

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
October 9, 2012

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on October 9, 2012 in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Performing Arts Center at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mr. Scott E. Congdon
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. William Oettinger
Mr. Anthony Sposato

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Robert Copeland
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Geeta Heble
Mr. Anthony Devlin
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Mr. Kim Koutsouradis, Vice President
Mr. Mr. Mark Shubin

OTHERS: Approximately 40 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Webb called the meeting to order at 7:09 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 advised the Board on the Following:

- The Teachers, Staff, and Parent Teacher Organization made a challenge to Everitt students last June to read 10 pages a day over their summer vacation bringing them to a total of 670 pages read by each student.
- Congratulations Mrs. Markowitz and her department for receiving an award for their Comprehensive Annual Report.
- Miller Elementary School was recently nominated and received the 2012-2013 Langhorne SAM's Club School of the Year Award.
- Congratulations members the of Neshaminy BCIT (Business Computer and Information Technology) teaching staff, Tracey Andre, Janet Dougherty, and Linda Stoll were chosen to participate in the Bucks County Intermediate Unit Educator in the Workplace Job Shadowing Program.
- Maple Point Middle School will be holding its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 9, 2012.

Mary Beth Tecce, data and professional development specialist at the elementary level, gave a presentation on the student PSSA test results on the 2011 – 2012 school year. Neshaminy School District made AYP with exceptional performance participation and attendance. A detailed outline can be found on Neshaminy's website.

Dr. Heble briefly reviewed the district's plans, changes and challenges for the 2012 – 2013 school year. Dr. Heble stated that the PSSA's will be taken in 3rd through 8th grades and the Keystone Exams will be taken by 11th grade. The full presentation can be found on Neshaminy's website.

5. Public Comment

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville, welcomed Mr. Copeland to the Neshaminy District and stated that he looks forward to his leadership. Mr. Pirritano said that according to the PSSA results Neshaminy needs improvement in the area of science in the secondary level. He said that science is a very important field and he would like to see the district focus on improving in this area. Mr. Pirritano also mentioned that Philadelphia Magazine ranked the top 100 school districts in the Philadelphia area and Neshaminy was rated as number 76. He said that while Neshaminy is doing better, there is ample room for improvement.

6. Items for Approval tonight

a) Overnight Trips

Dr. Rattigan advised the Board on the following trips:

- Neshaminy High School Instrumental Music Trip to San Francisco, CA – April 24 – 28, 2013.
- Neshaminy High School Foreign Language Trip to Spain – June 24 – July 5, 2013.

Dr. Rattigan stated that there will be no cost to the district for either trip and requested the Board's approval for said trips.

Mr. Webb made a motion to approve said trips and Mr. Morris seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon asked who is responsible for choosing the chaperones for the trips.

Dr. Rattigan said that an administrator would be chosen, and from there it would be the lead director, and from there would be assistant directors or club sponsors, and from there volunteers from the staff.

The Board unanimously approved said trips by a vote of seven ayes, and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mr. Shubin were not present.)

b) Motion: Ratification of Agreement Between the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association have participated in meet and discuss sessions; and

WHEREAS, the negotiating teams for the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association have accepted a proposed agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors ratify the said proposed agreement between the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association and the Neshaminy School District commencing July 1, 2012 and WHEREAS, the Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy School District Administrators Association have participated in meet and discuss sessions; and ending June 30, 2015.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of seven ayes, and zero nays. (Mr. Koutsouradis and Mr. Shubin were not present.)

7. Items for Approval at the October 23rd Public Board Meeting

a) American Education Week – November 11 – 17, 2012

Mr. Copeland advised that American Education Week will be held November 11 – 17, 2012. Parents will be able to visit their children's classroom during that week.

b) Bids/Budgets Transfers

Mrs. Markowitz stated there were no bids and one Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) 13- 1, that will be presented at the October 23, 2012, Public Board Meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Ms. Boyle advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 24th, at 6:00 p.m. .

b) Educational Development

Mr. Shubin was not present

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for October 11th, and they will be discussing refinancing loans.

d) IU Board

Mrs. Cummings informed the Board that at the last meeting there was a presentation dealing with Act 82, which defines the requirements for a new rating system for teachers, principals, and other educational specialists.

e) Technical School

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that at the last meeting the Technical School Board approved a three year contract for the support staff.

f) Technology

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that the date of the next technology meeting has not yet been set.

h) Ad Hoc Facility Use Update

Mr. Oettinger announced to the Board that the last meeting was held on October 3rd, and the focus of the meeting was the McKissick studies and the four possible school closing options, which ere narrowed down to option 1 or option 1B. A tentative meeting is scheduled for the October 17th, and thereafter a date will be set for the Ad Hoc Facility Meeting.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Future Topics

None

11. Agenda Development for the October 23, 2012 Public Board Meeting

None

12. Board Comment

Mr. Congdon stated that the figure released on September 7, 2012 listed student enrollment as 8,579 and the number changed to 8,517 students on October 1, 2012, which is a decrease of 62 students. He asked for an explanation of the change because the numbers are important when considering school consolidation.

Dr. Rattigan said that the number often changes because students who initially were going to attend Neshaminy schools either moved out of the district or possibly enrolled in a private school, etc.

Mr. Congdon mentioned that the current CBA offer, which the Board has presented to the NFT, is the same offer that Council Rock School District is operating under and they were rated much higher than Neshaminy in the recent Philadelphia Magazine article. Council Rock North ranked number 14 and Council Rock South ranked number 23, while Neshaminy ranked at number 76. Mr. Congdon noted that this is a considerable difference in performance and the NFT should realize that they are being offered a contract that certainly should not be turned down.

13. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Morris seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary