

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(PUBLIC MEETING)
REORGANIZATION MEETING
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
December 6, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on December 6, 2004 in the Board Room at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. P. Howard Wilson
Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 12 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.

Public Comment

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA noted that shortly the board will be reorganizing some of the committees for the upcoming year. Mr. O'Connor requested that the Finance and Facilities Committee, which was being run by Mr. Webb and serving under him were Dr. Spitz, Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Jowett remain the same. These individuals have done a fine job for the entire year regarding the high school project and the job is not complete. Mr. O'Connor would like to see these board members continue in their positions and carry through for this upcoming year. Mr. O'Connor thanked all the board members for the work they have performed during this difficult year. Many things have been accomplished and many things still need to be done. Mr. O'Connor noted that when the board does well not too many people acknowledge

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same, however, when things are done that others disagree with the board hears about them. Mr. O'Connor stated that the school district would not be what it is without people like the board members. Mr. O'Connor extended heartfelt thanks and wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA stated that he would like to extend the same comments as Mr. O'Connor just made. Mr. Lindner endorsed Mr. Eccles as president, even though he disagrees with one item. Mr. Eccles has let the people speak and he has done an excellent job. This board has been a very democratic board. The board has allowed the meetings to be televised and have given the people from the community the opportunity to become involved. The amount of people who watch the school board meetings on T.V. is amazing. Mr. Lindner stated that all members of the Facilities and Finance Committee have done a fine job and Mr. Webb has been an excellent chairman. Renovations are moving at Poquessing which was long overdue. Mr. Lindner hopes that quick steps will be taken to renovate the high school. Mr. Lindner disagrees with some points; however, he is aware that the board members do not get paid. The members are putting the time in and living in a democracy there is a right to disagree.

Ms. Helene Ratner, Langhorne, PA stated that for health reasons she has not been able to attend all the meetings this year. Ms. Ratner wished to commend the board for all their hard work especially allowing the meetings to be televised. Ms. Ratner invited all board members to the Holiday Festival at Middletown Township on Thursday, December 9, 2004 from 6-8:30 p.m. Ms. Ratner advised that the Neshaminy Orchestra, Queen of the Universe Bell Choir, and Langhorne Methodist Bell Choir will be performing that evening.

Mr. Eccles noted that the Bucks County Joint Board meeting will also be taking place on Thursday evening at the Bucks County Technical School.

Student Representative

Mr. Dustin Worthington provided the following report:

- National Honor Society held its annual blood drive.
- Football team will be playing the Championship game on Saturday at Hershey, PA.
- Student Council will sponsor Spirit Day on Friday.
- Heat has been stabilized at the high school.
- Co-Curricular parking lot has a large pothole and there is a concern regarding damage to cars.

Ms. Drioli thought it would be nice if the community would place signs on their lawn in support of the Neshaminy Football team. "Go Neshaminy," "Good Luck Neshaminy," "We're With You, Neshaminy," "Good Luck at Hershey!"

Mr. Wilson noted that the school is really behind the team and the team has had a great season. Mr. Wilson commended Mr. Mark Schmidt on a fine job this year. The students have worked hard.

Reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors – In accordance with the State Code, the Board held its reorganization meeting.

Election of Temporary President - Mr. Eccles requested nominations be presented for Temporary President for the reorganization of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mr. Webb nominated Ms. Drioli as temporary President and Mr. Bowman seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Mr. Eccles moved that the nominations for Temporary President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed. Ms. Drioli acted as Temporary President.

Election of President – Ms. Drioli requested nominations be presented for President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Dr. Spitz nominated Mr. Eccles and Mr. Bowman seconded the nomination.

There were no other nominations for President. Ms. Drioli made a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion to close nominations with nine ayes.

Ms. Drioli requested a vote for Mr. Eccles as President of Neshaminy School Board. The Board approved Mr. Eccles as President of the Neshaminy School Board by a vote of eight ayes and one abstention (Mrs. Bostwick).

Election of Vice-President – Mr. Eccles requested nominations be presented for Vice President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors. Mrs. Jowett nominated Dr. Spitz and Ms. Drioli seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations for Vice-President. Mr. Eccles moved the nominations for Vice President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors be closed and Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion to close nominations with nine ayes. Dr. Spitz was elected Vice President of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors with nine ayes.

Motion: Appointment of Solicitor

Mr. Eccles 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, 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 November 30, 2004.

Mrs. Jowett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Mr. Wilson made the board aware that on December 14, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. there will be an Audit Exit Report Conference. Mrs. Jowett stated that she would be able to attend the audit report meeting.

Motion: Approval of Board Meeting Calendar

Mr. Eccles presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors must adopt and publish a schedule of Public Meetings for 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached 2005 School Board Meeting Calendar be adopted by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the 2005 School Board Meeting Calendar.

Approval of Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bid for approval:

Bid No. 05-26 Boiler Replacements at Poquessing Middle School

Bid Amount: \$529,000.00

The bid is for the replacement of all three (3) boilers at Poquessing Middle School. Mr. Paradise noted that this money comes from the \$25M capital improvement bond issue and the work will take place in the summer of 2005.

Mrs. Barrett moved the bid be approved and Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the bid.

Other Board Business

Dr. Spitz reminded board members of the Bucks County Joint Technical School meeting to take place on Thursday, December 9, 2004 at which time a vote will be taken for officers of the Tech School Board. Five members from Neshaminy School

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Board need to attend in order to ensure that enough members are present to have a quorum. Mrs. Bostwick stated that she would also be able to attend.

Correspondence

No correspondence.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Board Comment

Mrs. Cummings suggested that it would be nice if the board meetings could still once or twice a year go out to other areas of the district to hold a meeting. Ms. Drioli agreed with the suggestion and stated that she missed going out to the various schools. Mrs. Barrett suggested holding the public meetings at the board room televised and periodically have a "town meeting" and have the administrators available to answer questions. Mr. Eccles noted that tremendous strides have been made with having the meetings televised. Mr. Eccles recommended that this matter go to committee and make a presentation to see what the costs would be. Mr. Webb stated that the Facilities and Finance committee would also be willing to travel to the different schools to give the public an opportunity to meet with the board one to one and the principals of the schools would have a chance to discuss problems with board members.

Mrs. Jowett stated that the Technology Committee could take on this endeavor and report back to the board with information.

Dr. Spitz questioned Mr. Paradise regarding the eSchool PLUS software. Mr. Paradise stated that the eSchool PLUS is a true web-based, real-time district-wide student management system for K-12 schools. It will allow parents to access data regarding their child's courses, attendance, grading, etc.

Mrs. Barrett questioned Mr. Paradise whether an engineer has been acquired regarding the Poquessing improvements. Mr. Paradise stated that if the board agrees the monies for the engineer will come out of the capital improvement bond issue and part of the renovations costs. The engineer will be invited to attend the Finance and Facilities meeting and ultimately to address the board as a whole. Mr. Paradise stated that on a project such as Poquessing the engineer/architect would most likely work on an hourly rate.

Mrs. Bostwick questioned whether this has been done before. Mr. Paradise noted that the district is trying to avoid the huge costs of an architect since the entire facility will not be renovated.

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Mrs. Barrett suggested that informational meetings or workshops regarding No Child Left Behind take place in the upcoming year.

Ms. Drioli stated that when the law was enacted a few years ago the board attended sessions regarding No Child Left Behind. The Intermediate Unit is the agency who would be able to find speakers to provide a presentation to the new school board members. Ms. Drioli feels that No Child Left Behind is the catalyst for doing away with public schools.

Mr. Wilson stated that he would check with the IU regarding the availability of speakers. Mr. Wilson further discussed problems which exist at the high school regarding No Child Left Behind and its effects on special education students.

Mr. Wilson noted that there is also a great deal of opposition to Act 72. Mrs. Barrett questioned if the State Representatives could speak with board members regarding Act 72.

Mr. Eccles thanked and congratulated the board for the progress made this year. Mr. Eccles stated that through everyone's hard work the board has been brought back together in order to make Neshaminy School District stronger than ever. Mr. Eccles wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season!

Adjournment

Mr. Eccles moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary