

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

June 16, 2008

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 16, 2008, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

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

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 125 persons
from the public, staff and press

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Recognition

Mr. Kadri announced that he would like to recognize all the retirees within the district. Mr. Kadri offered praise and thanks for all their dedication to the Neshaminy students. Mr. Kadri also recognized Mr. Rick Marotto who retired a few years ago and Mr. Joe Kelly who will be retiring this year. Mr. Marotto is currently working at Neshaminy High School as a coordinator for students, teachers, staff, etc. regarding the construction project.

Mr. Marotto stated that working at the high school has been a wonderful experience. Mr. Marotto stated that 14 months still exist with the project. Twenty-four months have been completed. Mr. Marotto thanked all the construction crews for their fine work and Mr. Minotti for his numerous hours spent on the project.

Mr. Kadri read a biography for Mr. Joe Kelly, lead Social Worker for Neshaminy School District. Mr. Joe Kelly has the knowledge and sympathy to handle desperate phone calls in the middle of the night regarding any student situations. It is heartbreaking for Neshaminy School District to be losing Mr. Kelly who came to the district in 1974. Mr. Kelly has been a part of: Crisis Response Team, Pass Program, Challenge Day programs, Celebration of Life Weeks, Tawanka Alternative School, Policy Violations Committee, Suicide Prevention Task Force, Strategic Planning Committee, Committee for Positive Change, etc.

Mr. Kelly stated that Neshaminy has been very good to him. The Neshaminy community has been very supportive of him. This is a generation of kids who are at risk due to our culture. Mr. Kelly feels that working with the students have kept him

young. Children of today are amazingly grateful. Central administration has helped with the students and Mr. Kelly is very proud to have been a part of the Neshaminy community.

Public Comment

Mrs. Angela Manning has lived in the district for five (5) years and is a district administrator for New Jersey. Mrs. Manning has two daughters. Mrs. Manning would like to know who is teaching the students at the elementary level computer classes and what certification do those teachers have? Mrs. Manning believes that people teaching these classes should be certified. Mrs. Manning feels this is extremely important. Mrs. Manning also spoke regarding the full day kindergarten program. Mrs. Manning asked why Neshaminy does not have a full day kindergarten. Full day kindergarten is extremely important.

Mrs. Carolyn Spina, Levittown, PA, has three children and two parents who are 81 and 85 and they also have the same issues as a lot of Neshaminy residents. Mrs. Spina asked that for every student in the district and for every person who lives in the district keep the politics out of your decisions. Think long and hard as to what you would like your legacy to be. Search for solutions and do not let cronyism cloud your judgment. See the value of an investment and how investments can efficiently create a successful district that combats waste, but does not curtail progress and excellence. Make a decision that is your own and that agrees with your conscience. Work with your colleagues and superintendent and his office to create a district of excellence. Do not squabble and undermine each other. We have the ingredients to be a great district.

Mr. John Provizano, Maple Avenue, Langhorne, PA, made the decision two years ago to move into the Neshaminy School District. Mr. Provizano would like his stepdaughter to go to Oliver Heckman which is only about 600 yards from his home. Mr. Provizano is concerned that his daughter may not be able to attend Heckman and may be bused to a sister school. A custody battle is also ensuing presently for Mr. Provizano and he would like both his own daughter and step daughter to attend Oliver Heckman and not need to attend a sister school.

Mrs. Ann Maria Swords, Langhorne, PA, Highland Gate section, who is concerned about her daughter's health and the air quality at the Poquessing pool area. Swimmers asthma has been a problem for her daughter within the Poquessing pool area. No problems exist in other pool locations. This condition is caused by chlorinated indoor swimming pools. The problem is not the chlorine, but when the chlorine is combined with organics. The organics are contributed by the swimmers in the pool in the form of sweat, dander, urine, etc. Chemicals are produced which causes asthma. Elite swimmers are at risk. Something needs to be done.

Ms. Amanda Swords, Langhorne, PA, swim team member, informed that the swim team at Poquessing arrived at 6:00 p.m. to find the pool drained. The coach was uninformed of this dilemma and the lack of communication. There are no equipment storage areas. Practice is unable to occur. Practice today was cancelled and her mother needed to make an early trip. The communication level needs to increase.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, also stressed the need for full day kindergarten. Mr. Rodos thanked Mrs. Walls for preparing the minutes and Mr. Paradise, Superintendent Kadri, Dr. Muenker and the entire Board were congratulated for the budget which stays in the guidelines of Superintendent Kadri. This is a fantastic job by everyone concerned. Each vote this evening will please a group and displease another group. If everyone walks out complaining about something, then you know you did a good job.

Dr. Spitz requested that there be a follow up to the concerns of the public mentioned this evening. Mr. Webb stated that the "Chlorine concentrations are acceptable as long as students and staff are in the pool area less than eight to ten hours per day." Mrs. Cummings stated that she attended a swim meet and spoke with a CORE coach and if he could be contacted to be spoken with regarding the concerns he has it would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Paradise advised that a meeting has been scheduled. Mrs. Cummings also spoke with the County Commissioners regarding the recent law which was passed regarding pools.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri provided the following thoughts for tonight's meeting: Momentum over the past couple months has been great. The budget has been on the forefront of everyone's minds. The 4.1% target was very aggressive. An economy where revenues are down, fuel costs are rising and health insurance is escalated, the challenges were difficult to meet. The budget does have a significant reduction of staff, however the operating budget for next year will actually be less than the operating budget this year. It is a healthy budget but it is tight. There are many people who should be thanked. Positions were shifted due to retirements. Mr. Kadri thanked Dr. Muenker and Mrs. Boylan, Mr. Paradise and Mrs. Glennie. Mr. Kadri obtained a real sense of value for what Neshaminy prepares for a budget. Redistricting efforts should be celebrated. Many people have worked hard for a smooth transition during consolidation of buildings. District staff has been wonderful and they believe in our commitment to them and they have been exceptional in accepting the changes for next year and the preparation of next year as a year of excellence. A few students have been impacted more than others. The district has reached out on a personal level with these students in order for them to know that extra steps are being taken to ensure that their year will be as great as every other student's year. A reduction of 55 staff members will occur. This is bringing fiscal sustainability in line, but also reallocating funds that will have a higher return in terms of student performance. Congratulations to the graduates of Neshaminy High School. The construction project is moving ahead successfully and on budget. Many thanks to Mr. Minotti and the facilities group for their diligent work. Mr. Kadri thanked Reynolds Construction and ATS&R. Mr. Kadri thanked everyone at the high school. Mr. Kadri noted that we now need to keep the momentum going over the summer with a vision for the elementary schools, forecasting next year's budget and a framework for all schools and promoting student achievement.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the May 6, 2008 and May 13, 2008 public meetings. Upon motion of Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Ms. Boyle the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 6, 2008 and May 13, 2008 Public Meetings.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

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

Mr. Blasch moved the May, 2008 treasurer's report, subject to audit, check register, investments, and exonerations of personal and per capita tax be approved. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mrs. Cummings and Mr. O'Connor had questions regarding the check register which were answered by Mr. Paradise.

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

Bids/Budget Transfers:

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

Bid No. 09-05 Transportation Parts Supplies

Bid Amount: \$95,776.01

The Bid is for various supplies for the maintenance of District vehicles for school year 2008/2009. Quantities on this bid are estimated. The actual quantities purchased may vary from this estimate but will not exceed the total recommended for award.

Bid No. 09-09 Classroom & Art Aid Supplies

Bid Amount: \$25,523.07

The Bid is for classroom and art supplies for the 2008/2009 school year which include: paints, drawing paper, brushes, markers, yarn, cloth, and other arts and crafts materials for classroom use.

Bid No. 09-18 Trash Removal & Recycling

Bid Amount: \$305,166.60 (Three Year Term)

The Bid is for trash removal and recycling for the District for the school years: 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11 with provisions for year to year extensions beyond the initial three year term.

The Board unanimously approved Bid Nos. 09-05, Bid 09-09 and Bid 09-18 and Budget Transfer Report No. 08-7 (Working Copy).

The Board unanimously approved same. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Certified and Support Personnel Reports

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Summer School Staff/Summer School Support Staff

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

Ms. Boyle moved the Certified and Support personnel reports be accepted. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Revision of Board Policy 800 – Use of Facilities

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

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:

Revised Policy 800 – Use of Facilities

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the revised Policy as recommended by the School Board Policies Committee.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: 2007-08 Approval of Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day Reporting

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, all public schools are to be open each school year for at least one hundred eighty (180) days of instruction for pupils; and

WHEREAS, exceptions to the requirement for 180 days of instruction or to the daily school hours may be made based upon Section 1504, as amended by Act 80 of 1969; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day reporting outlines PDE approved Act 80 exception activities for the 2007-08 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt the attached Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day Reporting for the 2007-08 school year.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Tax and Revenue Anticipation Note

Mr. Koziol 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 2008-09 cumulative cash flow deficit has been projected to be \$21,558,220. 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 \$21,558,220 for the 2008-09 fiscal year; and

TO ACCEPT the proposal from Wachovia Bank to borrow the amount of \$19,017,022 on July 14, 2008, maturing on October 31, 2008, at a net interest cost of 2.64% 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; 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. O'Connor seconded the motion.

Mr. Paradise advised that the purpose of this motion is to prepay the health insurance premiums for the entire year and in doing so it provides a discount to the district.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2007-2008

Mr. Koutsouradis presented the following motion:

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 2007-2008 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$199,775,248. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

Mr. Paradise provided an explanation of said motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for the 2008-09 Fiscal Year

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

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 during the year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following list of professional service vendors be accepted for use during the 2008-09 fiscal year.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Mr. O'Connor presented the following motion:

2008 Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

RESOLVED, by the Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District, that homestead and farmstead exclusion real estate tax assessment reductions are authorized for the school year beginning July 1, 2008, under the provisions of the Homestead Property Exclusion Program Act (part of Act 50 of 1998) and the Taxpayer Relief Act (Act 1 of 2006), as follows:

1. Aggregate amount available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction. The following amounts are available for homestead and farmstead real estate tax reduction for the school year beginning July 1, 2008:
 - a. Gambling tax funds. The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. §6926.505(b), as a property tax reduction allocation funded by gambling tax funds, the amount of \$3,591,156.99.
 - b. Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds. PDE has notified the School District that PDE will pay to the School District during the school year pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.324(3), as reimbursement for Philadelphia tax credits claimed against the School District earned income tax by School District resident taxpayers, the amount of \$ -0-.
 - c. Other sources. No funds will be available during the 2008-2009 school year for real estate tax reduction other than the gambling tax funds and Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds set forth in subparagraphs (a.) and (b.) of Section 1 of this Resolution.
 - d. Aggregate amount available. Adding the amounts set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.) and (c) of Section 1 of this Resolution, the aggregate amount available during the 2008-2009 school year for real estate tax reduction is \$3,591,156.99.

2. Homestead/farmstead numbers. Pursuant to Act 50, 54 Pa. C.S. § 8584(i), and Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.341(g)(3), the County has provided the School District with a certified report listing approved homesteads and approved farmsteads as follows:

- a. Homestead property number. The number of approved homesteads within the School District is 16,551.
- b. Farmstead property number. The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is 2.
- c. Homestead/farmstead combined number. The aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 16,553.

3. Real estate tax reduction calculation. The school board has decided that the homestead exclusion amount and the farmstead exclusion amount shall be equal. Dividing the paragraph 1(d) aggregate amount during the 2008-2009 school year for real estate tax reduction of \$3,591,156.99 by the paragraph (2)(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 16,553, before considering the assessed value of approved homestead and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead and farmstead exclusion amount, the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$216.95.

Based on calculations provided by the School District Business Office from the best available information and carefully evaluated by the School Board, considering the assessed value of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads having an assessed value below the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate assessed value reduction amount to be established as the homestead exclusion and the farmstead exclusion amount, an additional aggregate amount of \$3,180.00 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 16,540 homesteads and farmsteads, resulting in an additional real estate tax reduction amount available for each homestead and farmstead of \$ -0-. Adding this additional amount to the preliminary calculation of the maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$216.95, the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$216.95.

4. Homestead exclusion calculation. Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$216.95 by the School District real estate tax rate of 148.6 mills (.1486), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$1,460, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$2,920.

5. Homestead/farmstead exclusion authorization – July 1 tax bills. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved homestead within the School District shall reflect a homestead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the homestead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$1,460. The tax notice issued to the owner of each approved farmstead within the School District shall reflect an additional farmstead exclusion real estate assessed value reduction equal to the lesser of: (a) the County-established assessed value of the farmstead, or (b) the paragraph 4 maximum real estate assessed value reduction of \$2,920. For purposes of this Resolution, "approved homestead" and "approved farmstead" shall mean homesteads and farmsteads listed in the report referred to in paragraph 2 above and received by the School District from the County Assessment Office on or before May 1, 2008 pursuant to Act 1, 53 P.S. § 5926.341(g)(3), based on homestead/farmstead applications filed with the County Assessment Office on or before March 1. This paragraph 5 will apply to tax notices issued based on the initial tax duplicate used in issuing initial real estate tax notices for the school year, which will be issued on or promptly after July 1, 2008 and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills for tax periods beginning prior to July 1, 2008.

RESOLUTION adopted this ____ day of _____, 2008.

ATTEST:

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary

By: _____
Richard M. Eccles, President

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Year-End Budget Transfers

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

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 2007-08.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Approval of Agreement with T-Mobile

Mr. Koziol presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, T-Mobile Northeast LLC, has approached the District concerning the installation of a cellular telephone monopole at the site of the Eisenhower Building; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on June 11, 2008, soliciting public input concerning this proposed installation; and

WHEREAS, the agreement also provides for 15% co-location sharing revenue for other cellular providers that may wish to use the same monopole; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors is always seeking alternative sources of revenue to support the general fund and limit tax increases where possible.

WHEREAS, the agreement for the cellular telephone monopoly provides for an initial term of five (5) years with an annual rent of \$22,800; and at the option of T-Mobile four (4) successive renewal terms of five (5) years each and a final renewal term of four (4) years with the rent for each of the five (5) renewal terms being twenty (20%) percent more than the rent for the immediately preceding term of the agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Business Administrator, upon approval of the agreement by the Solicitor, to execute the Agreement in the name of and on behalf of Neshaminy School District.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Mr. Paradise advised that only one person attended the meeting, which was the reporter, and, therefore, the district felt this next step could be taken. Public input can still be obtained at the Township zoning hearings to be held in the future.

The Board unanimously approved said motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Food Service Student Lunch Price Increase

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, significant increases in food costs, along with increases in labor costs, require that additional revenue be generated in order to continue the financial integrity of the food service fund; and

WHEREAS, based on projected sales for 2008-09, student meal prices will need to increase to maintain the financial integrity of the school lunch program and the Food service fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following student lunch prices will go into effect September 2008:

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$2.00

Secondary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$2.40

This represents a \$.30 per lunch increase.

No change in student breakfast prices is recommended.

Dr. Spitz seconded the motion.

Mr. Webb made a motion to amend the Food Service Student Lunch Price Increase to \$.25 per lunch increase.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion.

Discussion took place to amend the motion. Mr. Webb stated that the prices are firm from the US Food vendor and are locked in until June 30, 2009. Mr. Paradise noted that the locked in prices are very high.

Board consensus to allow public comment.

Mrs. Jill Erb, Levittown, PA, is a Food Service Manager in the district stated that in the past 11 years there has only been one \$.10 increase in lunches. We are attempting to get the kids to eat good food and this costs money.

Mrs. Wallace, Food Service Director, noted that she was concerned about the unexpected costs that might occur and that has now be rescinded, however, the food costs have increased greatly.

A roll call vote was requested on the amendment to the motion. The roll call tally indicated that the motion to amend passed by a vote of six ayes (Mr. Blasch, Ms. Boyle, Mr. Koziol, Mr. O'Connor, Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb) and two nays (Mrs. Cummings and Mr. Koutsouradis). Mr. Eccles was not present.

The motion now shall read as follows:

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$1.95

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase to \$2.35

This represents a \$.25 per lunch increase.

The Board unanimously approved the amended motion. Mr. Eccles was not present.

Motion: Permanent Closure of Neshaminy Middle School

Mr. Blasch presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Resolution adopted on February 26, 2008, which initiated the process for the permanent closure of Neshaminy Middle School, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held at Maple Point Middle School on March 14, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., upon the question of whether or not to permanently close the Neshaminy Middle School located at 1200 Langhorne-Newtown Road, Langhorne, Middletown Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania at the end of the 2007-08 school year; and

WHEREAS, this action is being taken because of declining student enrollment at the middle school level throughout the district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby officially declares the Neshaminy Middle School closed as of the end of the 2007-08 school year.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion:

Dr. Spitz noted that this has been a difficult decision for the Board and will have an effect on the students, staff, parents and all those members of the Neshaminy Middle School community.

Mr. Koziol thanked the Administration and staff for a very smooth transitional process.

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

Motion: Permanent Closure of Tawanka Facility

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Resolution adopted on February 26, 2008, which initiated the process for the permanent closure of the Tawanka Facility, pursuant to the Pennsylvania Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held at Maple Point Middle School on March 14, 2008, at 6:30 p.m., upon the question of whether or not to permanently close the Tawanka facility located at 2055 Brownsville Road, Langhorne, Lower Southampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania at the end of the 2007-08 School Year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby officially declares the Tawanka Facility be closed as of the end of the 2007-08 school year, and that the alternative program be located elsewhere within the school District.

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Discussions ensued as to the rental possibilities, relocation of Tawanka program and where shall it reside, and ad hoc committee to meet with administration to discuss options for Tawanka.

Mr. Koziol suggested the program be relocated to Neshaminy High School. Mr. O'Connor provided information which suggested that the students would not prosper at the high school. Dr. Spitz agreed with Mr. O'Connor's comment and the Administration has made the recommendation to move the program to Eisenhower. Dr. Spitz feels that this would be an excellent location for this program.

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

Motion: Adoption of the 2008-09 Final Operating Budget

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors received a 2008-09 *Working Draft Budget* from the administration on December 11, 2007. The Board has reviewed and adopted a *Preliminary Budget* on January 22, 2008 and subsequently adopted a *Proposed Final Budget* on May 13, 2008, all in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and the Public School Code of 1949, as amended. Notice of intent to adopt the budget has been duly advertised as required by law and the budget was also made public throughout the process on PDE Form 2028 as required by law.

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors must adopt a *Final Operating Budget* for the 2008-09 fiscal year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors adopt a *Final Operating Budget* of all funds in the amount of \$190,109,584 together with -

- Capital Improvement Projects including Neshaminy High School construction in the amount of \$27,130,000
- Federal and other programs in the amount of \$3,641,847; and
- Carry-over purchase orders of \$189,094

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the capital projects budget will be funded from proceeds of the General Obligation Bond Issues - Series of 2004, 2006, and 2007 Series B. The federal programs budget will be funded by specific federal grants and in order to fund the general fund budget, \$3,575,000 will be allocated from the existing fund balance, and the following taxes are hereby levied:

1. Real Estate Tax	148.6 mills
2. Interim Real Estate Tax	148.6 mills
3. Per Capita Tax - School Code	\$5.00
4. Per Capita Tax - Act 511	\$10.00
5. Local Services Tax (formerly OPT/EMS)	\$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. O'Connor seconded the motion.

Mr. Webb requested a detailed list of budget cuts and that list was only received late this afternoon. Mr. Webb is not ready to vote on this budget without reviewing and studying same. The capital improvement area is a major concern and Mr. Webb feels it is inappropriate to eliminate the contribution to this fund.

Dr. Spitz congratulated the Administration for a job well done. The district is budgeting \$2.9M less this year. Great efforts have been taken to make this occur without cutting educational programs. Prioritizing is crucial in this year's budget and the Administration has done a fine job.

Mr. O'Connor requested that the information be provided at least one day in advance of the vote.

Board discussion ensued regarding the Board receiving information regarding the budget process in a timely fashion.

Mr. Webb and Mr. Koziol noted that the budget vote does not need to take place this evening. The Board has until the end of the month to vote on same.

Mr. Kadri stated that he has kept the Board aware of the budget up and downs over the past several weeks.

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

Federal Programs

Mr. Kadri advised that there was nothing new at this time to report.

Future Topics

Mr. Kadri advised that the Facility Naming Committee/Policy will begin shortly.

Other Board Business

Mr. Webb requested the PSSA results. Dr. Costanzo noted that the high school has appeared to have made safe harbor. A full report will be provided in the future.

Public Comment

A citizen made comment regarding the testing at the pool at Poquessing and the results of same. Mr. Paradise advised that the testing was done by a certified company.

Courtney Cox, 8th grader at Neshaminy Middle and will be in 9th grade next year. Ms. Cox is concerned with combining of the schools and she hopes that the class size will be kept to a reasonable level so the education will not be sacrificed. She is also concerned about teachers retiring in January. Hopefully, consideration is being made that these teachers not be placed where students need to be given the most attention. Merging of the students is also a concern and how that merger will work out. Next year will be a hard year to adjust to. What will happen to the guidance department? Will more guidance counselors be provided?

Board Comment

Mr. O'Connor thanked Mr. Koziol for handling the meeting.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Dr. Spitz seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Koziol adjourned the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary