

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
October 8, 2013

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on October 8, 2013 in the District Offices Board Room at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President  
Mr. Scott E. Congdon, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Mr. Anthony Devlin  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Ms. Irene Boyle  
Mr. William Oettinger

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

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

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Mr. Webb announced that an Executive Session was held regarding personnel issues.

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**3. Announcements**

None.

**4. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Copeland introduced two 8th grade students, Caitlin Little and Christina Dominick, from Maple Point Middle School.

Caitlin Little and Christina Dominick publically invited the Board, community, and Veterans to the Maple Point Middle School Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 8, 2013.

**5. Public Comment**

Donna Boyle, homemaker, resident of Langhorne, implored the Board to change the name of "Redskins" as the school logo. She stated that the name is offensive and prejudicial to Native Americans. Ms. Boyle added that school should be fun and not degrading and she is concerned for her son and other students with Native American ancestry who are feeling discriminated against.

Almando Carrasquillo, retired, resident of Langhorne, said that after attending "Back to School Night," he is hopeful and positive about the direction that Neshaminy is taking. Mr. Carrasquillo added that he is sensitive to how minorities may feel regarding racial slurs and he asked the Board to consider changing the name "Redskins" because it is an offensive term.

**6. Items for approval tonight**

**a) Proclamation for National Teen Driver Safety Week**

**Motion:**

Mr. Webb read the following motion:

Whereas, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the leading cause of death among teenagers is motor vehicle accidents, exceeding the rate of suicides, homicides, and all other cause of death among that population group; and

Whereas, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Company undertook research on the causes of motor vehicle accidents and , after concluding that many such accidents were preventable, prevailed upon Congress to establish National Teen Driver Safety Week in October, the month of the greatest number of teenage accidents and

Whereas, State Farm Insurance Company is offering a promotion called "Celebrate My Drive" through which it is offering five \$ 100,000 grants and forty-five \$25,000 grants to schools similar in size to Neshaminy High School, with a requirement that that a minimum of 10% of the grant be used for teen driver safety Initiatives; and

Whereas, the elected officials of the Neshaminy School District believe that the residents, businesses and non- profit organizations within the Neshaminy School District boundaries should join with municipalities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the country to observe National Teen Drive Safety Week.

Now therefore, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, along with the administration and staff on the 8th day of October, proclaims the week of

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National Teen Driver Safety Week

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Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of six ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle and Mr. Oettinger were not present.)

**7. Items for Approval at the October 22nd Public Board Meeting**

**a) American Education Week - November 18 - 22, 2013**

Mr. Copeland stated that the American Education Week is a yearly event and will be an agenda item at the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting.

**b) Appointment of Board Member to fill a vacant seat in Region 1 for the unexpired term of Mr. Koutsouradis until 2015**

Mr. Webb stated that the appointment of a new Board Member to fill a vacant seat in Region 1 for the unexpired term of Mr. Koutsouradis until 2015 will be an agenda item at the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting.

**c) Bids/Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that there were no bids and there was one Budget Transfer (Working Copy) 14 - 1 with three transactions and one sub transaction, which will be an agenda item at the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting.

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Ms. Boyle was not present.

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Mr. Shubin informed the Board that at the last meeting they discussed school performance profiles. He also thanked Mr. Copeland and his team, Steve McAloon and Marybeth Tecce.

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Mrs. Cummings informed the Board that three presentations were given at the last meeting. The first was regarding the Pennsylvania Educator Effectiveness Act 82, the second was the District Support Team Planning for 2013/2014, and the last was a presentation on the Early Childhood Services. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15th.

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### **h) Ad Hoc Facility Use Update**

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**13. Adjournment of Meeting**

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Respectively submitted,

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Mr. Morris advised the Board that at the last meeting they discussed the director's use with the iPads and eventually going paperless.

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Mr. Shubin advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 15th, at 6:30 p.m., and topics will include new technology purchases made over the summer.

### **h) Ad Hoc Facility Use Update**

Mr. Oettinger was not present.

## **9. Public Comment**

Donna Boyle, homemaker, resident of Langhorne, stated that she has met several teachers and parents who agree with her on the "Redskins" issue. She said that there are only two schools in Pennsylvania that use the "Redskins" logo and Neshaminy is one of them and it is time to change.

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**11. Agenda Development for the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting**

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**13. Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
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NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
October 8, 2013

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**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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Mr. Scott E. Congdon, Vice President  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
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**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

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

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Mr. Webb announced that an Executive Session was held regarding personnel issues.

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

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**3. Announcements**

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Mr. Copeland introduced two 8th grade students, Caitlin Little and Christina Dominick, from Maple Point Middle School.

Caitlin Little and Christina Dominick publically invited the Board, community, and Veterans to the Maple Point Middle School Veterans Day celebration on Friday, November 8, 2013.

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Mr. Webb read the following motion:

Whereas, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has determined that the leading cause of death among teenagers is motor vehicle accidents, exceeding the rate of suicides, homicides, and all other cause of death among that population group; and

Whereas, the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and State Farm Insurance Company undertook research on the causes of motor vehicle accidents and , after concluding that many such accidents were preventable, prevailed upon Congress to establish National Teen Driver Safety Week in October, the month of the greatest number of teenage accidents and

Whereas, State Farm Insurance Company is offering a promotion called "Celebrate My Drive" through which it is offering five \$ 100,000 grants and forty-five \$25,000 grants to schools similar in size to Neshaminy High School, with a requirement that that a minimum of 10% of the grant be used for teen driver safety Initiatives; and

Whereas, the elected officials of the Neshaminy School District believe that the residents, businesses and non- profit organizations within the Neshaminy School District boundaries should join with municipalities across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the country to observe National Teen Drive Safety Week.

Now therefore, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, along with the administration and staff on the 8th day of October, proclaims the week of

October 18 through 26, 2013

As

National Teen Driver Safety Week

In the Neshaminy School District and calls upon all residents, businesses, schools, churches and their organizations to join with Neshaminy High School to participate in "Celebrate My Drive," and initiate other activities and programs to promote teen driver safety.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of six ayes and zero nays. (Ms. Boyle and Mr. Oettinger were not present.)

**7. Items for Approval at the October 22nd Public Board Meeting**

**a) American Education Week - November 18 - 22, 2013**

Mr. Copeland stated that the American Education Week is a yearly event and will be an agenda item at the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting.

**b) Appointment of Board Member to fill a vacant seat in Region 1 for the unexpired term of Mr. Koutsouradis until 2015**

Mr. Webb stated that the appointment of a new Board Member to fill a vacant seat in Region 1 for the unexpired term of Mr. Koutsouradis until 2015 will be an agenda item at the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting.

**c) Bids/Budget Transfers**

Mrs. Markowitz stated that there were no bids and there was one Budget Transfer (Working Copy) 14 - 1 with three transactions and one sub transaction, which will be an agenda item at the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting.

## **8. Committee Reports**

### **a) Board Polices**

Ms. Boyle was not present.

### **b) Educational Development**

Mr. Shubin informed the Board that at the last meeting they discussed school performance profiles. He also thanked Mr. Copeland and his team, Steve McAloon and Marybeth Tecce.

### **c) Finance/Facilities**

Mr. Webb advised the Board that the next meeting has not yet been scheduled.

### **d) IU Board**

Mrs. Cummings informed the Board that three presentations were given at the last meeting. The first was regarding the Pennsylvania Educator Effectiveness Act 82, the second was the District Support Team Planning for 2013/2014, and the last was a presentation on the Early Childhood Services. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15th.

### **e) Education Foundation**

Mr. Copeland informed the Board that the committee has not yet met in October.

### **f) Technical School**

Mr. Morris advised the Board that at the last meeting they discussed the director's use with the iPads and eventually going paperless.

### **g) Technology**

Mr. Shubin advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 15th, at 6:30 p.m., and topics will include new technology purchases made over the summer.

### **h) Ad Hoc Facility Use Update**

Mr. Oettinger was not present.

## **9. Public Comment**

Donna Boyle, homemaker, resident of Langhorne, stated that she has met several teachers and parents who agree with her on the "Redskins" issue. She said that there are only two schools in Pennsylvania that use the "Redskins" logo and Neshaminy is one of them and it is time to change.

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mill, said that the name of the logo should be discussed and it should be changed because it is insensitive to do nothing. He stated that "Neshaminy" is what is important and not the mascot name.

Almando Carrasquillo, retired, resident of Langhorne, asked the Board to redistribute any information received from the State Farm National Safety Week program to senior students during the prom season to reinforce the importance of safe driving to students and parents.

Charles Alfonso, retired, resident of Langhorne, said that many years ago he had the opportunity to see Native Americans in their natural environment in the southwest. He said at one time the term "Redskins" as a sports team was not taken offensively, but it is now 2013 and it is time to take another look at the issue because views are different now.

## **10. Future Topics**

None.

**11. Agenda Development for the October 22nd, Public Board Meeting**

None.

**12. Board Comment**

Mr. Congdon asked for an update on the Ad Hoc committee report.

Mr. Copeland replied that the report is now being compiled and will be forthcoming early next week.

Mr. Congdon asked what the architect is presently doing about the project and if there are any charges being accrued presently.

Mr. Copeland said no charges are being accrued at the present time.

Mr. Congdon asked if there is a deadline for applicants applying for the school board director's position.

Mr. Webb said that applications will still be accepted; however, the later an application is received lessens the chances for consideration because the Board must vote by October 22, 2013 to select a new member. He added that 2 very qualified applicants have already applied and it will be a difficult decision.

Mr. Webb said the Eisenhower building was sold to Delta Services for \$2.2 million last week. They have occupied part of the building for the past 24 years as a tenant and have always been a good community neighbor providing services to individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism throughout the Delaware Valley. Mr. Webb informed the public that the name Eisenhower will be retained for the building.

**13. Adjournment of Meeting**

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Shubin seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary