

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania  
  
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING  
PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
September 11, 2007

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on September 11, 2007, 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  
Mr. Ritchie Webb

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

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

**BOARD MEMBER NOT PRESENT:**

Dr. William H. Spitz

**OTHERS:** Approximately 10 persons from the public, staff and press

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

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

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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. Kadri requested a moment of silence in honor of Patriot's Day, September 11<sup>th</sup>.

4. **Public Comment**

Mrs. Chris Coia, Lower Southampton, PA was pleased to see many administrators at the Friday night football game. Mrs. Coia advised that a marvelous job has been done at the Poquessing school. Mrs. Coia had the following items that still needed attention:

- Music room storage shelves need to be replaced
- Plumbing/hoses out front for gardening purposes
- Air conditioning for auditorium and library

Mrs. Coia also inquired as to why the Neshaminy channel has not been put to Verizon Vios. Mrs. Coia would like to see a list of school supplies needed for the children to go back to school at Staples, Office Max, etc. Mrs. Coia is not happy that she needs to buy a Spanish book when her child is required to have a language. Many taxes are being paid and she feels that it is not her responsibility to be purchasing these books. Go Redskins!

Mr. Steve Rodos, Villiages of Flowers Mill, Langhorne, PA, stated that he read in the Courier Times that Pennswood Village would like to become a tax exempt entity as far as real estate taxes are concerned. Mr. Rodos researched the case of Alliance Home of Carlisle vs. the Board of Assessment Appeals of Carlisle and Cumberland Counties. After reading the cases there are some reasons why this Board should take a stand

against what Mr. Rodos assumes will be a petition to become tax exempt. The continual care facility at Pennswood serves no other purpose than to provide services for the independent living residents of Pennswood Village. Mr. Rodos' contention is that this entity is not an institution of purely public charity. The institutes of purely public charity act have five criteria which must be met and Mr. Rodos believes that this institution does not meet the criteria: Advances a charitable purpose, donates or renders gratuitously the substantial portion of its services, it benefits a substantial and indefinite class of persons who are legitimate subjects of charity. It relieves the government of some of its burden and operates entirely free from profit motive. It falls upon the taxing entity to fight this at the earliest stage, because if not it will be assumed that a contest does not exist that it is truly a public charity. Pennswood Village has 91 assisted living units and 314 Independent living units and Mr. Rodos does not feel that the members of that community are not legitimate subjects of charity. Their petition should not go unchallenged by this school board. Tax dollars will be lost. The state struck a deal with Sesame Place and funds are being lost in that situation. Mr. Rodos urged the board to fight the Petition.

#### 5. Items for Discussion

- a) High School Construction Update
- Reynolds Construction – Mr. Damion Spahr
  - ATS&R – Mr. Paul Erickson

Mr. Spahr provided a slide show to Board members which displayed that the building progress is on time and on budget.

Schedule/Costs:

- Kitchen and Cafeteria have been turned over with added work
- Band room - Will be turned over approximately September 24th with some further work taking place during the holidays
- New gymnasium will be completed in early October
- Unit G will be completed by the end of the year with use in January, 2008
- Unit K is the connector link
- Unit F completion will occur in September, 2008
- Contingency study has taken place - Continue frugal use and it should be met without a problem
- Old Lincoln Highway modifications have come in within the budget set in the contingency

Mr. Paul Erickson stated that the progress on the building is coming along very well. Units are being completed, phasing is under way, coordination is complicated, however, Reynolds is doing a fine job. District staff are doing a great job communicating to the parents and public as to the progression. Quality is looking great. Communication lines are open and coordination is moving smoothly.

Mrs. Cummings wanted to know what will occur in January when the students move into the Unit G area then what area will be demolished next and will the modulars stay. Mr. Spahr advised that modulars will leave when the second classroom wing is open, Summer, 2008. Mr. Spahr advised that in Phase II more classroom additions will take place, renovations to auditorium, etc. 1400 lockers will be placed in Phase I when the students return in January, 2008.

Mrs. Barrett questioned the flow of traffic that is now taking place at the high school. Mr. Spahr advised that this is the most difficult time in the construction for student travel. Gym 3 access needs to take place from the outside.

Mr. Webb inquired regarding the grading of the hockey field and what costs the district has absorbed. Mr. Spahr advised that the focus on civil engineering and water drainage have to some extent not taken into consideration the athletic aspect of same. In essence a mistake was made and is being taken care of at the present time.

b) Update on School Opening

Mr. Kadri advised that school opening went very smoothly.

- Science position opening still needs to be filled
- Bus scheduling issues are being addressed
- Supplies being posted will be looked into for next school year to accommodate parents
- Curriculum mapping training took place prior to the start of school
- New phone system is in place and new numbers are on Neshaminy T.V. and the Website
- Transitioning took place from the old Website to the new Website
  - ✓ More content will be added to the new website
  - ✓ PTO has received update on using the new website
  - ✓ County consortium upgrades will be taking place next week. (Address changes will occur.)

6. Items for Approval

a) Overnight Trips

- i. Neshaminy High School to Annapolis, Baltimore, Maryland for the Music Adjudication Festival - May 2-4, 2008

This trip provides our select vocal and instrumental groups with an opportunity to participate with other schools on the East coast in an adjudication.

Mr. Blasch was concerned that each student would have the opportunity to participate since the trip cost was approximately \$450.00.

Dr. Heble requested Board approval for the above trip.

There was Board consensus for this trip.

b) Bids/Budget Transfers

No bids/budget transfers.

7. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Kadri advised the following:

- Mrs. Lynne Feffer has been selected as the volunteer Coordinator of SAGE. Program will begin in early October. Mrs. Feffer has served as a Reading Specialist at Oliver Heckman Elementary School. Mrs. Feffer retired this past June after 33 years of teaching.
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was bestowed on Neshaminy School District. Mrs. Markowitz and Mr. Paradise were the recipients of same.
- Waste Management Calendar has included a picture drawn by one of Neshaminy's students.
- Technology Grant has been received by Neshaminy for Classrooms of the Future. \$536,000 was awarded to Neshaminy for the purchase of lap tops for science classrooms and science study grades 9-12. Smart boards are also included.

8. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Mr. Bowman advised that the next meeting will take place on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

b) Educational Development

Mrs. Barrett advised that the meeting is scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Webb stated that a meeting will be scheduled for October.

- d) IU Board  
No report.
- e) Education Foundation  
Mrs. Cummings stated that the Fall Fundraiser will take place at Kings Caterers on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-11 p.m. It includes dinner and dancing.
- f) Technical School  
Ms. Boyle stated that a meeting is scheduled for September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- g) Technology  
Mr. Blasch advised that a meeting is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>.

9. Future Topics

Mr. Eccles updated regarding the Fact Finding Committee that contract comments and questions are being received from parents. Mr. Eccles urged everyone to e-mail and call regarding their suggestions and comments regarding the contract.

Mr. Eccles noted that the List of Expenses regarding Middletown Township for Building and Zoning permits is presently \$457,931.05. This needs to be an agenda item in the future in order that Board members can discuss the charges to date.

10. Agenda Development for the September 25, 2007 Public Board Meeting

None.

11. Other Board Business

Mrs. Cummings inquired regarding the damage to the soccer fields at the high school from ATV usage. Mr. Kadri advised that the matter is being handled and the person responsible for the damage is being dealt with accordingly.

Mr. Koziol requested an explanation of the drug program and also questioned the Middletown charges.

Ms. Boyle inquired regarding lunch scheduling at the high school and elementary levels. Mr. Kadri suggested that any individuals with a concern should contact the district. Mr. Kadri noted that during some science classes a lab takes place at which time the student is allowed to eat lunch during the lab time.

Ms. Boyle is concerned with the six minute class changing time. Mr. Kadri noted that homeroom was decreased last year to accommodate changing times. Homeroom is a main communication link.

Mr. Paradise noted that Verizon Vios has been out to measure the premises. Fiber lines need to run by Verizon Vios. This is trying to become accomplished in every district and municipality and the network is being built from scratch. The district is not standing in the way of any progress in regards to this situation.

Mr. Webb reminded the administration to provide per pupil costs and the costs to fund a full time kindergarten. Mr. Kadri advised that Mr. Paradise is actively working on those issues.

Mr. Eccles inquired whether the Board would be open to having a question and answer session available after each meeting. There was no objection by any Board member regarding same.

Mr. Eccles noted that a question and answer session would take place immediately following the meeting.

12. Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Blasch seconded same. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita E. Walls". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.

Anita E. Walls  
Board Secretary