

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(PUBLIC MEETING)
June 19, 2007

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 19, 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

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 35 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

Mrs. Barrett announced that the Board of School Directors would like to honor Mrs. Lynn Wallace who for the last year has been the SAGE Volunteer Coordinator. Mrs. Wallace has spent many hours and has expended much effort. The District will miss her greatly. It has been Mrs. Wallace's ability to design a creation from a swatch of cloth and a gourmet meal from a recipe. Her extensive background and experiences have paved the way for the initiation and success of the SAGE program. Mrs. Wallace's 35 years of teaching social studies were enhanced by her intense sense of caring as she initiated the Caring Kids Program and the Senior Prom. While at Neshaminy Middle School she organized the 9th grade Move-Up Day, the 9th grade dance and field day. Mrs. Wallace was also the Social Studies Department Chairperson. Mrs. Wallace has the ability to create interaction between people of different generations. She has built a rapport with senior groups in the area through her years of being involved with nursing homes. She has cultivated that bond by recruiting a variety of seniors to work with children in the district. She has proven to be an amazing liaison. She is a friend and co-worker.

Mrs. Wallace advised that she has been in Neshaminy for 36 years. She is a graduate of Neshaminy and Neshaminy School District is a part of her. Mrs. Barrett presented Mrs. Wallace with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Mrs. Barrett announced that the Board would also like to honor Mrs. Mirca Liberti. After many years of full-time teaching, Mrs. Mirca Liberti still had more to give. Over the last fifteen years, she taught conversational French to fourth grade students at the Samuel Everitt Elementary School. Mrs. Liberti met Mrs. Brooks' fourth graders for thirty to forty minutes each week for approximately sixteen weeks culminating with a demonstration to parents during a "French Breakfast" each June. Of Mrs. Liberti, Mrs. Brooks said, "Mirca is a wonder to behold. Her love

of children, endless energy, and patience are amazing. She helped students develop a love and appreciation of language. Because of Mrs. Liberti, many of my students decided to study French in middle and high school.”

Mrs. Liberti advised that many years ago she was a teacher in Neshaminy, special education, and she has been working in the exact same room that she taught in many years ago. It was a feeling of coming home again. Mrs. Liberti’s objective was to get children to love language. Mrs. Liberti announced that she is retiring for the second time around.

Mrs. Barrett presented Mrs. Liberti with a Certificate of Appreciation for all the time and effort expended on behalf of Neshaminy students.

Mrs. Walls advised that for any of the proposed incoming Board members a folder has been created for them in order to pick up district materials from the Board box.

Public Comment

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mills, Langhorne, PA, stated that the Superintendent and Board are on the right track towards school closures and redirecting students to new locations all of which will come to fruition with the completion of the study by McKissick and Associates. Mr. Rodos would like the Board to focus their attention on the upcoming teacher negotiations. Mr. Rodos urged the Board to terminate the practice of paying health benefits to retired employees up to the age of 65. Mr. Rodos urged the Board to negotiate a contract in which all employees pay at least 20% of the cost of their health care. Both of these health care initiatives will go a long way to ease the pain of taxpayers. Mr. Rodos thanked Mrs. Walls for her preparation of the Board minutes.

Mr. William O’Connor, Langhorne, PA, addressed the issue of staffing levels. Back in February Dr. Spitz reported that the increase of 56 full time equivalents was perhaps misleading, since most of those positions were funded through Federal grants at no cost to the taxpayers. There was actually a full time drop of approximate FTE’s. When using these numbers please use accurate information. Mr. O’Connor also addressed the number of tech classes offered at the high school. Neshaminy has more tech classes than the surrounding school districts. This issue should be addressed. Mr. O’Connor thanked Mr. Kadri and his administration for a reasonable expense budget for next year. It was pleasing to see that Mr. Kadri addressed some educational needs, i.e. increasing the support of the guidance department at the high school, while bringing in a budget below the state’s mandated guidelines for this year. Mr. O’Connor thanked Mr. Paradise for presenting the budget in a very easy to read format for the public. Mr. O’Connor also noted that based on the McKissick report the Board could possibly consider reducing class size. Mr. O’Connor was also concerned about the utilization rate at the high school. A utilization rate of 95% or higher could possibly prohibit some students from attaining certain classes. Mr. O’Connor noted that one of the reasons why high school testing scores are challenged at the high school level is because students are not motivated. Keep an eye on the projections of utilization and keep that in mind for your facilities study.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Kadri advised that graduation took place on Thursday due to the weather forecast. The speeches were wonderful. On behalf of everyone congratulations to the Class of 2007. Mr. Kadri wished everyone a wonderful and safe summer.

Mr. Kadri advised that an outstanding music teacher from Samuel Everitt, Mrs. Rebecca Welwood, passed away. Mrs. Welwood’s passing will be a great loss to not only the district, but to all of education and the community. The Neshaminy family sends its thoughts and prayers to the Welwood family.

Facility Plan Presentation

Mr. Vern McKissick provided a presentation to Board members. Mr. McKissick advised that all of the options presented are being provided as a starting point for discussion. No decision will be made this evening. The options will be developed in depth in later months.

Options are in four major groups:

- Modest building closures and construction of higher performance replacement buildings
- Repurposing existing buildings/Changing grade level structure to obtain efficiencies
- Maximum number of middle school closures
- Maintain as many school sites as possible/Improve efficiencies

Assumptions:

- All buildings will be upgraded to "Good" condition
- All pursue state aide
- Air conditioning is included at all sites
- Shifting of 9th grade to high school
- High school capacity Low - 2500 and High - 3200
- Modular Classrooms are not included in any totals
- Lower Southampton will experience an intergenerational shift
- No recommendation for closed facilities
- Minimize transportation of students

Educational Concepts:

- District Class size honored
- Modulars are taken out of use
- Upgrading classrooms
- Create appropriate small seminar spaces in each building
- Cap school sizes
- School within a school configuration
- Early childhood centers
- Smaller middle schools
- Primary and intermediate educational facilities

Mr. McKissick reviewed 13 options with Board members. Board members were given materials to review. Mr. McKissick advised that the next step is discussion, develop and adjust any of the options, refinement (advantages and disadvantages) and finally, selection of one to three options for further study and a great level of detail.

Mr. Kadri noted that at this point there is not one option that is a lead contender. This is purely to make sure that every option is being considered. Option #2 has been identified as the Consensus Option.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the May 16, 2007 and June 5, 2007 public meetings. Upon motion of Mr. Koziol and seconded by Mr. Bowman, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 16, 2007 and June 5, 2007 Public Meetings. Two Board members were not present (Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb).

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- May, 2007 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit
- Check Register - May, 2007
- Investment Summary
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations - May, 2007 and June, 2007

Mr. Bowman moved the May, 2007 Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, Check Register for May, 2007, Investment Summary and Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for the month of May, 2007 and June, 2007. Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

Mr. Koziol questioned a number of checks in the register and Mr. Paradise addressed Mr. Koziol's questions.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, and investments. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

BID: 08-05 Transportation Parts Supplies

Bid Amount: \$97,769.66

The bid is for various supplies for the maintenance of District vehicles for school year 2007/2008. Quantities on this bid are estimated. The actual quantities purchased may vary from this estimate but will not exceed the total recommended for award.

The Board unanimously approved Bid No. 08-05. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

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
- 2007 Summer School Staff

Dr. Muenker noted that item #11 on the Elections of Certified Personnel should be stricken. Also, an employee has requested to rescind his retirement. Further the 2007 Summer School Staff is listed.

Mr. Koziol questioned the ability of Board members to be part of the negotiating team when relatives may be part of the bargaining unit.

Mr. Profy advised that he would need to know the specifics of the position and the specifics of the employee. Mr. Profy advised that the general rule is that a public official cannot vote on a matter in which he/she has a direct interest and there are also provisions in the ethics act which defines rules which pertain to family members.

Mr. Blasch advised that a school board member who had a close relative within the bargaining unit would not be allowed to be part of the negotiations, however, would be able to vote upon the final ratified contract.

Mr. Kadri requested that a Board meeting take place in the month of July in order to have further positions approved by the Board.

Board discussion took place regarding the retirement position which the individual is requesting to be rescinded. Mr. Profy advised that it is within the Board's discretion to rescind the prior actions. The retirement has not become effective at this time and this action will not set legal precedent, however, every action the Board takes sets precedent.

Dr. Muenker defined for Board members the terminology "Long Term Substitute." Board discussion ensued regarding the hiring of Long Term Substitutes and their status.

Mr. Bowman moved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports be voted upon. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports as presented. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were 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 2007-08 cumulative cash flow deficit has been projected to be \$15,335,379. 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 \$15,335,379 for the 2007-08 fiscal year; and

TO ACCEPT the proposal from Janney Montgomery Scott LLC to borrow the amount of \$15,335,379 on July 9, 2007, maturing on June 30, 2008, at a net interest cost of 4.15% 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 Janney Montgomery Scott LLC; 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. Bowman seconded the motion.

A roll call tally indicated that the Board unanimously approved the motion with seven ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Eccles, and Mr. Koziol) and zero nays. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

Motion: Technology Note (Attachment 1)

Mrs. Barrett presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, under the authority of Act 52 of 1978, the Local Government Unit Debt Act, the Neshaminy School District is permitted to issue Notes to fund capital equipment purchases. The Business Office has requested quotations from banks and other financial institutions for a General Obligation Note for Technology purchases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School District shall

1. incur nonelectoral debt in the principal amount of \$949,000, evidenced by the District's General Obligation Note, Series of 2007, to provide funds for capital equipment purchases and related costs,
2. accept the proposal for the purchase of such Note from Citizens Bank, dated June 11, 2007, on the terms set forth in such proposal, and
3. approve all terms of the attached Resolution relating to the issuance and sale of such Note.

The Note shall be for a term of 4 years at an interest rate not to exceed 5.46% per annum.

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

A roll call tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of six ayes (Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Ms. Boyle, Mrs. Cummings, and Mr. Eccles) and one nay (Mr. Koziol). Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

Motion: Appointment of Auditor

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the rising costs for auditing services for the Neshaminy School District prompted the Business Office to develop an RFP (Request For Proposal) and thereby solicit quotations from appropriate and competitive auditing firms.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the firm of Maillie, Falconiero and Company, LLP, will serve as auditor for the Neshaminy School District, beginning with the audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost for this professional audit service, in full compliance with the PA Department of Education, be as follows:

For the fiscal year ending	June 20, 2007 -	\$20,000
	2008 -	\$21,000
	2009 -	\$22,000

Mr. Blasch seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

Motion: Budgetary Increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2006-07

Mr. Eccles 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 2006-07 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$199,920,514. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for the 2007 -08 Fiscal Year

Mrs. Barrett 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 2007-08 fiscal year.

Neshaminy School District
Office of the Business Administrator

Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for 2007-08

The professionals/consultants anticipated for use during the next fiscal year along with examples of the work that will be required are listed below.

- Consolidated Engineers – boilers and other mechanical engineering.
- Colm Engineering – exterior doors and other structural engineering.
- Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. – roof replacements and similar projects.
- Eagle Industrial Hygiene Associates, Inc. – asbestos related compliance.
- Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. – HVAC control systems.
- Environmental Control Systems, Inc. – hazardous waste disposal, underground storage tanks regulations.
- D.A.D. & Associates, Inc. – boilers and cooling tower water treatment.
- Quality Control Laboratories (QC Labs) – pools and water testing.
- Parry's Project Management – logistic services – High School and others if needed.
- Life Safety Professional Services Company – District wide life safety services; fire, smoke, burglar alarms.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

Motion: Year End Budget Transfers

Mr. Blasch 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 2006-07.

Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the motion. Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present.

Motion: Food Service Lunch Price Increase

Mr. Bowman presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, increases in labor costs, increases in milk packaging and food costs, and the need for continued capital equipment purchases require that additional revenue be generated in order to continue the financial integrity of the food service fund; and

WHEREAS, based on projected participation and sales, meal price increases will generate most of the necessary revenue to maintain the financial integrity of the school lunch program and the food service fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following meal prices will go into effect September, 2007:

Elementary "Type A" lunch price will increase from \$1.70 to \$1.85

Secondary "Type A" lunch price will increase from \$2.10 to \$2.25

Milk price will increase from 45¢ to 50¢

Mr. Eccles seconded the motion.

Board discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of raising the lunch prices. Mr. Koziol felt that the Food Services could absorb some of the anticipated losses. Mr. Eccles feels that the students should be surveyed and increase of productivity should be considered and not just increase the prices. Mr. Eccles would like to see Food Services obtain some of the events that are occurring at our schools. Board members questioned Mrs. Wallace regarding former increases, profit sharing amongst employees, menu selections, lunch structure, dietary selections, labor prices and increasing food prices. Further, handling and preparation of foods has gone through many changes in the past years.

Mr. Paradise clarified that adult prices are not part of the motion. Adult prices are based upon market prices and increases occur constantly. Mr. Paradise further advised that the profit sharing was part of a negotiated agreement and is part of the employee's contract. The profit sharing replaces one additional paid holiday. Mr. Paradise advised that at some point in the near future, if not this year, it will be necessary to raise the prices of the Food Services program.

Mr. Paradise stressed that Food Services is not funded in any way by the tax revenues of the district.

A roll call tally indicated that the motion failed by a vote of four ayes (Mr. Blasch, Mr. Bowman, Mrs. Cummings and Mr. Eccles) and three nays (Mrs. Barrett, Ms. Boyle and Mr. Koziol). Dr. Spitz and Mr. Webb were not present. Motion fails under Section 508, Five vote - Affirmative Action. The motion can be revisited at a later date.

Federal Programs

Mr. Kadri updated the Board regarding the Federal programs.

Other Board Business

None.

Public Comment

Mr. Solis Basen, Villages of Flowers Mills, Langhorne, PA, spoke regarding the Fund Balance. Mr. Basen feels that the district is over estimating. Every year the taxpayers are assessed more money. If this continues it is not the right way to proceed. Mr. Basen is concerned about the attendance at Board meetings. What occurs at the meetings has an impact on every citizen in the district. Their attendance is very important and would be very productive in the future. Greater attendance by the public would be beneficial.

Board Comment

Mr. Eccles advised that Mr. Webb was at work this evening and Dr. Spitz was attending an IU function.

Mr. Eccles noted that many people have requested that a negotiating committee/fact finding committee be formed. Mr. Eccles requested Mr. Profy to advise who can be on the negotiating committee, who can negotiate a contract and who cannot.

Mr. Blasch advised that a Technology Committee meeting took place last night. Mr. Blasch is very excited regarding the Technology within the district. Mr. Blasch invited teachers to come to a future meeting to share some of the positive experiences for the public and board to hear regarding the new technology within the district.

Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Bowman moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Koziol seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary