

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
June 21, 2011

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on June 21, 2011, in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr., Performing Arts Center 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. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Geeta Heble
Mr. Kevin Kane
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

OTHERS: Approximately 700 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

*Mr. O'Connor participated via electronic communication.

Mr. Webb announced that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held where personnel issues were discussed.

Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Mr. Webb announced that Mr. O'Connor was participating in the meeting via Skype.

Langhorne Lion Presentation

The Langhorne Lions Club Officials generously donated a \$1,200 portable defibrillator to the Neshaminy School District.

Dr. Muenker expressed his appreciation to the Langhorne Lions for their donation of the portable defibrillator.

Public Comment

Marian Reed, teacher in Neshaminy for 18 years and a member of the NFT negotiating team, Philadelphia, stated that since 2008 the NFT has made three counter proposals moving their offer closer to the center. Ms. Reed declared that the district has moved further apart and has made proposals that are more divisive. She said that the NFT is tired of the attacks against teachers and the profession. Ms. Reed said an example of the disrespect to the NFT is the failure of the Board to reveal the names of the individuals chosen to serve on the Advisory Committee.

Gale Donahue, taxpayer and teacher at Neshaminy High School, voiced her concern about the failure of the school district to reach an agreement with teachers on a new contract. She stated that the district has not made a serious commitment to the bargaining process. Ms. Donahue said that it is time for the school district to look at the future of the Neshaminy school system.

Scott Bennett, business owner, Levittown, said that he purchased a home in the Neshaminy School District because of the district's reputation and high ranking among districts in the state. He stated that in recent years the high ranking is, unfortunately, not the same. Mr. Bennett said that the parents of Neshaminy need to have a choice and therefore, he supports the School Lane Charter School, because we owe it to the children to give them the best education possible.

Jared Katz, teacher at Neshaminy High School, Warrington, voiced his disapproval regarding disparaging comments from some Board Members and some community members towards the NFT. Mr. Katz said he holds the Board responsible for the remarks made and it is up to them to stop the verbal and written attacks.

Deby Rcupido, resident and teacher at Neshaminy High School, stated that surprisingly some of the children of certain Board Members who have blogged negatively about the NFT have expressed appreciation to some of their teachers for their help over the past year. Ms. Rcupido said that as a taxpayer and an NFT member she has the right to know the identity of the members of the Advisory Committee, because they are giving opinions regarding the contract negotiations that concern the NFT.

Cara DeLorenzo, teacher at Neshaminy High School, Holland, said that she understands that both sides are passionate about the contract negotiations and sometimes this passion can obscure the goals that should be considered for the greater good. Ms. DeLorenzo said that as a teacher she demands the respect that she deserves, as well as all teachers, in the negotiation process. She said that the Board and the Union Leadership have the power to make a settlement a reality.

Larry Pastor, Business Executive, Middletown, began by stating that it is his hope that the Board will approve the Charter School for Neshaminy because it is apparent that the parents and students of Neshaminy need a choice and an alternative. Mr. Pastor said that the three proposals from the NFT were each more expensive than the prior proposal. He declared that the antics over the last three years by the Union Leadership are responsible for the NFT losing respect with the public. Mr. Pastor said that if this contract is to be advanced concessions need to be made.

Lynn Dominiak, computer aide, Feasterville, asked the Board why four out of the five specialty teachers have to leave the building on the same day. Ms. Dominiak suggested that administrators look at the specialty scheduling so the children can have specialty teachers in the building on that fifth day. She also stated that due to the recent cuts of some of the custodians it makes not only her job more difficult but also affects the safety of the children. Ms. Dominiak implored the Board to rethink those recent cuts.

Amanda Arner, teacher at Samuel Everitt, Langhorne, stated that she is appalled, and saddened by the recent attacks against teachers on Facebook and the media. Ms. Arner said that she loves her job as a teacher, despite the fact of the sacrifices she and her family have made. Ms. Arner urged the Board to please negotiate.

Sharon Gianni, teacher at Neshaminy High School, asked the Board if she was one of the teachers that were accused of retaliating against the children. Ms. Gianni stated that she does not tolerate that behavior in her classroom and does not appreciate her name being used in conjunction with that statement.

Susan Porecca, office manager and parent of a Neshaminy High School student, Feasterville, commented that she was a member of the senior class of 1981 during the longest teacher's strike in the history of Pennsylvania. She said that she is dismayed that the NFT is once again considering using weapons such as striking and "work to contract" once again. Ms. Porecca said that teachers now make a substantial income

and yet they want more. She thanked the Board for standing firm and for fighting for Neshaminy children in what she sees as a war with the NFT.

Mary Ann Bender, parent of Neshaminy student, Middletown, commended the Board for the good job that they are doing. Ms. Bender pleaded with the Board and the NFT to put the hostilities aside and negotiate for the children.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Muenker advised the Board on the following:

- Thanked the Langhorne Lions for their generous donation of a \$1,200 portable defibrillator to the district.
- Remarked that the 2011 graduation was an overwhelming success. He congratulated the students and staff and gave a special thanks to Dr. McGee and the teachers and support staff for making it a successful event. He also thanked Mr. Congdon and Ms. Boyle for their presence.
- Encouraged the public to utilize the district's website for recent updates.
- New series in math at the elementary level called Math in Focus to be introduced in phases over the next three years starting next year.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of May 24, 2011 and June 7, 2011. Upon motion of Mr. Eccles and seconded by Ms. Boyle the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the May 24, 2011 Public Meeting and the June 7, 2011 Work Session Meeting.

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

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following for approval:

- May, 2011 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – May, 2011
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for May, 2011
- Budget Transfer Report 11-5

Bids

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following bid. Information was presented prior to the meeting.

Bid No. 12-05 Transportation Parts Supplies

Amount: \$83,304.20

Bid Description: Various supplies for the maintenance of District vehicles for school year 2011-2012. Quantities on this bid are estimated. The actual quantities purchased may vary from this estimate but will not exceed the total recommended for award.

Mr. Congdon moved the May, 2011 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for May, 2011, and the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for May, 2011 be approved. Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked, on page 31, what the bicycle inspection entailed.

Mrs. Markowitz stated that annually there are inspections on the bicycles that are used for the gym curriculum.

Mr. Morris inquired as to how many bikes the district has.

Mrs. Markowitz stated she is not exactly sure off hand but will get that information.

Mr. Eccles asked what a UST permit is at Sandburg Middle School.

Mrs. Markowitz said that it is an underground storage tank that the district has to get a permit for every year.

Mr. Eccles inquired if there are inspections on that unit.

Mrs. Markowitz stated that there are inspections.

Mr. Morris asked what the NFT's amount was of the \$1.3 million dollar Independent Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Mrs. Markowitz stated that the NFT's amount is approximately \$1.26 million dollars.

The Board approved said reports with a vote of eight ayes, and zero nays, and one abstention, (Mr. Morris). Mr. Morris abstained for the reason that he objects the cost to the district and would like to see the NFT billed 40% of that amount.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Dr. Muenker presented the following for approval:

- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Elections – Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves – Certified Personnel
- 2011 Summer School Staff

Dr. Muenker regretfully announced the resignation of Kevin Kane, Director of Pupil Services and Federal Programs, who has resigned to pursue other endeavors.

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

Mr. Eccles moved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports be approved. Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports.

Motion: Budgetary increase for Federal and Other Programs for 2010-2011

Ms. Boyle 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 2010-11 adjusted budget of all funds with this increase will total \$164,535,192. Corresponding amounts should be added to both the revenue and expenditure side of the budget as indicated on the attached document.

**Neshaminy School District
 Additions to Budget**

2010-2011				
Fund	Locatio n		Project	
Number	Number	Description	Number	Amount

Public Board Meeting Minutes of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors (cont.)
 June 21, 2011

10		General Fund - Original Budget		156,758,026.52
32		Capital Reserve Fund		988,494.00
36		Capital Projects 2003-2004 - Original Budget	CP-36	34,090.00
37		High School Construction - Original Budget	CP-37	840,846.00
10	40	Educational Assistance Program	40-11	246,809.00
10	44	PA Accountability Grant	44-11	777,181.00
10	46	IDEA 2010-2011 - Stimulus	46-11	1,297,563.00
10	49	IDEA 2010-2011	49-11	1,857,494.00
10	52	Title I	52-11	418,892.00
10	54	Title II, Part A	54-11	304,932.00
		Subtotal - Original Budget		163,524,327.52
10	40	Educational Assistance Program - revision	40-11	(38,349.00)
10	41	E.L.E.C.T. Grant - carryover	41-10	7,599.00
10	42	Title I - Carryover	42-09	11,674.00
10	43	TitleII, Part A - Carryover	43-09	68,715.00
10	44	PA Accountability Block Grant - revision	44-11	(48,387.00)
10	48	Title III - carryover	48-10	21,619.00
10	50	Summer P.A.S.S. - carryover	50-10	1,227.00
10	51	HIV/STD/Pregnancy Prevention Education mini-grant	51-11	5,000.00
10	52	Title 1 - revision	52-11	(324.00)
10	53	ACCESS	53-11	180,000.00
10	56	Federkeil Grant	56-11	2,500.00
10	57	Title III	57-11	27,701.00
10	58	Title 1 - carryover	58-10	98,228.00
10	62	Progress Monitoring Data Grant-Carryover	62-05	6,243.00
10	66	Least Restrictive Environment Grant	66-11	25,000.00
10	68	Giant Foods Store Grant	68-11	2,000.00
10	72	Sea World/Busch Gardens Grant-carryover	72-03	5,524.00
10	74	Membership Participation & Learning Grant	74-11	10,000.00
10	75	Classroom for the Future Grant - carryover	75-10	9,603.00
10	83	Challenge Day	83-11	13,000.00
10	87	Title II, Part A - Carryover	87-10	175,131.00
10	89	Wellness Consumer Center Grant	89-11	1,000.00
10	90	Pre-K Counts Grant	90-11	74,100.00
10	91	Summer P.A.S.S.	91-11	27,150.00
10	92	Drug Free Schools Grant - carryover	92-10	9,924.00
10	98	E.L.E.C.T. Grant	98-11	244,981.00
10	99	E.L.E.C.T. Fatherhood Program	99-11	70,006.00
		Subtotal - Modifications		1,010,865.00
		Grand Total		164,535,192.52

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Facilities Professional Services/Consultants for the 2011-2012 Fiscal Year

Mr. Congdon 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 2011-12 fiscal year.

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.
- **The Wire Runner** – District wide life safety services; fire, smoke, burglar alarms.
- **Liberty Environmental** – Department of Environmental Protection air quality reports for district.
- **1Source Safety & Health, Inc.** - District's professional for air testing.
- **Best Locks, Inc.** - patented locks for all doors and all buildings.
- **George Miller Inc.** - Novar Controls – HVAC controls in 8 buildings.

Mr. Oettinger seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Approval of the 2011-2012 Technical High School Budget

Mrs. Cummings presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to provide technical high school education for our students, six Lower Bucks County School Districts cooperatively established the Bucks County Technical High School; and

WHEREAS, each participating school district must annually approve the Technical High School's annual budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the 2011-12 Bucks County Technical High School budget in the total amount of \$21,534,573 with the Neshaminy School District 2011-12 net fiscal payment to be \$3,917,355.

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

Mr. Eccles stated that it is approximately 2% less than last year's budget and represents about \$75,000 in net savings from last.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Approval of Calendar Addendum for Act 80 Day Reporting

Mr. Eccles 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 2010-11 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 2010-11 school year.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Appointment of Auditor

Mr. Koutsouradis presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the auditing firm of Maillie, Falconiero and Company, LLP has served as auditor for the Neshaminy School District since June 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the firm of Maillie, Falconiero and Company, LLP, will continue to serve as auditor for the Neshaminy School District.

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 30, 2011 -	\$23,000
2012 -	\$23,500
2013 -	\$24,000

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Year End Budget Transfers

Mr. Morris 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 sub functions; 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 2010-11.

Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Proposed Fee Increases for 2011-2012

Mr. O'Connor presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy School District is required to charge fees for many activities; and

WHEREAS, these fees need to be periodically reviewed and increased in order to supplement tax revenue to the district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the attached schedule of fee changes be implemented effective July 1, 2011.

Neshaminy School District
2011-12 Budget Development

Proposed Fee Increases for 2011-12

1. Student Parking Fees – increase of \$10, from \$35 to \$45

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Homestead and Farmstead Exclusion Resolution

Mr. Oettinger presented the following motion:

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

2011 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, 2011, 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, 2011:

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 \$3,591,036.20.

b. **Remaining Property Tax Reduction Funds.** Funds will also be available during the school year for real estate reduction as a result of undistributed funds from the property tax

reduction funds received in 2010-11. These funds will be added to the allocation for this school year in the amount of \$808.75.

c. **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-.

d. **Other Sources.** No funds will be available during the 2011-12 school year for real estate tax reduction other than the gambling tax funds, remaining property tax reduction funds and Philadelphia tax credit reimbursement funds set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.) and (c.) of Section 1 of this Resolution.

e. **Aggregate Amount Available.** Adding the amounts set forth in subparagraphs (a.), (b.), (c) and (d) of Section 1 of this Resolution, the aggregate amount available during the 2011-12 school year for real estate tax reduction is \$3,591,844.95.

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 17,209.

b. **Farmstead Property Number.** The number of approved farmsteads within the School District is -0-.

c. **Homestead/Farmstead Combined Number.** The aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads is 17,209.

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 2011-12 school year for real estate tax reduction of \$3,591,844.95 by the paragraph (2)(c) aggregate number of approved homesteads and approved farmsteads of 17,209, 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 \$208.72.

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 \$1,465 will be available during the school year for real estate tax reduction applicable to approximately 17,204 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 \$208.72 the final maximum real estate tax reduction amount applicable to each approved homestead and to each approved farmstead is \$208.72.

4. **Homestead Exclusion Calculation.** Dividing the paragraph 3 maximum real estate tax reduction amount of \$208.72 by the School District real estate tax rate of 152 mills (.1520), the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a homestead exclusion for each approved homestead is \$1,373, and the maximum real estate assessed value reduction to be reflected on tax notices as a farmstead exclusion for each approved farmstead is \$0.

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 \$1,373. 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 \$0. 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, 2011 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, 2011 and will not apply to interim real estate tax bills for tax periods beginning prior to July 1, 2011.

RESOLUTION adopted this 21st day of June, 2011.

ATTEST:

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By:

Ritchie Webb, President

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Local, State and National Contract Participation Authorization

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the District participates in cooperative purchasing agreements with entities under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, Act 57 of May 15, 1998 (Title 62 PA C.S. 1902) known as the “Commonwealth Procurement Code”, permits local public procurement units to participate in cooperative purchasing; and

WHEREAS, such contracts are competitively bid and compliant to Pennsylvania laws, and codes; and

WHEREAS, the piggybacking on competitively bid local, regional, state, and national contracts, financially assists the District by increasing its purchasing power through volume leveraging and improved operating efficiencies by streamlining the bidding and purchasing process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Business Administrator be authorized to participate under contracts with piggyback provisions when it is financially advantageous to the District to

order and purchase such materials, supplies, and equipment as needed by the District, and which include these currently available contracts through the following organizations:

Neshaminy School District
Local, State, and National Contract Participation
Authorization

- Intermediate Unit Contracts from
 - BCIU(Bucks),
 - LCIU(Lancaster),
 - CSIU(Central Susquehanna),
 - CCIU(Chester Country) .

- State Contracts via Department of General Services
 - COSTARS program contracts .

- Regional Consortium Contracts via
 - AEPA – Association of Educational Purchasing Agencies
 - KPN- Keystone Purchasing Network
 - PAEJPC-Pennsylvania Education Joint Purchasing Council
 - PEPPM-Technology Bidding and Purchasing Program
 - NJPA- National Joint Powers Alliance
 - PaTTAN- Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network
 - TOP- The Texas Cooperative Purchasing Network

- National Contracts
 - US Communities
 - GSA- US General Services Administration

Mr. Eccles seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Approval of Fund Balance Commitment for PSERS

Mr. Koutsouradis presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania School Employee Retirement System (PSERS) is a mandatory, multi-employer, pension plan for all Pennsylvania school employees; and

WHEREAS, PSERS is funded by three sources – employee contributions, employer contributions, and investment earnings; and

WHEREAS, investment earnings have been the primary source of funding for PSERS benefits, dwarfing the contributions from both school employers and PSERS active members; and

WHEREAS, because of declining investment income, lower employer funding rates, and increased benefits as required by Act 2001-9 and Act 2002-38, unfunded liabilities have been created; and

WHEREAS, such unfunded liabilities will create significant employer rate hikes in the near future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of School Directors commit a portion of the remaining unassigned Fund Balance as of June 30, 2011, up to \$2,000,000 towards funding this

pending debt. As a result of this commitment, these funds will not be available for any other purpose unless changed by a new commitment.

Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Mr. Webb stated that the motion for the Application for the School Lane Charter School – Neshaminy was tabled until the June 28th, 2011 Public Meeting.

Motion: New Policy – Fund Balance

Mr. Morris presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the GASB Statement No. 54 states that there must be a district board policy for Fund Balance by June 30, 2011, and new policies are recommended by the administration to the Board policies Committee for review; and

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors recognizes the importance of sound fiscal management, with the objective of establishing long-range fiscal stability, which is advantageous for both the district and the taxpayer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the attached Fund Balance policy which establishes proper goals and guidelines for determining year-end fund balance management for district funds, subject to review and modification by the Policy Committee and the Board.

Ms Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Dr. Muenker read a letter that he composed explaining the budget process, including reduction of positions, reduction of expenditures, and program eliminations. He further outlined programs and activities that would remain the same and he concluded by thanking the Board of School Directors for taking a significant step in the proper direction towards a financially responsible future.

Mr. Webb noted that the budget is based on the facts as they are at this specific time. He also stated that there are no capital projects presently in the budget and they look forward to the sale of the Neshaminy Middle School property, which will provide additional income for capital improvement projects.

Motion: Adoption of the 2011-2012 Final Operating Budget

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors received a 2011-12 *Working Draft Budget* from the Administration on January 11, 2011; and the Board has reviewed and adopted a *Preliminary Budget* on February 8, 2011 and subsequently adopted a *Proposed Final Budget* on May 10, 2011, all in accordance with Act 1 of 2006 and the Public School Code of 1949, as amended; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Pennsylvania School Code, the Board of School Directors must adopt a *Final Operating Budget* for the 2011-12 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 \$161,288,736 detailed as follows:

- General Fund in the amount of \$157,379,649
- Capital Projects in the amount of \$1,220,000
- Federal and other programs in the amount of \$2,406,689; and
- Carry-over purchase orders of \$282,398

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Capital Projects Budget will be funded from the Series 2006, and 2007 Series B Bond Issues, and the capital reserve fund. The federal programs budget will be funded by specific federal grants. In order to fund the general fund budget the following taxes are hereby levied:

1. Real Estate Tax	152.0 mills	(zero increase)
2. Interim Real Estate Tax	152.0 mills	(zero increase)
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	

Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion.

Mr. O'Connor stated that due to the lack of a robust elementary school computer curriculum being included in the budget, he cannot give an affirmative vote for the final budget. He added that it is a good budget and it should pass, but he cannot support it because of his prior commitment to the elementary computer curriculum.

The motion passed by a vote of eight ayes, and one nay, (Mr. O'Connor).

Federal Programs

Dr. Muenker advised the Board that the total amount for Federal Programs and Grant Allocations are \$2,146,496.00.

Other Board Business

None

Mr. Webb stated that the motion for the Approval of Solar Energy Agreement was tabled until the June 28th, 2011 Public Meeting.

Mr. Profy added that the matter is being reviewed by his firm, the contractors, and Mr. Minotti.

Public Comment

Armando Carrasquillo, private investigator, Villages of Flowers Mill, said that he thinks it should be made clear that the Board is the elected representatives who are working on behalf of the taxpayers of Neshaminy and they are not working alone. Mr. Carrasquillo stated that he does not think that Neshaminy students are getting the quality of education that they deserve in comparison to the salaries that are being paid to the NFT. He also expressed his disapproval of the conduct displayed by the teachers at tonight's meeting when a speaker was expressing an unpopular opinion according to the NFT. Mr. Carrasquillo concluded by saying that we need to find a solution that favors both sides.

Sharon Pulford, teacher in Neshaminy, Levittown, stated that she takes exception to a speaker saying that the contract dispute is like "war," because there is a real war going on in the Middle East. She said what Neshaminy is experiencing is contract negotiations not "war."

Tony Sposato, owner of a commercial cleaning business, Levittown, voiced his support for having open negotiation meetings. Mr. Sposato said that if the meetings were public it would eliminate much of the insinuations and overtones that have come out of the private sessions.

Mark Shubin, sales executive, Langhorne, stated that an action by authorization essentially is a threat and by such a threat the NFT has not advanced their cause in the community of opinion. He said that negotiations need to begin as soon as possible and he hopes that the NFT will realize that the community will not support the negotiation game that has previously prevailed and they will not achieve the outcome that they seek. Mr. Shubin concluded by thanking his daughter's kindergarten teacher, Ms. Judy Oswald, stating that she is a dedicated and thoughtful professional.

Larry Pastor, Business Executive, Middletown, acknowledged the School Board for not raising taxes in the district for two years in a row. Mr. Pastor provided the email address of NFT1479@verizon.net for those community members who wish to make a comment regarding items that were cut from the budget. He said that this community solidly stands behind the Board, and in his opinion the NFT Union Leadership has, indeed, declared war on the district. Mr. Pastor said that the authorization to strike vote has solidified that declaration of war.

Susan Drake, teacher at Neshaminy High School, Penndel, stated that many teachers do not want to strike but they voted to do so if the Union Leadership needs them to support the action. Ms. Drake said that she volunteered to be on the advisory committee but she was not selected. She stated that she does not agree that the members should be anonymous and that she has the right as a resident of the district to attend the advisory committee meetings.

Jennifer Esposito, engineering assistant, Feasterville, expressed her support for the School Lane Charter School. She said that there is a need for an alternative to public education because the school will provide top quality college preparatory educational option for Neshaminy students as well as Bucks County families. Ms. Esposito asked the Board to approve the application of the School Lane Charter School.

Renee Rumsey, teacher at Herbert Hoover Elementary School and Neshaminy resident, stated that she was part of the teacher's strike in 1981, which was something that she did not want to do just as she feels about striking now, but it may become necessary. Ms. Rumsey thinks that the Union Leadership has the best interest of all teachers in mind, including the younger teachers.

Delia Warner, parent of two Neshaminy students, mentioned that she is not speaking on behalf of the teachers, nor on behalf of the School Board, but as a Neshaminy taxpayer. Ms. Warner called for both sides to come together and settle on a contract that will benefit everyone.

Ken Gurysh, teacher and coach in Neshaminy, Langhorne, said that a previous School Board Meeting he asked the School Board, Superintendent, community and the NFT to remain positive and work hard to negotiate a fair contract. Mr. Gurysh asked the School Board once again to negotiate at the table so the contract can be settled.

Jennifer Bouton, financial services, Langhorne, remarked that it is her understanding that the Advisory Committee was created to offer feedback to the Board and they are not the decision makers as some speakers have insinuated. She asked the Board how retro pay would impact the budget and if the healthcare contributions were a fixed dollar amount or a percentage amount. She also asked the Board to comment on the "Me Too Clause," and how that would increase the cost to the district. Ms. Bouton concluded by declaring her support for the School Board and also asked them to consider voting yes to the Charter School Application.

Board Comment

In response to a teachers comment, Mr. O'Connor said that it is important to note that the first two offers from the NFT provided no net savings to the district. He explained that there may have been decreases in one area but the increases in other areas outweighed them. Mr. O'Connor noted that Neshaminy has had economic problems over the past few years and the district must pay out \$4 million dollars per year for retirees and this among other expenditures accounts for the deficit that the district is experiencing. He declared that the Facebook page is solely his Facebook page and is not sponsored by the district. He added that he allows individuals to freely make comments because he believes that it is their First Amendment right to free speech. Mr. O'Connor remarked that he believes in transparency and personally does not think the members of the Advisory Board should remain anonymous; however, the anonymity is something that the members requested themselves. He said that he doesn't necessarily think there is a reason for the members of the Advisory Committee to fear retaliation against their children, but, nevertheless, the members still have this concern. Mr. O'Connor said that the pay scale for the NFT is heavily weighted towards the top, which is pushing the district towards financial disaster. He said that serious negotiations are necessary and he is in favor of having the negotiations meetings videotaped to be broadcast at a later date so there will be complete transparency for the community.

Mr. Morris thanked Chief of Police Kane, for providing security at the meeting. He reiterated that he still has not received an explanation of the \$2.8 million dollar savings that the NFT claims that was included in their offer, nor has he received any information on the 16.25% that they said they saved the district. Mr. Morris advised the NFT, should they go on strike, their healthcare could be terminated. He thanked the public for their attendance and comments at this meeting.

Mr. Congdon said he was burdened by the mention of "work to contract" becoming a possibility again. He also commended that the lack of respect by the audience was very disturbing.

The meeting was abruptly adjourned because of uncontrollable outburst from the audience.

Adjournment

Eccles moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Koutsouradis seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary