

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
October 10, 2006

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on October 10, 2006, in the District Offices Board Room in 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 Blasch
Mr. Jason Bowman
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Frank Koziol
Dr. William H. Spitz
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

OTHERS: Approximately 20 persons from the public, staff and press

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:
Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

None.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Items for Discussion

None.

6. Items for Approval

a) American Education Week – November 12 – 18, 2006

Dr. Muenker stated that each year Neshaminy School District celebrates American Education Week and a visitation schedule has been created so that the community and parents may take part in the school activities and programs.

b) Contracted Transportation Services – 2006 – 07

Mr. Paradise stated that transportation contracts for the 2006-07 school year will be presented at the public meeting scheduled for October 24, 2006. The contracts will be for Lakeside Youth Services and Middle Earth Academy, Inc. for a total cost of \$122,729.

c) Bids/Budget Transfers

Information distributed prior to the meeting. Mr. Paradise reviewed the following bid:

Bid No. 07-17 Musical Instruments

Bid Amount: \$22,024.59

Musical Instruments and accessories for K-12 instruction throughout the district.

Bid No. 07-14 Poquessing Auditorium Lighting Upgrade

Bid Amount: \$276,000.00

This capital improvement was included in the original list of projects for the Capital Improvement Bond Issue and was delayed because of the Poquessing renovations. It is for all new auditorium lighting that has been requested for many years and is a much needed improvement. New lights will be added to stage area for performances and new house lights added so the area can be better utilized as classroom space during the school day. This bid includes all labor and materials for installation.

Mr. Paradise provided Board members with an enhanced photograph which displayed a completed exterior view of Poquessing.

Mr. Webb noted that he took a tour of Poquessing and the facility looks wonderful. Also, more than \$5.5M was spent. Mr. Paradise estimated that the total figure is closer to \$6.5M.

Mrs. Barrett inquired when the lighting project will begin. Mr. Paradise stated that it cannot begin until after board approval at the end of the month. Mr. Minotti stated that work will probably begin after the winter concert season.

Mr. Eccles questioned the transportation bid and why these students are receiving these services and the reason why the cost is so high. Mr. Paradise noted that these students are court appointed students who require special needs such as additional staff, etc. which Neshaminy cannot provide; however, it is less expensive than Neshaminy providing these services on its own.

7. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri stated that on Thursday, October 12th, from 7-8:30 p.m., a Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention program will take place in the auditorium at the high school. This program is for parents and community members to attend. This compliments the program which will take place for the students during the school day.

Mr. Kadri stated that the Sanctuary Room is open for student participation. The individual has been hired and the program is up and running. The Sanctuary Room is located by the guidance area. The room provides students an area to go to and speak with someone who is a trained professional to listen and speak to the students regarding their needs.

Mr. Kadri asked that the Board provide the Administration with authorization to submit the long range facilities plan to various companies who will submit their proposals to provide a long range facilities plan for the district. Maintenance needs will be upcoming in various buildings and enrollment figures for the future need to be taken into consideration. Mr. Kadri feels that it would be appropriate for the district to have a comprehensive strategic look at the district and use that information as a stepping stone for the district's plans.

Mr. Kadri would like to have proposals back by the December Board meeting.

Mr. Paradise noted that a list of approximately 10 companies would be given the opportunity to provide proposals to the district. This report when completed would be very comprehensive including the status of current buildings and projects which would need to be done, enrollment projections, capacity as it relates to the educational program and options to close, consolidate or restructure facilities.

Mr. Kadri estimates that the report would take approximately four months to complete and would not be provided to the district until the end of this school year.

There was Board consensus to authorize the administration to obtain proposals from various companies to provide a comprehensive report on the long range facility plan for the district.

Mr. Kadri clarified the following regarding Technology:

- The servers provide a level of intelligence and programs.
- Communication devices which goes from the servers to the end users.
- End user devices include, computers, printers, projectors, etc.

The two areas that remain open are the servers and communication devices. The server area has an important timetable. The district has a quote from Dell which is very price friendly. The communication devices will be the next issue which will need to be discussed.

Mr. Kadri noted that innovation is often facilitated through technology. Technology is not the innovation. However, the technological infrastructure of organization does not need to tell the innovative idea; sorry we cannot process the idea.

Mr. Kadri would like to have discussion regarding Technology and its role within the district. Mr. Kadri shared with Board members an inventory of servers within the district.

Mr. Blasch had questions regarding the servers and their replacement and life span. Mr. Blasch also questioned the price of the servers. Mr. Kadri referred Board members to the handout distributed.

Mr. Kadri asked how the Board will like to proceed. Should the matter go to committee or have the Board take a vote at the next meeting regarding same. Mr. Koziol would like to see the matter go to committee and have further discussions. Mr. Koziol feels that software, data and users need to be considered. The servers need also be considered.

Mr. Eccles suggested that a Technology Committee meeting will need to be scheduled as soon as possible.

8. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Mr. Bowman noted that upcoming policies to be reviewed will be Internet use, records policy and ethics for school board members as well as the No Child Left Behind.

b) Educational Development

Dr. Spitz advised that a meeting took place on October 5, 2006. A presentation was provided regarding the PSSA results. A review took place on the coaching and tutoring programs which are provided through grant monies. A proposal was presented for a replacement course in the business education department. Dr. Spitz noted that October 11th will be Literacy Day.

Mrs. Barrett requested a presentation on the PSSA scores. One troublesome point is that the 11th graders are not performing so well. The concern is that the 11th graders are beginning the trend of the 12th graders in "blowing off" the school year.

Mrs. Barrett feels the district needs to bear down and make some decisions regarding the student's scores and attitude toward school. Concentration needs to take place in the lower grades to keep the students on grade level.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb noted that a meeting took place on September 21st at Poquessing. A tour was taken and it was very impressive.

d) IU Board

Dr. Spitz stated that a meeting took place and a handout was distributed regarding "Bus to the Future." Centennial School District is setting up a bus trip to Harrisburg and lobby for additional funding for Special Education. Contract discussions will take place in the upcoming weeks.

e) Education Foundation

Mrs. Cummings advised that the Fundraiser will take place on Friday at King's Caterers.

f) Technical School

Ms. Boyle advised that the Tech School had a meeting on September 25th. Technology also met for the first time this year at the Tech School. Contracts are still in the process of being negotiated.

g) Technology

Mr. Koziol advised that Technology was discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Koziol further advised the Board regarding updates at the Tech School regarding Technology.

9. Future Topics

None.

10. Agenda Development for the October 24, 2006 Public Board Meeting

None.

11. Other Board Business

12. Adjournment

Mr. Blasch moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Bowman seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary