

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
(WORK SESSION)  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
January 13, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on January 13, 2004, at the Maple Point Middle School Board Room. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Dr. Raymond J. Boccuti  
Dr. Sandra Costanzo  
Mr. Harry P. Jones  
Mr. Richard S. Marotto  
Mr. Joseph V. Paradise  
Mr. Bruce M. Wyatt

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Mrs. June R. Bostwick  
Mr. Jason Bowman

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

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Anita E. Walls

**SOLICITOR:**

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

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Prior to the Public Meeting (Work Session), an Executive Session was held to discuss personnel issues.

I. **Call to Order**

Mr. Eccles called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

3. **Announcements**

No Announcements.

4. **Public Comment**

Mr. Jay Dombach, Langhorne, PA commented that in a January 2, 2004 article in the Bucks County Courier Times, Naomi Jenkins quoted Martha Lindner as saying, "I am also convinced that the old school can be brought up to date for a lot less money." This and similar statements have been basis for much of the argument against a new school. Mr. Dombach states that emotion has been a primary weapon used by the opponents of a new school. Not one person has provided any documented numbers to support their beliefs. Mr. Dombach requested if numbers are available to support that the school can be built for less, please bring them forth. Mr. Dombach states that the other argument has been that the cost of a new school is too expensive. Renovation would also be very costly. Mr. Dombach recalls that the public has been told that the cost would be approximately \$200 per taxpayer per year. Mr. Dombach states that the monthly payment of \$200.00 per year will not change over the lifetime of a mortgage for a person buying a new home. The annual payment to build a new school will not change over the life of bond, however, the real culprit, the tax increase experienced by each homeowner is the operating budget. That is where we need to focus our attention. Every year each school board and municipality makes a big production out of the ability to reduce the increase in taxes from the original forecast. Mr. Dombach stated that during the next 20-30 years the operating budget will likely double. Mr. Dombach stated that the board needs to

focus on how to stop constant increases in the operating budget. The operating budget is the real enemy of the taxpayers. Mr. Dombach stated that in the same Courier Times article Mr. Eccles states that he is now supporting the building of a new school. Mr. Dombach questioned if this is the same Mr. Eccles who said no to the bond company funding the high school, that the people should be given ample time to state their positions, the school board should be more responsible to the people, the spring primary was a voice of the people that they do not want a new school, he wants to represent the people, there should be an independent study done on the high school, make sure the public is fully informed of the cost to repair the existing high school or build a new one, the people need a referendum to voice their opinion, and finally, a survey will not give them a proper chance to voice their opinion. Mr. Dombach questioned:

- When the school board will be contracting for the new independent study to determine true costs between building a new school and renovation?
- When will the report be ready?
- Who will review same?
- When will the meetings be held to provide the information to the public?
- What are you going to say that has not been said before and how do you intend to get the public to attend when they did not attend prior meetings?
- How much will all this cost?

Mr. Dombach wanted to know if this was not all going to occur, why not? The statements have been made that this needs to be done. How will all this be accomplished before the spring primary? Mr. Dombach stated that the spring primary draws the lowest percentage of voter turnout. Mr. Dombach inquired why the board does not wait until the November election where there is a historically higher voter turnout. Mr. Dombach was concerned what an acceptable voter turnout would be to pass the referendum or defeat the referendum. Mr. Dombach suggested that the board wait until November. Mr. Dombach suggested that the people of the school district keep a close watch on the board members to see who really cares about the people and wants to stop the increases in the operating budget, those expenses which are the real problem for the Neshaminy taxpayers.

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne, PA stated that for too long the operational strategy of this district has been pain avoidance. Put off positions and look where it has gotten us. Every time a new board comes in and considers what has been done by prior boards it must seem overwhelming. Last year that board was going to act, but the new board saw fit to delay same and where has it gotten us now? In the last month there have been reports of leaky roofs, boilers breaking, and now the projections of the new costs for construction at the high school. Mr. O'Connor has spoken to several engineers and project planners through his employment and they stated that delays like this can generally anticipate a 5-10% increase. Mr. O'Connor hopes that this figure is wrong and that the delays, which have been fought for, do not cost this district millions. Mr. O'Connor stated that it is time to stop pain avoidance. Focus all your attention on the new high school. Please do not come up with plan B, do not work on the renovations, no one supports same. It will only anger the community. Mr. O'Connor stated that members of the community are getting involved, and Mr. O'Connor is afraid that if a new high school does not get approved through referendum or through the board's actions, the board's pain will only begin.

Ms. Drioli commented that she has been suffering through this process every bit as much as the public. Mr. Drioli has been part of the repercussions of the process from the public. Ms. Drioli has been reading letters to the editor that has absolutely caused her great distress. Ms. Drioli stated that Mr. Eccles did nothing to this community but promise to give the community a referendum. Ms. Drioli stated that there is an issue on the table, and if people want to vote they will come out and vote. The situation in this country is such that we should not have to wait for when it is most popular to come out and vote. This is the only country in the world that you would have any say to do anything like this, and now you would like to choose the time that is most effective for the most people to come out and vote. Ms. Drioli stated that if anyone says that Mr. Eccles has done anything but promise you that he would vote for a referendum is wrong. Now Mr. Eccles is expressing an opinion. The bottom line is the public will get a referendum as the public

has asked for. The fact that the board members have opinions, one way or the other, means nothing in the referendum. The referendum will take place, those who care will come out and vote, those who think that the board should circumvent the system and vote against the wishes of the taxpayer will not, and whatever happens Mr. Eccles has vowed to support whatever the referendum outcome is. Ms. Drioli noted that if she could find that Mr. Eccles has done something wrong, Ms. Drioli would love to join that bandwagon.

5. **Items for Discussion**

a. **Videotaping School Board Meetings**

Mr. Paradise directed board members to a handout distributed prior to meeting which details estimated costs for equipment and labor. Mr. Paradise noted that the district could probably provide videotaping for less than ten thousand (\$10,000.00) dollars. Mr. Paradise noted that appropriate grade equipment would be necessary that would work for TV stations. Mr. Paradise stated that labor costs would involve a sound man, who is presently involved at the public meetings, who would also need to be present at the work sessions. Mr. Paradise suggested that a teacher be involved in doing the video and have two (2) students assist on the cameras. Mr. Paradise noted that the teacher position would be advertised.

Mrs. Cummings noted that if a teacher from the high school was involved with the project you would have students from throughout the entire district having the ability to participate. If it is limited to one secondary school or middle school, then you are only allowing students from one area. Mr. Paradise noted that where the teacher comes from does not necessarily mean that the students would be from that area.

Mr. Paradise stated that the district would prefer mounting cameras permanently in the board room in order to make it easier, rather than transport cameras from place to place. Portable cameras would still be necessary to travel around the district. Mr. Paradise noted that the advantage to having permanently mounted cameras in the board room makes it less intrusive to the process.

Mr. Paradise noted the district is looking into the equipment that the district currently has available.

Dr. Spitz noted that the meetings would be taped and the board could decide how many times the meetings would be aired.

Mrs. Barrett questioned if Comcast could provide services and whether there are any special grants for broadcasting. Mr. Paradise noted that Comcast provides the community access channel for the district and what the district does with the channel is strictly up to the district. Mr. Paradise noted that Dr. Costanzo would know more about the grant situation.

Mrs. Jowett suggested contacting TV stations for equipment.

Mr. Eccles suggested offsetting the program with advertising, and noted that it is imperative that the district look for ways to cut the costs of providing TV coverage, however, it is inevitable that the meetings will need to be on TV. Mr. Paradise stated that he could very well attempt same.

Mr. Paradise noted that Tom Miller will be very capable of using this type of equipment and if it were not for Tom Miller the district would never have had live football games. In-house personnel were able to provide excellent services for the district.

The board directed Mr. Paradise to look into pre-owned equipment, advertising to offset costs, and revisit same.

b. **Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Mr. Paradise noted that the report was discussed at the Finance and Facilities meeting. Neshaminy has had a report prepared like this for the past ten years and most school districts do not prepare a report. The district has won awards for this report. Mr. Paradise reviewed the combined data included in the report with board members, which included food services, general funds, federal funds, state funds, etc.

Mr. Paradise noted that the report can be used as a resource document for answering many types of questions about the school district. For example, ten year history of expenditures, ten year history of revenues, ten year history of state subsidies, federal subsidies and grants, etc.

Mr. Paradise advised board members that the value of the mill has remained relatively stationary during a period of time, however, the assessment has increased somewhat, but at the same time the district's budget has increased dramatically.

**c. Options for Capital Improvement Note/Bond Issue**

Mr. Paradise advised that the options for capital improvement note/bond issue were discussed at the Finance and Facilities meeting. Mr. Paradise asked Mr. Webb to review same.

Mr. Webb advised that the district has a shortage of \$5.7M because the money was spent or the district will spend the money on improvements that will need to be done immediately. Discussions took place regarding maintaining a high school that has not been budgeted for, yet when a heater breaks or a roof needs repair it needs to be fixed. The board needs to make a decision which way to proceed based upon the outcome of the referendum.

Mr. Webb advised that needs of Poquessing Middle School also need to be addressed and that could cost \$10-\$15M. Mr. Webb stated that maybe \$20-\$25M is a more reasonable figure in the way of maintenance and preventive maintenance so that the Poquessing building is not in the same situation as the high school is currently.

Mr. Webb wanted to make it clear to the board that the figures do not include the amount that is a totally separate issue of the referendum for the new high school.

Mr. Paradise noted that the board needs to decide about the \$5.7M plus future capital improvements over the next several years. Mr. Paradise noted that sometime during the balance of this fiscal year the board needs to resolve this issue.

Ms. Drioli stated that the board needs to act swiftly and get something in place immediately.

Mr. Webb noted that another Finance and Facilities meeting will be set in order to make a recommendation to the board.

Mr. Eccles commented that the problems that are being faced at the high school presently were inevitable, whether or not this board had decided to build a new high school or renovate, the roof would have been leaking and the boiler would have went. These items were not caused by any stoppage of construction. Mr. Eccles noted that these problems were present and they happen and the money going into the high school at the present time would have had to be put into the high school in order to continue maintaining the district's educational duties.

Discussions ensued regarding addressing the issues at the high school, which can and will go wrong over the next several years prior to construction or renovation. Further, Poquessing was also discussed. Mr. Paradise noted that fourteen buildings are always in need of repair, and the district

needs to address those issues. In the past there was a school building authority, that outlet no longer exists.

Mr. Paradise stated that if the board is going to float a bond issue the board should consider a bond issue for \$20-\$25M, and then the district will not need to deal with this issue again in the next five years.

Dr. Spitz stated that if Poquessing is to be included in this type of issue the bond issue would probably need to be \$30-35M. Another issue is handling the students and closing the building. Dr. Spitz stated that further discussions would need to occur regarding Poquessing. Mr. Paradise noted that an architect would need to be hired in order to receive an appropriate estimate at the present time. Dr. Spitz suggested that the proper venue for discussing the future renovations of Poquessing need to be at the Finance and Facilities Committee meetings.

Mr. Paradise further advised the board that they need to consider using variable rate debt. Mr. Paradise noted that it has been recommended that any entity have a portion of variable rate debt. The district currently has approximately \$40M outstanding debt, which was borrowed at 5-6%. Presently, the district is investing at 1.4%. If the district had variable rate debt the district would be paying less in interest.

Mr. Paradise also discussed interest rate swaps wherein the district may have variable rate debt and switch to fixed rate debt or vice versa.

**d. Referendum**

Mr. Profy provided an overview and timeline for the process. Mr. Profy reversed the process since it is clearer to present the scenario from end to beginning. Mr. Profy assumed that the decision to place the referendum question would be in the primary election, which the date is April 27, 2004. The Local Government Unit Debt Act and the Election Code requires that the school district certifies to the Bucks County Board of Elections the specific referendum question forty-five (45) days in advance of the election date which is March 12, 2004, and which date would be the last date which the board must certify the question to the Bucks County Board of Elections in order for the referendum to be held on April 27, 2004.

Mr. Profy advised that the form of the question is mandated by the Local Unit Government Debt Act. The question will read as follows: "The electorate authorizes the borrowing of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (x dollars) for the purpose of \_\_\_\_\_ (y)." The (y) is the new Neshaminy High School. The (x) is the amount that you ask the electorate for authorization to incur that electoral debt.

Mr. Profy further advised that there are two (2) components for the amount of bond issue:

1. The construction and related development costs associated with the project. (The architect has advised that the high school, which was approved as part of the Act 34 proceeding at the end of last year, is \$88.2M, if excluding the architectural and engineering costs, which the district has paid to date, which was \$1.6M. The current costs projections for the construction and related development costs would be either \$89.8M or \$88.2M, depending upon whether the district and the board desire to recoup the \$1.6M which was expended.)
2. Combination of the costs of financing and the manner in which the transaction is structured. (Items such as capitalized interest, issuance costs, bond insurance costs, underwriting issuance costs need to be determined with near precision since the law states that you can not incur more debt than the electorate authorizes. Therefore, the number needs to be accurate.)

Mr. Profy advised the board that in order to go forward with the referendum question it needs to obtain from the financial consultants and underwriters, with input from the board, as to how you are going to structure the financing, and realize that there is going to be an element of projection that needs to be built in as well, since interest rates do fluctuate.

Mr. Profy reiterated that the question needs to be presented to the Board of Elections no later than 4:00 p.m. on March 12, 2004.

There was board discussion regarding the type of financing, the term and phase-in amounts. The board discussed what type of information should be given to the public in order to make the options clear and concise for their review.

The board directed Mr. Paradise to provide figures for the following:

- No phase-in with 25 year wrap
- Three year phase-in with 25 year wrap

Mr. Paradise confirmed that the number that the district is looking at is the total debt number.

Board discussion ensued regarding the \$1.6M already expended by the district for architectural fees and whether it should be included in the referendum number. There was board consensus not to include the \$1.6M in the referendum figure.

6. Items for Approval

a) Overnight Trips

- i) Relay for Life Youth Summit – Neshaminy High School, Penn State University, January 17-18, 2004
- ii) Ski Club Trip – Neshaminy High School – Killington, Vermont, January 23-25, 2004
- iii) Cheerleading Competition – Neshaminy High School – Baltimore, Maryland, February 6-8, 2004.

Mr. Wyatt requested board approval for the three trips.

There was board consensus for the students to attend. Mrs. Bostwick and Mr. Bowman were not present.

b) School Director Recognition Month

Dr. Boccuti advised that a motion has been prepared for the January 27, 2004 meeting that will proclaim the month of January as School Director Recognition Month.

c) Acceptance of the 2002-2003 Audit

Mr. Paradise advised that a motion has been prepared for the board agenda for the January 27, 2004 meeting as per the school code.

d) Appointment to the Technical School Authority

Mr. Paradise advised that a vacancy exists on the Technical School Authority and the board has the option of filling that position. Mr. Paradise advised that the board could advertise the position or provide names of individuals interested.

Mrs. Cummings nominated Kevin Yeingst. Ms. Drioli seconded the nomination.

Mr. Webb nominated Joseph Bush.

Mrs. Barrett suggested advertising for the position.

Mr. Paradise advised that a vote can be taken at the public meeting.

e) Bids/Budget Transfers

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

Bid No. 04-27 Energy Efficient Transformers (replacements) Re-Bid

Bid Amount: \$128,068.00

Purchase of thirteen energy efficient transformers for Maple Point Middle School, Hoover and Lower Southampton Elementary Schools.

Mr. Paradise advised that this is a re-bid. Mr. Paradise advised that when Maple Point was renovated in the 90's the then board approved a certain amount of dollars allocated for Maple Point.

Ms. Drioli pointed out to the public that this is the same type of problems that will be experienced if the high school were to be renovated. Ms. Drioli noted if the job is not done properly the public will continue to pay for years.

Dr. Spitz questioned the type of transformers and looked back at previous documentation. Dr. Spitz received information from Mr. Paradise regarding electric bills and did a cost comparison. Dr. Spitz advised that there were 10 for Maple Point, 2 for Sandburg, 2 for Poquessing and 2 for Neshaminy Middle. There were no electricity savings at Sandburg, Poquessing and Neshaminy Middle. There are savings at Maple Point in the amount of approximately \$32,000.00 over a six month period. Most of the savings is due to the air-conditioning.

Dr. Spitz is having a problem agreeing to spend more on the efficient transformers. Mr. Paradise advised that what needs to be compared is usage and not costs. Usage is up in most facilities. Mr. Paradise stated that he would be happy to get comparative data.

Dr. Spitz realizes that there are dollars being saved, however, could the district purchase less expensive transformers and obtain the same efficiency and cost effectiveness.

Mr. Paradise stated that he would put out a bid for a more generic transformer to see the cost differences.

Mr. Minotti advised the board that these generators are mainly purchased due to the fact that the district is having computer problems and that is what the generators are eliminating, hence protecting the investment of the district.

Bid No. 05-06 Buy-Back of Twenty-one School Buses

Bid Amount: \$249,950.00 per year

Buy-back of twelve (12) 78-passenger, forward control buses, eight (8) 78-passenger rear engine buses, and one (1) 30 passenger bus for SY's 2004-2005 and 2005-2006.

Mr. Paradise advised that the district has a fleet of 100 school buses, 79 of which are owned by the district, and each year the district replaces buses that become eleven (11) years old. This bid is for 21 leased buses (buy-backs).

Ms. Drioli advised that it is cheaper for the district to operate its own fleet of buses.

The two bids and Budget Transfer Report No. 04-3 (Working Copy) will be presented for approval at the January 27 Public Meeting.

**7. Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Boccuti advised that the district submitted to the state the Strategic Plan and Act 48 Professional Staff Plan and New Teacher induction plan. All three plans have been approved by the PA Department of Education through September 2006. The district is beyond the point expected and a progress report will be sent out in the near future and publicized.

Dr. Boccuti congratulated Stacy Flaville-Boop, lead teacher for Language Arts, for being recognized as the district's first National Board Certified Teacher.

**8. Committee Reports**

**a) Board Policies**

Mr. Marotto announced that a meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2004 and the board will look at the requirements for No Child Left Behind Act, the overall review of all district policies, and look at other school district's policies.

**b) Educational Development**

Dr. Spitz advised that at the November 18, 2003 meeting the following was discussed:

- Up-date by lead teacher for Language Arts, Ms. Flaville-Boop.
- Reviewed financial reports for summer school and summer fine arts program.
- Presentation to expand the high school music program.
  - ✓ Program is understaffed.
  - ✓ Looking to add third music staff member/offer additional music courses at the high school.
  - ✓ Pilot four (4) new one semester courses for students without music background: (electronic piano lab, guitar lab, digital recording, intro to music technology).
  - ✓ Request to develop a music technology lab at the high school needed for the pilot courses.
- Academic Enrichment program
  - ✓ Testing rubric
  - ✓ Curriculum

Committee has been formed with AE teachers, parents, Dr. Muenker and Dr. Boccuti.

Dr. Spitz advised that at the December 2003 meeting the following was discussed:

- Lead teacher presentation on science curriculum.
- Academic Enrichment program.
- Social Studies text adoption with state standards in mind (History of PA in grade 4).
- Review of PSSA test results (Dr. Boccuti presented Power Point presentation).

**c) Finance/Facilities**

Mr. Webb advised that a meeting will be set as soon as possible.

**Non-reimbursable Work Not Subject to Advertising Requirements**

- ✓ Install and put on line a rented 3 million BTU steam boiler for one month.
- ✓ Take inoperable boiler off line and remove 12 sections of boiler – replace 4 sections at header, repipe and put back on line.

Mr. Paradise advised that a section of the school code allows for emergency situations where the district can circumvent the bid process with the approval of PDE. Mr. Paradise presented form 3074, which needs to be approved by the board in order to submit to PDE. The form needs to be executed by the Board Secretary.

Ms. Drioli made a motion to approve the non-reimbursable Work Not Subject to Advertising Requirement in the amount of \$50,000.00. Mr. Webb seconded the motion.



There was board consensus to approve the non-reimbursable work not subject to advertising requirements. Mrs. Bostwick and Mr. Bowman were not present.

**d) IU Board**

Ms. Drioli advised that the Board has not met.

**e) Educational Foundation**

Mrs. Cummings advised that two meetings were held. \$16,000 worth of mini grants are available to the teachers. The grants must be applied for by Friday, January 16, 2004. Mrs. Cummings advised that a trip to New York was discussed as a fundraiser.

**f) Technical School**

Dr. Spitz thanked anyone who attended the semi-annual convention. The proposed changes to the Articles of Agreement are still awaiting the vote by Bristol Borough.

**g) Technology**

Mrs. Jowett advised that no meeting has taken place. Dr. Boccuti advised a meeting will take place in the Spring, 2004.

**9. Future Topics**

**10. Agenda Development for January 27, 2004 Public Meeting**

**11. Correspondence**

The Board Secretary advised that there was no correspondence.

**12. Public Comment**

Mr. Alden Thorpe, Levittown, PA was pleased to see the committees working together. Mr. Thorpe is concerned about the floating of bonds. The Board now is trying to take \$1.6M associated with the high school project and put it somewhere else. Mr. Thorpe does not think that it is appropriate and it is not a good show for the public. Mr. Thorpe is a committeeman and he will let them know at the Republican meeting that the district is taking \$1.6M out of the new building and are hiding it in other places. Mr. Thorpe is not sure whether "hiding" is an appropriate word; however, the board is taking it from a specific appropriation. Mr. Thorpe states that the appearance of what you are doing is wrong. Mr. Thorpe asked the board to reconsider what they have done.

Mr. Thorpe questioned whether all the school buses are filled to capacity. Mr. Thorpe sees many large buses traveling with only a few students. Is anyone watching over transportation?

Mrs. Rita Geddes, Feasterville, PA stated that the buses are filled to capacity and all buses are utilized to their maximum capacity. Mrs. Geddes believes that the best value for the district over the long run is to build a new school. Mrs. Geddes noted that people who went to Neshaminy tend to stay within the district and they do not want to move elsewhere. However, the students of today do not have the same loyalty to Neshaminy. The facility is not up to date and only renovations have taken place. Mrs. Geddes noted that property values will decline if the district does not maintain its quality.

Mrs. Marianne O'Connor, Langhorne, PA stated that nothing has been presented by the new board members to the public. Mrs. O'Connor states that the board is not giving the public enough time to process the information. Mrs. O'Connor is requesting that when the Board does a cost comparison of renovation vs. new construction do not provide a ridiculous number of \$40M. Mrs. O'Connor would like to see renovations of the current structure that will accommodate every single thing a new high school will give you. That will be a true and accurate cost comparison.

Mr. Lindner, Langhorne, PA, used the word "Tradition." Riding around Neshaminy you will see homes being built. Not much land is left in Middletown Township. The homes are selling for \$400,000-\$500,000. People are coming into this district. Whether it be seniors, young people, etc. Mr. Lindner stated Neshaminy has a tradition of excellence and academic programs, learning disabilities programs and fine arts, sports programs, etc. Neshaminy is great! Mr. Lindner noted the behavior of the students when they go on trips and sporting events is outstanding. Letters complimenting the students are forwarded to the district. Mr. Lindner has seen much waste and he believes in a check and balance system. Mr. Lindner thanked Dr. Spitz for a good job this evening. Mr. Lindner believes that Neshaminy will always be good as long as the teachers, which are hired, are qualified, caring, good teachers. Mr. Lindner stated that makes a school district. It is not a building. Neshaminy is #1!

Mrs. Sharon Binder, Lower Southampton, PA, supports a new high school and does not feel that it is just a building. Educational professionals have stood up time and time again, administrators have told each and every one of us here that the school is not meeting the needs of our students now, nor does it have any chance of meeting the needs in the future. Mrs. Binder feels we need a new school. We as part of the well behaved children that go on trips, as parents, feel that our children should not be exposed to disruption in the educational process. Problems with the air, the EPA has recommended that not one school be remodeled with children in the building. Mrs. Binder feels that sight has been lost about what is truly important. Yes, our community is very important, however, each and every one of us is here for the children. The children need to be on the top of list. Mrs. Binder does care about the senior citizens. In the big picture many do not see all the components going into this decision and they need to be made aware. Time of the renovation will be very long (10 years maybe). The public does not have a good grasp on the time and money involved. That needs to be made clearer. Mrs. Binder encourages all board members to keep in mind that the children are the priority.

**13. Other Board Business**

Dr. Spitz spoke regarding the PSBA Annual Leadership Conference will be held on February 8-9, 2004 in Hershey, PA. Governor Rendell has been invited to attend the conference along with the Senate majority whip, local legislators and many others. Dr. Spitz noted that the remarks by the legislators and the Governor will take place on Sunday evening. Dr. Spitz suggested the board sending a letter to the local legislators to attend the conference.

**14. Adjournment**

Dr. Spitz moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Webb seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary