness.

The Board unanimously approved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports as presented.

Mr. Eccles requested that the issue of a Personnel Committee be added to the agenda for the upcoming Work Session.

Motion: Approval of Firm for Facilities Study

Mrs. Barrett presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Neshaminy Board of School Directors desires to move forward with a complete study of its district wide facilities; and

WHEREAS, the district solicited and received proposals from 10 Architectural/Engineering firms to provide the study in accordance with our specifications; and

WHEREAS, after interviews by both the Administration and the Facilities & Finance Committee, a firm was chosen to provide this study that will include an in-depth analysis of each facility, recommendations for improvements for ADA, energy efficiency, building codes, and other repairs; and

WHEREAS, the firm will also provide an analysis of enrollment, population trends, projections, and a complete study of the capacities of our facilities with recommendations to improve overall efficiency of use and building utilization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors accept the proposal from McKissick Associates Inc. of Harrisburg in the amount of \$44,000 as attached. (Attachment A)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator be authorized to execute the agreement upon review of the Solicitor.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Bowman noted that he hoped that future Boards would take into consideration the results of the study. Mr. Bowman further noted that this Board will be spending \$44,000 to complete this study.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Eccles, Dr. Spitz) and two nays (Mr. Koziol and Mr. Webb).

Motion: School Director Recognition Month – January, 2007

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the role of locally elected school officials has served the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and local communities meeting the needs of public education since the passage of the Free School Act in 1834; and

WHEREAS, these local boards have discharged their responsibilities to public education in a manner which has placed public education in the forefront of our educational systems; and

WHEREAS, locally elected officials have distinguished themselves and their communities in this nonpaid, volunteer public service commitment; and

WHEREAS, the contributions of these men and women should be recognized and appreciated by those who benefit from the workings of our public school system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby proclaims the month of January as School Director Recognition Month.

Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Kadri thanked the Board for their hours of work and dedication to the district.

Motion: Board Policy #130 – Parent and Family Involvement

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family, and agrees that in order to effectively educate all students, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners, and

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors is committed to the development, implementation, and continuing evaluation of a parent and family involvement program which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles, 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 130 – Parent and Family Involvement

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said Policy be4 approved by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Eccles had a concern with the word "parents" throughout the policy. Mr. Eccles suggested that possibly the word should be "custodian." Mr. Eccles noted that not every child is raised in a parent's home. Mr. Profy advised that the word "parent" is global and usually parents are natural guardians of children. Mr. Eccles did not want to raise any discriminatory factors. Mr. Bowman noted that if the policy could be approved as written it could then be returned to Committee for further consideration of how the word "parent" is used.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Revised Board Policies #127, #249, #349, #450, #550

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to deep 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 127 – Networked Information – Acceptable Use Policy (For Board of School Directors)

Revised Policy 249 – Networked Information – Acceptable Use Policy (For Administration and Supervisory Personnel)

Revised Policy 349 – Networked Information – Acceptable Use Policy (For Certified Staff)

Revised Policy 450 – Networked Information – Acceptable Use Policy (For Non-Certified Staff)

Revised Policy 550 – Networked Information – Acceptable Use Policy (For Students)

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

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Acceptance of the 2005-06 Audit

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the audit for the Neshaminy School District for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, has been prepared by Kreisler Miller, Certified Public Accountants.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Audit Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006, be accepted in accordance with Section 24-2408 of the School Code.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Electronic Bidding and Reverse Auction Under Act 88

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District desires to the use Electronic Bidding and Electronic Auction Bidding as authorized under 2006 Act 88-Local Government Unit Electronic Bidding Act; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal 2005-06, Neshaminy School District bid over 30 projects of goods and services, including construction; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District maintains that by having the ability to use Electronic Bidding and/or Electronic Auction Bidding for future contracts, we could be more effective, efficient, and economical – yielding hard dollar savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors determines that the use of Electronic Bidding and Electronic Auction Bidding as authorized under 2006 Act 88 – Local Government Unit Electronic Bidding Act is in the best interest of the Neshaminy School District and hereby directs the administration to utilize these tools when deemed appropriate by the Business Office.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Blasch noted that this process is similar to E-Bay, however, in reverse form.

Mrs. Barrett questioned if there was a way to track the savings that the district would obtain by using this electronic bidding and reverse auction system. Mr. Paradise advised that it would take a considerable amount of time before such a survey could be obtained.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Mandate Waiver to Include Electronic Bidding of Construction Contracts

Mrs. Barrett presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District seeks waiver of 62 PA CS 4604a of Act 88 – Local Government Unit Electronic Bidding Act; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal 2005/06, Neshaminy School District bid construction contracts covering a total of 10 projects. If the district were permitted to conduct Electronic Auction Bidding for similar future projects the anticipated savings could be significant; and

WHEREAS, the district maintains that by having the ability to use Electronic Auction bidding for construction contracts, those procurements could result in savings over the conventional sealed bid process since construction bidders will have the opportunity to refine and lower their initial bids by the very nature of the auction process, thus enabling the procurement to be more effective and economical – yielding hard dollar savings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors directs the administration to submit a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval of a “mandate waiver” of 62 PA CS 4604a of Act 88 – Local Government Unit Electronic Bidding Act, thereby permitting the school district to use this bidding technology tool for all purchases, including construction, as long as the construction bid documents have been properly prepared utilizing the services of licensed professional engineers.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Approval of Mandate Waiver to Extend Bidding Threshold

Mr. Eccles presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District seeks waivers of 24 PS 7-751a. and 24 PS 8-807.1a of the Public School Code of 1949; and

WHEREAS, the bidding threshold has not been adjusted for inflation since 1990 when the threshold was increased to \$10,000; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District has incurred increased costs, labor hours, delayed deliveries for items required by our school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the District hopes to expedite the purchasing of items costing between \$10,000 and \$25,000 in a more labor-efficient manner while also saving advertising costs; and

WHEREAS, all quotes obtained will continue to be documented in written form.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors directs the school administration to submit a request to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for approval of mandate waivers of section 24 PS 7-751a. and 24 PS 8-807.1a of the Pennsylvania School Code, thereby permitting the school district to be exempt from the bidding process for items costing \$10,000 and instead extend that bidding threshold for the Neshaminy School District to \$25,000.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Profy noted that the Board should include in the second line from the bottom the words "and construction contracts costing \$10,000" after the words "items costing \$10,000."

Dr. Spitz made a motion to amend the motion to include the language in the second line from the bottom to include the words "and construction contracts costing \$10,000."

Mr. Bowman seconded the amendment to the motion.

Mr. Koziol was concerned that the increased amount would not give Board members the opportunity to oversee certain items and would like to see the amount be brought down to possibly \$20,000 or less.

Dr. Spitz noted that this topic was discussed at the Finance Committee and the increase of the amount will be the adjusted number which is likely to be \$15,000. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has suggested this PDE form be used and they ultimately will provide the district with an inflation adjusted approval, regardless of which number the district requests.

Mr. Profy suggested that since the range has been \$15,000 the Board may want to consider approving a motion with the figure of \$17,500 or \$20,000, knowing that the district will receive something less.

Mr. Koziol made a motion to amend the motion to change the amount to \$20,000.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote on the amendments to the motion. The roll call tally indicated the motion passed with eight ayes (Mr. Webb, Dr. Spitz, Mr. Koziol, Mr. Eccles, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Blasch, and Mrs. Barrett) and one nay (Mr. Bowman).

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote on the amended motion. The roll call tally indicated the amended motion passed with eight ayes (Mr. Webb, Dr. Spitz, Mr. Koziol, Mr. Eccles, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Blasch, Mrs. Barrett) and one nay (Mr. Bowman).

Motion: BCIU Agreement for Participation in Countywide WAN Agreement

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22 has coordinated a countywide effort to develop the Bucks County Schools Regional Wide Area Network; and

WHEREAS, this network will interconnect all participating school districts for the exchange of educational content and administrative services; and

WHEREAS, this agreement will also provide for group purchase of services for Internet and Internet 2 connections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator be authorized to sign the attached "Countywide Network Service Agreement" upon review of the Solicitor. (Attachment B)

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol questioned the cost of participation. Mr. Kadri noted that an attachment to the motion provides for the dollar amounts. Mr. Kadri noted the base cost is \$2,649 before E-rate plus an additional \$450 for 15 megabits for a total of \$3,100 per month district wide.

Dr. Spitz noted that also an attachment is part of this motion which was shared with Board members at the prior Work Session. The attachment is available at the meeting this evening and serves as the attachment to this motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: 2007-08 Proposed Preliminary Budget Available for Public Inspection

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, Act 1 of 2006 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania required the 2007-08 Preliminary Budget of the School District be available for public inspection at least twenty (20) days prior to its adoption; and

WHEREAS, Act 1 of 2006 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires the Board of School Directors to give public notice of its intention to adopt its 2007-08 Preliminary Budget at least ten (10) days prior to its adoption; and

WHEREAS, Act 1 of 2006 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania requires the Board of School Directors to adopt the 2007-08 Preliminary Budget of the School District no later than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the election immediately preceding the fiscal year in which the Preliminary Budget will take effect, which date for the 2007-08 fiscal year is February 14, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors directs that the proposed 2007-08 Preliminary Budget of the School District be made available to the public for inspection beginning on January 24, 2007, at the District Office Reception Area and on the school district website, and that the attached Notice of Availability for Public Inspection and Notice of Intent to Adopt 2007-08 Preliminary Budget of the School District on February 13, 2007, be advertised as required by law. (Attachment C)

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

Mr. Paradise reviewed important dates with Board members as required under Act 1.

Mr. Profy noted that on February 13th the Board will have to adopt a Resolution authorizing its intent to advertise their intent to adopt either an EIT/PIT on March 13th to be placed on the ballot in May, 2007.

Mr. Webb commented that this is a Preliminary Budget and is subject to change. Mr. Webb noted that the Tawanka facility will need to be looked at closer to find more efficient ways to run the program which exists at that location. Mr. Webb noted that the Board needs to go forward and explore ways to maintain this essential program within the district, however, possibly find a new location to accommodate the program.

Mr. Kadri noted that he is aware of the Board's directive regarding the Tawanka facility and an extensive study is being performed regarding Tawanka and he will share all the results with the Board prior to the upcoming meetings.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Federal Programs

Mr. Kadri noted three changes to the Federal grant program. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable program will be funded at the same level for the 2007-2008 school year. The Inclusive Practice Grant and Community and Economic Development are new.

Ms. Boyle questioned the reductions in Title 1 grants by the Department of Education.

Other Board Business

Mr. Koziol discussed the ways that funds are allocated through the middle school within the district.

Mr. Webb thanked everyone for their kind words and cards with regards to his mother's passing.

Dr. Spitz requested that the topic of the EIT/PIT be placed on the Finance Committee agenda for the upcoming meeting.

Public Comment

None.

Board Comment

None.

Mr. Kadri advised that an Executive Session will follow the meeting.

Adjournment of Meeting

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 8:19 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary