

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
(WORK SESSION)
October 11, 2005

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on October 11, 2005, in the Board Room of the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Richard M. Eccles, President
Dr. William H. Spitz, Vice-President
Mrs. Sue C. Barrett
Mrs. June R. Bostwick
Ms. Carol A. Drioli
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mrs. Kimberly A. Jowett
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. P. Howard Wilson
Dr. Louis T. Muenker
Dr. Sandra Costanzo
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise
Mrs. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

SECRETARY:

Mrs. Anita E. Walls

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, IV, Esquire

BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Jason Bowman

OTHERS: Approximately 18 persons from the public, staff and press

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

Mr. Wilson announced that a memorandum was received from the Department of Education regarding Plancon Part B which will be entered into the minutes. A true and correct copy is attached hereto.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Items for Discussion

No items were presented for discussion.

6. Items for Approval

a) Overnight Trips

Neshaminy High School Junior Class Trip to Williamsburg, VA - May 13 – 15, 2006

There was board consensus for the trip.

b) Bond Refunding for the Tech School Auditorium

Mr. Wilson noted that a formal resolution will be passed at the end of the month. Mr. Wilson noted that all six districts have agreed to move forward with the auditorium. The projected amount is

approximately \$5M. There will be no increase to the Neshaminy payment; however, the loan will be extended by two years.

c) Articles of Agreement for the Tech School

Mr. Wilson announced that this is a major change and is strongly supported. The two meetings per year will be eliminated and each district will vote individually at their regularly scheduled board meetings. The Joint Committee will still be in existence. The actual voting upon the budget will take place at the individual districts.

Mrs. Barrett requested that the formula be explained. Mr. Paradise advised that he would get a copy of the formula for Mrs. Barrett's review since it is a bit complicated.

d) American Education Week – November 13-19, 2005

Mr. Wilson announced that it will take place the week of November 13-19, 2005 and the schools will be open to the public.

e) Contracted Transportation Services 2005-2006

Mr. Paradise advised Board members that the transportation services will be voted upon at the end of the month. Given the cost of fuel increases the transportation services have not increased too greatly.

f) Bids/Budget Transfers

Information distributed prior the meeting. Mr. Paradise reviewed the following bids:

Bid No. 06-22 Data Collectors

Amount: \$18,640.49

Earlier in the year each middle school received 15 laptops and the scientific hardware and software being purchased are Xplorer dataloggers which connect with various probes that allow students to measure temperature for both liquids and ambient air, light intensity and any kind of weather information.

The bid will be presented for approval at the October 25th public meeting.

7. Items for Information

No items for information were presented.

8. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson advised that an Act 34 hearing could take place on or about December 12th. A letter was received from Harrisburg noting that the historical society did not approve a part of the renovations. Dr. Muenker noted that he has resolved the situation with the society.

9. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Mr. Bowman was not present.

b) Educational Development

Dr. Spitz advised no report.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb stated that the meeting was canceled and is rescheduled for October 27th.

d) IU Board

Ms. Drioli advised that access monies are again being cut. The parent's of the students need to buy into an insurance program, and if they do not buy into the insurance program the districts will still be responsible to provide the services, and not receive access funds. There is really no incentive for parents to buy into the insurance program since it will cost them money. The services are mandated by the state, but the district cannot receive funding unless the applicant who requires the services buys into the insurance program.

Mr. Wilson advised that the district purchases most of the services from the IU. Mr. Wilson advised that the district received approximately \$136,000 in access monies last year.

Mrs. Geddes advised that she is a physical therapist with the IU unit and does access billing. Access is a form of medical assistance. Students who have a permanent disability, just like an adult, they receive life long insurance that will cover them as a secondary or primary insurance. There has been no co-pay or family participation in payment for that insurance plan. It has been approved by the state legislators and is awaiting federal government approval on the sliding fee scale. Based on the parent's income a certain percentage of the health premium will be paid by the parents. If the parent's choose to opt out they can, and the district will still need to provide the services.

e) Educational Foundation

Mrs. Cummings advised that the Fall Fundraiser will take place on October 21st at Kings Caterers. The theme for the evening will be "A Murder Mystery." Tickets are \$40.00 per person. Open to the public.

f) Technical School

Dr. Spitz advised that there was no report.

g) Technology

Mrs. Jowett advised that there was no report.

10. Future Topics

11. Agenda Development for the October 25, 2005 Public Meeting

12. Other Board Business

Dr. Spitz noted that Mr. Paradise distributed a memo regarding the e-rate program and it is saving the district a significant amount of money each year. This program reimburses the district for technology purchases. All citizens pay into this fund through the telephone bills. Not every district participates in the program since the paperwork is very cumbersome. Neshaminy has participated every year, and Mr. Paradise should be commended for his efforts.

13. Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Drioli seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion with eight ayes. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Secretary