

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
December 6, 2010

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on December 6, 2010, in the District Offices Board Room at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President  
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Vice President  
Ms. Irene M. Boyle  
Mr. Scott Congdon  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Richard M. Eccles  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. William D. O'Connor  
Mr. William Oettinger

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Louis T. Muenker  
Mrs. Patricia Boylan  
Dr. Geeta Heble  
Mr. Kevin Kane  
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**

**OTHERS:** Approximately 30 persons from the public, staff and press

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

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Mr. Webb announced that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held regarding Personnel and Legal issues.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Public Comment**

Maryanne O'Connor, former President of Neshaminy's Welcome Music Boosters and parent of a recent Neshaminy graduate, Langhorne, mentioned that it has recently come to her attention that the NFT's website is displaying video clips of last year's high school musical "Willie Wonka." Mrs. O'Connor said that permission to use clips of the students was given by the parents for the sole purpose of press releases, headshots, and marquee displays. She said that permission was not given to use the clips on the NFT's website. Mrs. O'Connor stated that while she is extremely proud of her son's accomplishments, she feels very strongly that these clips do not belong on the NFT's website and she would like them removed immediately. Mrs. O'Connor also encouraged other parents to view the video clips and let their feelings be known if they do not wish to have their children's pictures appear on the website. Mrs. O'Connor closed by wishing the Board and the community happy holidays.

Steve Rodos, semi-retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, expressed his appreciation to Mrs. Burns for her efforts in writing the minutes. Mr. Rodos also thanked the Board and the negotiating committee for adhering to their principles throughout the negotiations. Mr. Rodos encouraged the Board to look ahead because in 15 months time the teacher's union should be changing their leadership. He also said that after settling the contract there would be more time to focus on improving the education within the district. Mr. Rodos asked for an update on the status of filling the position of business administrator. Mr. Rodos inquired how the Board will make a decision to appoint an insurance broker, when to date, they have not received financial quotes from the prospective parties.

Charles Alfonso, semi-retired sales executive, Langhorne, voiced his concern that the quality of education in the Neshaminy School District does not justify the salary and benefits that the NFT currently have and the demand for increases. Mr. Alfonso stated that 46% of the school districts in Pennsylvania scored higher than Neshaminy in math,

science, reading, and writing on the PSSA tests. He also said that in Bucks County 66% scored higher than Neshaminy. Mr. Alfonso implored the School Board to withdraw the current offer immediately. He said that while it was a fair offer two years ago, it no longer applies in today's challenging economic times. Mr. Alfonso said that spending money on salary and benefits would not allow for funds to repair buildings, upgrade equipment and technology, expand educational programs, and reward excellence in teaching. Mr. Alfonso reminded the Board to remember the "work to contract" action.

Larry Pastor, Business Executive, Middletown Township, asked the Board for a comment and a course of action regarding Mrs. O'Connor's complaint about the video clips on the NFT's website. Mr. Pastor also asked the Board for clarification regarding mentioning an individual's name in relationship to personal attacks during public comment. Mr. Pastor voiced his support in favor of the McKissick Study stating that it is important to have the data analyzed by a third party in order to confirm the decisions that need to be made. Mr. Pastor mentioned that the negotiation meetings have not shown any progress to date, and the sessions appear to stall around healthcare issues. Mr. Pastor urged the taxpayers and parents to review the movie "The Cartel" and become familiar with the facts and truths with how teachers unions and corrupt politicians have corrupted the public education systems in America. He also stated that Michele Rhee has a website [www.StudentsFirst.org](http://www.StudentsFirst.org) which also exposes that the biggest obstacle to educational reform is the teachers unions. Mr. Pastor concluded by voicing his appreciation for the School Board and he declared that the community wants a counteroffer with concessions from the NFT.

#### **Reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors**

In accordance with the State Code, the Board held its reorganization meeting.

##### **a) Election of Temporary President**

Mr. Webb requested nominations be presented for Temporary President for the reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Eccles nominated Ms. Boyle, and Mr. Congdon seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. The Board moved the nominations for Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. Ms. Boyle was unanimously elected Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

##### **b) Election of President**

Ms. Boyle requested nominations be presented for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Webb nominated Mr. Koutsouradis. Mr. Koutsouradis respectfully declined Mr. Webb's nomination for President of the Neshaminy School Board due to family obligations. Mr. Koutsouradis nominated Mr. Webb and Mrs. Cummings seconded the nomination. The Board unanimously moved that nominations for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed with a vote of nine ayes. Mr. Webb was unanimously elected President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

##### **c) Election of Vice President**

Mr. Webb requested nominations be presented for Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mrs. Cummings nominated Mr. Koutsouradis and Mr. Congdon seconded the nomination. Mr. Eccles nominated Mr. Morris and Mr. Webb seconded the nomination. Mr. Webb moved that nominations for Vice-President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. The Board unanimously approved to close nominations with a vote of nine ayes.

Mr. Webb requested a roll call vote for Mr. Koutsouradis as Vice-President of the Neshaminy School Board. The tally indicated that the Board approved Mr. Koutsouradis as Vice-President of the Neshaminy School Board by a vote five ayes (Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Oettinger, and Mr. Webb) and four nays (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Eccles, Mr. Morris, and Mr. O'Connor.)

Mr. Webb congratulated Mr. Koutsouradis on his appointment as Vice-President of the Neshaminy School Board.

#### **Motion: Appointment of Solicitor**

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS The School Board Policy #100 requires during the month of December that the Board of School Directors appoint a solicitor for a one year term.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE Board of School directors reappoint the law firm of Begley, Carlin & Mandio as Solicitor of the Neshaminy School District in accordance with its fee letter dated December 1, 2010.

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Mr. Profy thanked the Board for the vote of confidence, on behalf of Begley, Carlin & Mandio, and said that they look forward to serving the Neshaminy School District for the upcoming 2010 - 2011 school year.

Mr. Webb stated that the Appointment of Health Insurance Broker has been tabled.

**Motion: Tax Year 2011 Assessment Appeals**

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Tax Year 2011 Assessments for the following properties have been substantially reduced by the Board of Assessment Appeals after hearings on the appeals of the property owners; and  
WHEREAS, the Business Administrator and School District Solicitor, after review of the Decision Notices of the Board of Assessment appeals, has recommended that the School District file an Appeal to the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County from the Decisions of the Board for the following:

**PROPERTY OWNER**

Saia, Peter & Carol  
250 (Two) Bustleton, LP  
1266 E. Old Lincoln Hwy, Langhorne LLC  
Smartkey, LLC  
TSIC Acquisition, LP  
Hughes, John F., Jr. & Patricia Ann  
St. Joseph the Worker, K of C Home  
Physical Fitness Centers Philadelphia, Inc.  
Levittown ARC, L P

**TAX PARCEL NO.**

TMP #21-004-048  
TMP #21-010-049  
TMP #22-021-088  
TMP #22-040-029-004-0E3  
TMP #22-040-029-004-OW3  
TMP #22-051-302-001  
TMP #22-055-196  
TMP #22-057-006  
TMP #22-059-032

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approved the filing of the above-listed 2011 Tax Assessment Appeals with the Court of Common Pleas of Bucks County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes and ratifies all actions heretofore taken and hereafter to be taken by the Board President, Business Administrator and School District Solicitor with respect to the filing of said Appeals and the taking of all such other action as required by law to perfect said Appeals.

Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

**Motion: Approval of Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors must adopt and publish a schedule of Public Meetings for 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached 2011 School Board Meeting Calendar be adopted by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved said motion.

**Other Board Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Bill Miller, retired, Langhorne, noted that there is a concern among Catholic families in the community that the healthcare provided to the NFT covers abortion procedures. Mr. Miller stated that he has been asked by members of the community to circulate a petition against any healthcare insurance coverage that would include abortion. Mr. Miller said that abortion should not be considered a medical issue and he hopes that the Board takes this into consideration.

**Board Comment**

Mrs. Cummings requested that Dr. Muenker look into the issue of the video clips of students that are displayed on the NFT's website.

Dr. Muenker responded that the matter would be looked into and they would get an opinion from the Solicitor.

Mr. Webb responded to Mr. Pastor's question on personal attacks stating that it certainly is permissible to mention an individual by name as long as it is not in a derogatory manner. Mr. Webb apologized if he misunderstood Mr. Pastor's intention when naming the NFT's President. Mr. Webb stated that Mr. O'Connor will be further researching into the matter of the McKissick Study. Mr. Webb clarified that there has been no change to the healthcare insurance at this time.

Mr. O'Connor asked Mr. Webb to confirm that the School Board has received pricing quotes from prospective insurance brokers.

Mr. Webb confirmed the same.

Mrs. Cummings asked for an update on hiring business manager.

Dr. Muenker affirmed that there are several prospective candidates and they are hopeful of a decision in the very near future. He further stated that in the interim any questions will be answered by Mrs. Markowitz, Director of Financial Services.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Eccles moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary