

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS

September 23, 2008

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on September 23, 2008, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Mr. Frank Koziol, Vice President
Mr. Joseph R. Blasch
Ms. Irene Boyle
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

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas Profy, III, Esquire

OTHERS: Approximately 25 persons from the public, staff and press

Call to Order

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None.

Public Comment

Mrs. Angela Manning, Langhorne, PA, advised that she spoke at the June meeting concerning Educational Technology at the elementary level. Mrs. Manning is the district technology director for the Chesterfield School District in Burlington County, NJ and also the only certified business teacher who teaches classes. Mrs. Manning wrote curriculum which she provided to Mr. Kadri. This has been adopted by the public district and Mrs. Manning is passing same along for informational purposes. New Jersey is slightly different than Pennsylvania. Mrs. Manning thanked Mr. O'Connor and Mr. Kadri for speaking with her.

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, hoped that the McKissick report would be discussed in committees regarding the pros and cons of said report prior to voting at an open board

meeting. The pros would reflect some cost savings and the cons would be large indebtedness and large expenses to annual expenses. Also the cons would be vacant eye sores in the middle of our communities when elementary schools are closed.

Student Representative Report

Miss Meshael Jones and Miss Betsy Thomas were not present.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri thanked Dr. Costanzo and all in attendance at the community meeting which was held last Friday. The feedback was outstanding and the meeting provided a quick overview of the state of the district and student safety. Student safety was observed from a variety of angles. From physical safety, nutrition, intra-personal skills, etc. Representatives from the community brainstormed about different ways in which the community could help promote strength within those areas, ultimately providing a great environment for student achievement. Mr. Kadri thanked all those in attendance.

Mr. Kadri advised that on Thursday the new emergency calling system will be put into use. A call will go out to all homes in order to verify that the primary home phone number is correct for emergency uses. All emergency contact numbers will be confirmed. The system has six fields and it is best to designate a primary and secondary custodian and/or guardian and have a home, work and cell phone number for both those people.

Mr. Kadri advised that a community member was concerned that they were solicited for fundraising by a student at their home. The district does not support students going door to door to solicit fundraising. Unsupervised solicitation is not promoted by the district. Information is listed on the website regarding fundraising.

Mr. Kadri announced that Neshaminy Middle School was recognized for their success in the area of nutrition by Rachel Ray. Maple Point should also be recognized for the nutritional accomplishments.

Mr. Kadri read a letter from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania stating that all the issues regarding special education and the state performance plan. Mr. Kane and the special education department have been working for the past two years to resolve any outstanding issues related to special education. This notice states that the district has met all issues within the time frame.

Mr. Kadri advised that the James Michener Art Museum has identified a number of Neshaminy students for their talents and their art work will be on exhibit at the museum through September 27, 2008.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Walls presented the minutes of the August 26, 2008 public meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. O'Connor the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the August 26, 2008 Public Meeting.

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

Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- August, 2008 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit

- Check Register – August, 2008
- Investment Summary
- Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations – July and August, 2008

Mr. Paradise advised that the bulk of the real estate tax receipts have been received by the district. Mr. Paradise further advised that the report also includes the reimbursement to taxpayers per the state gaming commission regulations.

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

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, check registers, investments and personal and per capita tax exonerations.

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

Dr. Muenker stated that the district is in dire need of anyone that is certified in the secondary level for subbing for the district.

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

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

The Board unanimously approved the Certified and Support Personnel Reports.

Motion: Revision of Policies 126 and 522

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 126 – Facilities Dedication
Revised Policy 522 – Student Wellness

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

Mr. Koziol seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Federal Programs

Mr. Kadri stated that the total amount for federal grants is \$2.4M.

Future Topics

Other Board Business

Ms. Boyle stated that the Policy Committee will meet on October 15, 2008 since the meeting which took place in September only had one Board member present. If anyone wishes to attend and express their opinions they are welcome.

Public Comment

None.

Board Comment

Mr. O'Connor asked if Mrs. Wallace, Food Services director could provide an early forecast as to how the food services department is doing. Mr. Paradise noted that it is a bit early to review the projections; however, the Board will be receiving monthly reports.

Mrs. Cummings suggested that discussion regarding the closures of certain elementary schools be placed on the upcoming agenda. Mr. Paradise advised that it will be on the October Work Session agenda.

Mrs. Cummings noted that it was suggested that the meetings possibly be taken to the different schools in order that board members could visit the elementary schools and more public participation could occur.

Mr. Eccles felt it was important for Board members to be able to tour the different schools; however, a decision was not made as to whether this would be feasible. In years past the meetings were scheduled well in advance and the ability to look at the schedule and see what facility would host the meeting for that month.

Mr. O'Connor felt that it would make a tremendous amount of sense to have the meetings take place at the elementary schools. Mr. O'Connor wanted to know the costs and implications to the broadcast. This is our way of getting the meetings out to the community. Quality would be affected. Information should be provided before a decision is made.

Mr. Blasch requested data on the number of attendees at the different facilities versus the Board room attendance.

Board members decided that the Technology Committee should discuss the issue at its next meeting. Mr. Blasch accepted same.

Mr. Eccles advised that an Executive Session would take place immediately after the adjournment of this meeting to discuss Tax Assessment appeals.

Adjournment of Meeting

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

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary