

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

March 25, 2008

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on March 25, 2008, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Mr. Frank Koziol, Vice President
Mr. Joseph R. Blasch
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis
Mr. William D. O'Connor
Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Paul J. Kadri
Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Dr. Geeta A. Heble
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

Mrs. Susan Cummings

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 25 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

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA, stated that he is very saddened to hear that Joe Kelly will retire this year from Neshaminy School District. Mr. Kelly is the best working with at risk students. Mr. Kelly is just unbelievable. Mr. Lindner stated that Neshaminy is losing a very valuable person. Mr. Kelly is a great asset to the Neshaminy School District and will be a very difficult individual to replace. Mr. Lindner thanked Mr. Kelly for his dedication and hard work to Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, wanted to remind the parents that the best and most effective way to keep an elementary school open is to make sure that it is full of students. It has always been Mr. Rodos' view that a full day kindergarten will accomplish this and provide a sound educational foundation. Elementary schools within the district are 25% under utilized. If parents of five year old children would demand full day kindergarten each of the elementary schools would need to offer a new total of 32 kindergarten classrooms rather than 23 currently available. This is a 40% increase in utilized classroom space over that amount currently used just for kindergarten. As a reminder all this can concurrently be accomplished at little or no cost to the district. The last time Mr. Rodos checked with the PA Department of Education it is not illegal to charge for the half day which is not funded by the state or provided by the school district. In today's economic times \$150-\$200 a month charge for kindergarten is more than reasonable in consideration of the opportunity to reduce the number of transitions a child must endure during the day to say nothing of the educational benefit to the child which becomes literally apparent to the district in increased test scores at third grade.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Heather Pine provided the following student representative report:

- Neshaminy CARE has donated 90 Care packages to hospice patients to celebrate spring
- 65 Prom dresses were given to the Fairy Godmothers program
- Neshaminy Idol will be held on April 17th which will benefit St. Christopher's and March of Dimes
- Spring sports season began on March 3rd
- Jazz Band Festival will take place on March 28th
- Junior Prom will take place on March 29th at King's Caterers
- French students will be traveling to Quebec

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri presented the following report to Board members:

- Recognition for High School Students
2008 Bucks County Courier Times Editorial Contest Winners:
10th grade – Tori Styner and Ellen LoManto
11th grade – Erica Grey
12th grade – Steve Jiwanmall
- Graduation will take place on June 17th
- Administration will present to the Board in the near future the initiatives that are taking place within the District – Budget, building closures as it relates to Neshaminy Middle School which will require a level of redistricting, staff movement, etc.
 - Students and staff need to be focused on learning
 - State Certifications will play a large role in redistricting
 - Student redistricting will take place once and will have a relatively minor impact on students
 - Retirements will be considered (50 to date)
 - Tawanka facility closing and relocation of Alternative Program
 - Facilities Department and Purchasing Department relocation
 - Student Achievement

Dr. Spitz noted that the Board has not formally decided regarding any building closures.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the February 26, 2008 public meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Blasch and seconded by Mr. Koziol the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 26, 2008 Public Meeting. Mrs. Cummings was not present.

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

Mr. Kadri presented the following for approval:

- February, 2008 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register – February, 2008
- Investment Summary
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations – February, 2008

Mr. Kadri advised that the investment listed on page 71 was secured prior to the most recent Federal rate drop.

Mr. Webb moved the February, 2008 treasurer's report, subject to audit, check register, investments, and exonerations of personal and per capita tax be approved. Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, investments and personal and per capita tax exonerations. Mrs. Cummings was not present.

Bids/Budget Transfers:

Information distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Kadri presented the following bid for Board approval:

Bid No. 09-15 Exterior Door Replacements at Tawanka Learning Center

Bid Amount: \$51,750.00

The Bid is for replacement of exterior doors at Tawanka Learning Center. These doors are original (1964) and they do not operate properly. They can not be locked except with a deadbolt and they are a safety concern.

The Board unanimously approved Bid No. 09-15 and Budget Transfer Report No. 08-4 (Working Copy).

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. Muenker noted that Item 7 on the Resignation/Leaves of Certified Personnel has an effective date of 1/30/09 which has been changed to 6/30/08.

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

Mr. Blasch moved the Certified and Support personnel reports be accepted. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

Mr. O'Connor asked Dr. Muenker whether he had been contacted by any Board members regarding any names on the report or do the recommendations reflect input from Board members in any way, shape or form? Dr. Muenker replied that they do not. Mr. Eccles requested the relevancy of the question. Mr. O'Connor stated he wished to ask that specific question.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote. The roll call tally indicated that the Personnel Report was approved by a vote of six ayes (Mr. Blasch, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Eccles, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. Koziol, and Mr. Webb) and one nay (Mr. O'Connor). Dr. Spitz abstained and Mrs. Cummings was not present.

Motion: Approval of Summer Programs 2008

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District has operated a successful summer school program for 50 consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, in recent years has operated completely on a self-sustaining basis via student tuitions; and

WHEREAS, the following programs have been discussed with the Neshaminy Board of School Directors:

- Secondary Summer School (Enrichment and Make-Up)
- Summer Fine Arts including Art, Dance, Instructional Music, and Summer Stock

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the request to operate summer programs for the 51st year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that students residing in Neshaminy School District be given first preference for program involvement and related program activities.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Cummings was not present.

Motion: Approval of Revised Board Policies 121, 248, 348, 448, 551 and New Board Policy 726

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, new policies are recommended by the administration to the Board Policies Committee for review, and

WHEREAS, the Board Policies Committee recommends, on a pilot basis, for one fiscal year, the use of procurement cards designed to reduce the cost and bureaucracy of small-dollar purchases; 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:

New Policy 726 – Procurement Cards

AND, WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, 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 121 – Prohibiting Discrimination in Education

Revised Policy 248, 348 and 448 – Sexual Harassment

Revised Policy 551 – Behavior Management

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

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol commented that he shows displeasure with said Policy #726 Procurement Cards. At this time with the current budget situation the district should be making it more difficult to obtain money from the funds. Mr. Koziol thought it was discussed to use such procurement cards for larger purchases and take advantage of discounts; however, the district could be losing control of the dollars. Mr. Koziol noted that he will be required to vote against all the policies unless the motion is split.

Dr. Spitz made a motion to split the motion and exclude Policy 726 – Procurement Cards.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Mr. Profy advised that the Board has before them two motions. The first motion is to vote for all policies except new Policy #726.

Mr. Koziol made a motion to approve Policies #121, 248, 348, 448, and 551.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mrs. Cummings was not present.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve Policy #726.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Eccles requested a roll call vote. The roll call tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of seven ayes (Mr. Blasch, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Eccles, Mr. Koutsouradis, Mr. O'Connor, Dr. Spitz, Mr. Webb) and one nay (Mr. Koziol). Mrs. Cummings was not present.

Federal Programs

Mr. Kadri advised that the district is moving forward and applying for the last portion of the Classrooms for the Future Grant. In the near future there will be a presentation to the Board regarding the current installment of the Classrooms for the Future. The core area of science has been completed. The district is currently applying for the other three core areas: social studies, math and language arts.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA, thanked the board for giving the citizens of Neshaminy the democratic right to speak without limitations. The population appreciates this opportunity to speak.

Board Comment

Mr. Koziol requested that Mr. Paradise provide a review of how the Act 1 exceptions were calculated. Mr. Koziol would also like to see the Technology budget for review.

Mr. Eccles advised that the next negotiating meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2008. Said meeting is not open to the public.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Blasch seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary