

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, PA 19047

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 24, 2004

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on February 24, 2004, in the Auditorium of the Herbert Hoover Elementary 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
Mr. Jason Bowman
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Ms. Carol A. Drioli
Mrs. Kimberly A. Jowett
Mr. Ritchie Webb

ADMINISTRATORS:

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

SOLICITOR:

Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

SECRETARY: Mrs. Anita E. Walls

OTHERS: Approximately 60 persons from the public, staff and press

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Ms. Stephanie Huston

Prior to the meeting an Executive Session took place.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

Mr. Wilson announced that this evening was the first night that board meetings would be televised on tape and replayed on Neshaminy TV. The schedule is being prepared.

Mr. Wilson announced that Neshaminy School District lost one of its finest teachers, Sheila Hofmann, who had been with the District for 29 years and who served throughout Neshaminy at Sandburg, Poquessing, Miller, and the high school. Mrs. Hofmann was truly a leader and lost her battle with cancer. Mr. Wilson noted that Mrs. Hofmann was one of the bravest people he had ever met. Mr. Wilson requested a brief moment of silence for Mrs. Hofmann.

Student Representative Report

Ms. Stephanie Huston, Student Council President, reported the following:

- Martin Luther King, III spoke to students.
- Drama team show "Laughing Stock" took place this past weekend.
- PSSA testing for juniors is taking place.
- Gym night practice is held every night and will take place on March 5th & 6th.

- Student Council is selling Gym Night Links to help raise money for the American Cancer Association in memory of Mrs. Hofmann. The team that raises the most money will win a point on Gym Night.
- Voter Registration is taking place for students 18 and older. Dr. Spitz dropped off Registration forms and fliers. Registration forms will be hand delivered to avoid postage costs.

Public Comment

Paula Boyce Kellogg, Langhorne, PA, stated that she is a resident of Middletown, taxpayer and teacher at Herbert Hoover Elementary School. Mrs. Kellogg thanked the majority of the School Board who wisely voted to reinstate the position of Assistant Principal at Herbert Hoover. Mrs. Kellogg advised that Hoover is significantly larger than any other elementary school in the District and this is the reason the school has had assistants for the past years. Mrs. Kellogg advised that Hoover has one less student than Poquessing Middle, while Poquessing has a full-time assistant principal, two guidance counselors, as well as additional secretarial support staff, Hoover has one counselor, but now, thanks to the Board's vote the school has a part-time assistant principal. The staffing differences are obvious. Mrs. Kellogg thanked the Board for reinstating the position that directly and positively impacts the students every day. This is a resource to help the children in a real and tangible way. Staff is required to assist the students in decision making, coping skills, and recognizing consequence.

Mr. Howard Lindner, Langhorne, PA, thanked Ritchie Webb, Jason Bowman, Sue Barrett and Susan Cummings for looking out for the taxpayer. On February 3rd five other School Board members voted for a newly created \$20,000 part-time administrative assistant position at Hoover Elementary School. Once again, why? The Hoover enrollment has only increased by seven students from last year. The state law for hiring retirees states that an emergency must exist that creates an increase in the work load and results in serious impairment of service to the public. Mr. Lindner stated, in his opinion that does not exist at Hoover. Mr. Lindner was taught the more college degrees that you hold the more money you make. The more money you make the more responsibilities you should be able to handle. The principal at Hoover earns \$109,815.00 plus benefits. Mr. Lindner believes that he is capable of handling 667 students for those wages. Dr. Costanzo stated in the February 16th Courier Times article that Stanford has been extremely busy this year. Mr. Lindner stated that is why he receives a big paycheck. Mr. Lindner agrees with Bowman and Webb who stated in the February 16th Courier Times that the job was an example of District waste and the District did not abide by the public school employment retirement system guidelines in hiring a retired teacher for the job. Mr. Lindner advised that this law was not established to save school district's money by not paying benefits, but for emergency reasons when a district could not find qualified people in times of emergency, especially in the urban schools. Mr. Lindner feels the creation of the position is not over. It smells like another food service controversy. In fact, if there is true need then hire a full-time assistant principal.

Mr. Thomas Gallagher, Middletown Township, discussed basic mathematics regarding the estimated millage impact for the new high school. Mr. Gallagher saw same on the website, newspaper and received a copy at the front door. Mr. Gallagher advised that 26 mills is 26 mills. Anticipation is not reality. The Board anticipates closing Neshaminy Middle in 2007. Mr. Gallagher has not heard a resolution for same. The Board anticipates receiving \$1M rent in 2008 for the Neshaminy Middle property. There is no signed leased. How can the Board take credit for that now? Taxpayers need to be treated fairly and honestly and will not be conned by voodoo economics. Mr. Gallagher has been working on his federal tax return. Mr. Gallagher has not found the box that states he anticipated having more deductions, so therefore, amnesty will be granted on the extra taxes owed. Treat the voters with respect, tell them the truth.

Mr. Sy Goldstein, Langhorne, PA, presented a diagram of the new school and it shows five (5) baseball and one (1) softball field for 2600 students. Mr. Goldstein does not know whether it is needed. Mr. Goldstein noted that if they are necessary fine, however, did anyone say, "do we need five (5) ballfields." It is not only the cost of building same, but also the cost to maintain year after year. Mr. Goldstein inquired whether things are just accepted carte blanche. Mr. Goldstein noted that \$100M worth of interest is being neglected to be shown. That is a disservice to the public. To say that the bond is \$97M does not include \$100M worth of interest over

the years. Mr. Goldstein advised that by 2014 there will be approximately \$4M worth of bonds paid off, but that is not deducted from the public's taxes. Mr. Goldstein advised that those amounts continue to be paid, so it seems as if we are paying less for the school. Mr. Goldstein advised that those amounts are being thrown into the \$7M debt service, yet \$4M is already paid and nothing goes down. Mr. Goldstein advised that this accounting practice is very deceiving.

Mr. Alden Thorpe, Levittown, PA, stated that he is the Committee person for Lower 7, Middletown Township and complimented the Board for noting the \$1.6M already expended for the architect. Mr. Thorpe questioned the reason for another assistant at Hoover. Why could students have not been transferred to Everett and Schweitzer?

Mr. Robert Schmitt, Langhorne Gables, PA questioned why the taxpayers were not told about the other two schools. Why Poquessing was picked out as having an assistant. Mr. Schmitt stated that in his neighborhood the rumor is that the gentlemen hired at Hoover will be put on as a coach. In order to validate that the District is giving him a paid position with the school. Mr. Schmitt thinks that is a travesty if that happens.

Mr. William O'Connor, Langhorne PA stated the reasons for a new high school are very compelling. When compared to renovation it is going to take one-third the time to construct, have four to five times the life span, and yes, it is going to have a net tax impact less than renovation. Budget assumptions are made on income risks and opportunities. Mr. O'Connor asked at the last meeting not to just represent the financial side of new construction. The Board needs to give it balance. To show what renovation offers in return and the educational needs to be served. An article was in the newspaper and an editorial was written stating that information is being withheld. Mr. O'Connor's opinion is that the information that is not being given makes the new high school more compelling. People need all the information, not just the financial side. Mr. O'Connor assumed that all nine Board members put forth the referendum because you felt it was a good idea. The Board needs to get behind the referendum and money needs to be spent. The information that is being published is not always accurate. The Board may need to take out ads. Mr. O'Connor cannot understand how you can have an opinion regarding a \$20,000 a year position and not have opinion regarding a \$97M referendum. Mr. O'Connor stated that the assistant principal position is something going on behind the scenes and little does the public know that there is more to it than what meets the eye. Mr. O'Connor requested the hire records for the last ten years.

Mr. Ronald Koreck, Langhorne, PA, stated he has lived in the District for 35 years and that he built some of the current schools. Mr. Koreck has no objection to paying taxes, except when they get too high. People who are on a fixed income cannot afford to have taxes increase. Mr. Koreck noted that about five years ago he read a sheet stating that 40 teachers in Neshaminy School District start at \$30,000 and go up to \$65,000 - \$70,000. The school can be renovated and keep the costs down.

Ms. Drioli pointed out to Mr. Lindner and anyone else who want to know the meaning of democracy. A democracy is an authority exercised for the most part by representatives elected by popular suffrage. This is the electorate representative. There was a vote. There was an issue, there was a vote. There was controversy, there was discussion. There was even a front page article. Ms. Drioli stated that when someone does not agree with Mr. Lindner, suddenly they are anti-democratic, suddenly they become targets for him to attack, and suddenly they become the bud of some name calling. Ms. Drioli reminded Mr. Lindner that the country is made up of people of all kinds of opinions and our forefathers 200 years ago said that everyone is entitled to one vote. Ms. Drioli stated the vote was taken and after the vote is taken the idea is to move on. Mr. Lindner did not like the outcome, however, there have been many votes in this country, many votes on this School Board that have existed and Ms. Drioli has not liked the outcome. In this country the majority rules. There will be a referendum and Ms. Drioli has committed herself to live with the outcome of the referendum. The referendum will hold and Ms. Drioli will vote based on the outcome of the referendum. Ms. Drioli is tired of being berated by Mr. Lindner because she has a different opinion. That is a democracy and in this country we are allowed to do that. What Mr. Lindner proposes is in some countries called terrorism.

Mr. Eccles thanked Ms. Drioli and noted that in a very short time this Board has tackled referendum, and again this evening a historic moment and the meetings are televised. Mr. Eccles addressed the position filled at Hoover. The lives of 680 students are being affected by a gentleman who has worked for this District and Mr. Eccles has personally known for over thirty years. Mr. Eccles stated that if the gentlemen wishes to coach in this District, Mr. Eccles will be the first one to back him to come back and coach. This gentlemen does nothing but help, guide and mentor children. If he is affecting 680 children at this school, he will affect another 100 students at the high school. What other educator can say that. Mr. Eccles only wishes and hopes that Mr. Chaump is interested in coaching football.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Wilson noted that funeral services for Mrs. Hofmann will take place on Friday at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church located on Route 611 South near Gratz College. Directions to the services will be available tomorrow.

Approval of Minutes

Upon motion of Ms. Drioli, seconded by Mrs. Jowett, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 3, 2004 Public Meeting.

Approval of Treasurer's Report, Bills for Payment, Investments, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax – Mr. Paradise presented the following for approval:

- January, 2004 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Bills for payment Check Register – January, 2004
- Two Escrow Funds, Three Capital Project Funds, Several Investment Funds
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 04-4)
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations reports for November, 2003, December, 2003 and January, 2004

Dr. Spitz moved the January, 2004 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, and the January, 2004 bills for payment, Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy 04-4), Escrow Funds, Capital Project Funds, Investments Funds and November and December, 2003 and January, 2004 personal and per capita tax exonerations be approved. Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Reports, subject to audit, bills for payment, investments, two escrow funds, three capital project funds, budget transfer report and exonerations of personal and per capita tax.

Approval of Bids

Mr. Paradise presented the following bids for approval:

Bid No. 05-01 General School Supplies

Bid Amount: \$69,234.22

The bid is for various classroom and office supplies for use throughout the District for the school year 2004/2005.

Bid No. 05-09 Copy Paper

Bid Amount: \$74,988.00

The bid is for paper for duplicating machines in various colors and sizes for school year 2004/2005.

Bid No. 05-07 (2) 48 Passenger Lift Buses (Re-bid)

Bid Amount: \$155,484.00

Purchase of two (2) 48 passenger lift buses for the transport of handicapped children.

Mr. Bowman moved the three bids be approved and Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the three bids.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Wilson presented the following for approval:

- Elections of Certified Personnel
- Addendum of Elections of Certified Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Certified Personnel
- Elections of Support Personnel
- Addendum of Elections of Support Personnel
- Resignations/Leaves of Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves of Certified Personnel

The personnel information appears on pages H-1 through H-7 and addendum pages H-1a and H-4a.

Mr. Wilson requested approval of the personnel report as presented.

Mr. Webb moved the personnel actions be approved and Mr. Bowman seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved the personnel actions.

Extra-Curricular Staff and Salary Report

Mr. Wilson presented for approval the Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries Report dated February 24, 2004, which totals \$16, 500.

Dr. Spitz moved the Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries Report dated February 24, 2004 be approved and seconded by Mr. Webb.

Mrs. Bostwick noted that the date for the school year should read 2003-2004 on the Neshaminy Middle School report.

The Board unanimously approved the Extra-Curricular Staff and Salaries Report.

Motion: Revision/Adoption of Policies 111, 505 and 617

Ms. Drioli presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to keep District Board Policies updated and current, new policies and revisions are recommended by the administration to the Board Policies Committee for review; and

WHEREAS, after review by the Board Policies Committee the District is ready to recommend:

New Policy 111 – Videotaping of School Board Meetings By the District

Revised Policy 505 – Student Discipline Including Secondary Level Concurrence

Revised Policy 617 – Opening Exercises and Flag Displays;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said Policies be revised and approved by the Neshaminy Board of School Directors.

Mrs. Barrett seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Motion: Local Government Unit Debt Act Referendum Resolution

Dr. Spitz presented the following motion:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS OF NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT SIGNIFYING THE DETERMINATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD THAT IT IS ADVISABLE TO INCUR INCREASE IN THE DEBT OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF NINETY-SEVEN MILLION (\$97,000,000) DOLLARS WITH THE ASSENT OF THE ELECTORS, CALLING AN ELECTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING SUCH ASSENT AND APPROVING THE CONTENT AND SUBSTANTIAL FORM OF THE NOTICE OF ELECTION.

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (the "School District") pursuant to the Pennsylvania Local Government Unit Debt Act, Act of December 19, 1996, P.L. 1158 No. 177 § 1, as amended ("Act"), hereby resolves as follows:

SECTION 1. The Board of School Directors hereby determines and signifies such determination that it is advisable to incur an increase in the debt of the School District in the amount of Ninety-Seven Million (\$97,000,000) Dollars, subject to the assent of the electors of the School District.

SECTION 2. The debt shall be incurred by borrowing money through the sale of General Obligations Bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing and equipping a new high school for Neshaminy School District, funding reserve funds and capitalized interest, paying the costs, fees and expenses for architects, attorneys, engineers, financial consultants and others for the Project, and the cost of issuing and insuring the General Obligation Bonds and other costs and expenses of the School District incident to the Project and its financing.

SECTION 3. The election for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the electors of the School District to said increase in debt is hereby called and fixed for April 27, 2004, the date on which the General Primary Election of 2004 will be held.

SECTION 4. The School Board hereby adopts and approves the content and substantial form of the Notice of the Election set forth below:

ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE: To the electors of the Neshaminy School District, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

In accordance with the Resolution of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District adopted and effective on February 24, 2004:

- (1) Election will be held at the General Primary Election to be held on April 27, 2004 for the purpose of obtaining the assent of the electors of the Neshaminy School District of a proposed increase in the debt of the Neshaminy School District.
- (2) The amount of the proposed debt to be incurred is Ninety-Seven Million (\$97,000,000) Dollars.
- (3) The proposed debt shall be incurred by borrowing money through the sale of General Obligation Bonds for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing and equipping a new high school for the Neshaminy School District, funding reserve funds and capitalized interest, paying the costs, fees and expenses of architects, attorneys, engineers, financial consultants and others for the Project and paying the cost of issuing and insuring General Obligation Bonds, and other costs and expenses of the School District incident to the Project and its financing.

- (4) The estimated entire cost of the Project is Ninety-Eight Million Six Hundred Thousand (\$98,600,000) Dollars, One Million Six Hundred Thousand (\$1,600,000) Dollars of which is to be paid with funds of the School District other than funds to be borrowed.
- (5) The question to be submitted to the voters at the election shall be substantially in the following appropriate form:

Shall debt in the sum of Ninety-Seven Million (\$97,000,000) Dollars for the purpose of financing the cost of constructing and equipping a new high school for Neshaminy School District, funding reserve funds and capitalized interest and paying costs relating to the Project and its financing, be authorized to be incurred as debt of Neshaminy School District approved by its electors?

YES_____

NO_____

SECTION 5. Officials and Solicitor of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to advertise notice of the Election in accordance with the Act and to take all other action necessary or desirable to cause the Election to be held and to carry this Resolution into effect.

SECTION 6. Prior Resolutions inconsistent with the provisions of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the inconsistency.

SECTION 7. This Resolution shall be immediately effective upon adoption by the Board of School Directors.

Resolution is adopted this _____ day of _____, 2004.

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BY: _____

Richard M. Eccles, Board President

ATTEST:

Anita E. Walls, Board Secretary

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 1-2004 enacted by the Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District, Bucks County, Pennsylvania on February 24, 2004.

Anita E. Walls, Board Secretary

Mr. Webb seconded the motion.

Ms. Drioli commented that this motion is providing the electorate the opportunity to vote. This is what the public asked for and this is what is going to happen. The School Board can honestly sit and say for the first time, whatever happens with this high school, the people decided. This will not be a position that the Board takes one way or the other. Once this referendum is finished and the public casts a vote, which is so great in this country that will be it. Ms. Drioli advised that if anyone cares about this issue, one way or the other, please

vote. Do not take this issue lightly, do not say you were tired, or worked that day. It is your right and privilege, vote.

The Board approved the motion by a vote of seven ayes (Mr. Eccles, Dr. Spitz, Mrs. Barrett, Mr. Bowman, Mrs. Cummings, Ms. Drioli and Mr. Webb) and zero nays. Mrs. Bostwick and Mrs. Jowett abstained.

Federal Programs

Mr. Wilson advised that grants total \$1.4M. The District has been notified by the Department that the District will eligible for \$500,000 plus in accountability block grants. These monies are approved for certain reasons to assist the District in improving the standardized test scores in after school tutoring, before school tutoring, reading coaching programs, math coaching programs, purchases of computer based tutorial programs, professional staff development and any way to use the funds to boost student achievement in the District. The entitlement will be announced around April 10th and the District will submit a proposal within thirty (30) days.

Mr. Wilson advised as Superintendent he will not support any money being spent that is not going to improve student achievement. The money will only be used to improve student achievement.

Other Board Business

None.

Correspondence

The Board Secretary advised that there was no correspondence.

Public Comment

Mrs. O'Connor, Langhorne, PA stated that one thing she does not see the School Board putting out with regards to the new high school, that she is voting for on April 27th, is that the public needs to know if the referendum for a new high school fails, major renovations will need to be done to the existing high school, as well as to Neshaminy Middle School, since the current school will not be able to house 9th through 12th grade. The life expectancy is approximately 10 years after the renovation is completed and at that time the new high school will need to be built at a cost sure to be two to three times the cost of the one in front of the public right now. Mrs. O'Connor stated that the public needs to know these facts, as well as the following. In approximately 15 years the community will still be paying off a \$25M bond for much needed repairs in our schools right now, \$50M bond the high school renovations will require, expense of renovations (cost unknown at this time) for Neshaminy Middle School to renovate, as well as the fact that we will have a bond for a new high school anyway. It makes the most sense, economically and intelligently, for our students to vote for a new school now and it is in the long run much more cost effective.

Mr. Soifer, Lower Southampton, PA, stated that there are two disturbing items. When you go to buy a new house, someone does not turn around and use the supposition that you are selling your old one, when you put a deposit on a new one. It is automatic that you are moving from your old house to the new one. The same thing occurs when the situation is presented to the public. It is not supposition that maybe you are going to close Neshaminy Middle. It was decided as part of the package of the new high school that Neshaminy Middle will close. That is not a supposition. It will also be rented out similar to the idea that Maple Point was rented out. Mr. Soifer is concerned about things being taken to a personal level where it becomes nasty and personal. That is not a democracy and that is not what the students who do attend the meetings should be taught. Mr. Soifer noted that it is wonderful that people can voice their opinions, however, the presentation needs to be with proper decorum and respect.

Mr. Yeingst, Feasterville, PA stated that building a new school is a big cost, but so is renovating. If the public votes no to the referendum, the taxes will still go up, there will be cost for renovation. These costs for renovation could cost as much as building a new high school. Mr. Yeingst stated that years ago a new school was asked for your kids, now the parents are doing the same. The school is fifty years old and it is outdated. Our children and future deserves to have the best that we can give them. No one wants their taxes to go up,

but the seniors years ago supported the students and now today's seniors will need to help support this generation. Mr. Yeingst will do the same in the future, unless the tax laws are changed. Mr. Yeingst stated that either way taxes will rise. Spend the money wisely and build towards the future.

Mr. Lindner, Langhorne, PA, stated that he was told prior to the meeting that a certain Board member was going to attack him because the meeting was going to be televised. Mr. Lindner stated that his reputation is out in the public and he has nothing to worry about. Mr. Lindner stated that he taught for 34 years in Neshaminy School District and Mr. Lindner has run school board campaigns for years and has never lost one yet. The people know what Mr. Lindner stands for. Mr. Lindner stands for the taxpayers and for the students. Mr. Lindner stated that he got more scholarships per kid for the teams that he coached than most other coaches in the school district. Mr. Lindner made more recommendations for students than the average teacher. Two years after Mr. Lindner retired he got scholarships for students to top schools. Mr. Lindner stated that no one will tell him not to fight for something that he feels is not justified and correct. Mr. Lindner stated that people have differences of opinions and when it comes to voting the voters have always believed what Mr. Lindner has told them.

Mr. Dom Spadaccino, Middletown Township, stated that he was born and raised in Middletown and he has resided here for 83 years and he is tired of paying taxes as a senior citizen. Mr. Spadaccino is against a new school, but he is for renovations. Mr. Spadaccino recalls the school he attended did not have modern amenities, however, he received an education. Mr. Spadaccino stated that he gives Mr. Lindner a lot of credit for fighting for the seniors. Mr. Spadaccino stated that he has helped so many children. Mr. Spadaccino recalls when he was District Justice in District Court 8, Mr. Lindner helped students at all times of the day or night. Mr. Spadaccino is proud to be with Mr. Lindner in the fight for the new school. Many seniors will be sent out of Middletown Township when the taxes are raised due to the building of a new school.

Mr. Schmitt, Langhorne, PA, stated that he is offended by what he has heard this evening. Mr. Schmitt does not appreciate attacking a man and referring to him as terrorist. Mr. Lindner is a well respected man in the community, he has helped many students and he has the best concerns of this community. Mr. Schmitt noted that he believes that Mr. Lindner is due an apology.

Mr. Alden Thorpe, Middletown Township, stated that he has sat through meetings whereat it was stated that enrollment would be declining over the next five years. The old school is designed very well. Mr. Thorpe stated that the renting of the Maple Point facility was good, however, the school was not returned in its original shape. These issues have cost the taxpayers money. Mr. Thorpe does not see a need for a new high school. Renovations have already taken place at the facility. The Board has admitted that maintenance budgets have been cut in previous years to use the money in other areas. Mr. Thorpe is asking the public to look at the high school and see how bad it is. Mr. Thorpe stated the building does need renovation, however, it is the fault of the School Board's past that the building is in this condition.

Board Comment

Ms. Drioli applauds anyone who expresses an opinion, one way or the other, regarding the high school issue. Pleading to this Board any further to make a decision regarding the high school is out of the board's hands. The decision is in the hands of the public. Ms. Drioli responded to Mr. Spadaccino that he is absolutely right that it is a "cheap shot" to come after a particular individual, however, Mr. Lindner has been coming after Board members because he does not like the way certain individuals think, vote, etc. Mr. Lindner has been very specific in his attacks to certain Board members. Ms. Drioli is tired and she is suggesting that if for some reason he does not like her opinion he does not need to berate or belittle certain individuals.

Mrs. Barrett thanked Principal Stanford for the tour of the school and the students' artwork is everywhere and the school is very cheerful. The school puts a smile on your face. More renovations will take place this summer. It is an example of an old building that has been renovated.

Mrs. Barrett thanked Ms. Cloak for directing the play "My Fair Lady." It was a wonderful production and Mrs. Barrett congratulated Ms. Cloak and her staff for a great job. Mrs. Barrett also noted that Dr. Boccuti took part in the orchestra.

Mrs. Barrett noted that the first and second grade teachers at Walter Miller are having a 100th birthday party for Dr. Suess. The Board has been invited to come and read to the children.

Mrs. Barrett noted that the costs of running the District are huge and all of us bear that. Taxpayers are concerned about the community, concerned about the youth. The cornerstone of our society is public education, but the Board needs to be very careful with the public's money. Money needs to be spent wisely, think every matter through, because if the Board is not careful we are going to bankrupt the community. Mrs. Barrett appreciates people's input.

Dr. Spitz commented that now that the Board has officially approved the referendum the Board needs to authorize the administration to do a mailing and possible advertising related to the referendum.

Mr. Eccles noted that it will be added as an agenda item to the next Work Session.

Mr. Paradise noted that Mr. Adam Lorence is overseeing the video directing this evening, along with Mr. Tom Miller who is a member of the Facilities staff, and two students, Chris Scheidell, and Robert McCartney.

Mr. Eccles thanked the Herbert Hoover PTO. Mr. Eccles stated that televising the meetings is an accomplishment. Mr. Eccles further noted that this Board has voted to place the high school issue in the voter's hands. It is now up to the public to decide whether the District incurs \$97M worth of debt. Mr. Eccles hopes that all individuals recognize the significance of that and there is nothing that this Board can do at this point and time. The decision will take place on April 27th.

Adjournment

Mr. Eccles moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Bowman seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Eccles adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Anita E. Walls
Board Secretary