

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC WORK SESSION MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
January 12, 2016

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public work session on January 12, 2016, in the District Offices Board Room at the Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Scott E. Congdon, President
Ms. Irene Boyle, Vice President
Mr. Bob Feather
Ms. Tina Hollenbach
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. Stephen Pirritano
Mr. Robert Sanna
Mr. Marty Sullivan

ADMINISTRATORS:

Gloria Hancock, Ed. D.
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Mr. Don Harm
Mr. Anthony Devlin
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger
Mr. Paul Meehan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

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

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: John Torrente, Esquire

1. Call to Order

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

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

3. Announcements

None

4. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Hancock advised the Board on the Following:

- Maple Point Middle School 8th-grade student Kezia Joseph was honored with a third place win in the annual Patriot's Pen essay contest sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6393 in Yardley.
- Mr. Ryan Brennan from Reynolds Construction gave a presentation on the construction project.
- Kezia Joseph read her winning essay.
- Mr. Paul Meehan gave a Comprehensive Plan presentation.
- Mr. Paul Meehan gave a report on the Sub Proposal.

5. Public Comment

Angie Manning, resident of Middletown, teacher in New Jersey, asked for the Board's assistance in finding a place for the Girl Scout Troops to meet and also a resolution so the troops won't be broken up into separate troops when Neshaminy gets redistricted.

Matthew Arlene, resident of Middletown, Police Officer, requested that the Board consider cancelling the school trips to Morocco and Paris due to the ongoing threat of terrorism.

Staci O'Brien voiced her disapproval of the closing of Heckman Elementary School.

Steve Rodos, Villages of Flowers Mill, retired, stated that he would be interested in serving on the Strategic Comprehensive Plan Committee. Mr. Rodos suggested that the pay rate for substitute teachers be raised in order to keep quality substitutes coming back to Neshaminy.

6. Items for Discussion

a) Results of parent survey regarding school sponsored overnight trips abroad.

Dr. Hancock advised the Board on the parent survey for the trips abroad.

Mr. Congdon made a motion to cancel all trips abroad and to start looking for alternative places within the United States.

Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion by a vote of 9 ayes, and 0 nays.

7. Items for Approval at the January 26th Public Board Meeting

a) School Director Recognition Month

b) 2016 - 2017 School Calendar

c) Approval of the 2016 - 2017 Preliminary Budget

Mr. Congdon stated that items a, b, and c, will be agenda items at the January 26th, Public Board Meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a) Board Policies

Ms. Boyle advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 27th, at 6:30 p.m.

b) Educational Development

Ms. Boyle informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 13th, at 6:30 p.m.

c) Finance/Facilities

Mr. Congdon advised the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 25th, at 6:30 p.m.

d) IU Board

Ms. Boyle informed the Board that the next meeting is scheduled for January 19th.

e) Education Foundation

Mr. Rudy informed the Board that at the last meeting the Grants totaled \$10,500.

f) Technical School

Mr. Rudy advised the Board that the last meeting was the Reorganization Meeting, and Mr. Lewis from Bensalem is President. They were also awarded a grant in the amount of \$1.2 million over the next three years for Stem and Steam Programs.

g) Technology

Mr. Feather advised the Board that the date of the next meeting has not yet been set.

h) Facilities Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Pirritano announced to the Board that the next meeting has not yet been set.

i) Legislative

Ms. Boyle stated to the Board that the next meeting has not yet been set.

9. Public Comment

Rita Bakshi, Langhorne, voiced her disappointment about the abroad trips being cancelled. Ms. Bakshi asked Dr. Hancock if there are any students from the community that attend Oliver Heckman through the IU. She also stated that there would not be enough room in the new Tawanka School to accommodate students from Ferderbar and Lower Southampton Schools. Ms. Bakshi expressed concern over the fact that some residents do not think security vestibules are necessary.

Allie, resident of Langhorne, stated that she does not understand any situation that would require students to be on the school bus for an hour or more in the Neshaminy District.

Steve Rodos, Villages of Flower Mills, retired, asked if the new budget will include funds to upgrade Oliver Heckman Elementary School if the school should be kept open. Mr. Rodos stated this would require a substantial increase in taxes for the residents of Neshaminy.

10. Future Topics

None

11. Board Comment

Mr. Pirritano said he will be happy to look into the matter of making the schools more accessible to the Girl Scout Troops. He thanked Kezia Joseph for her outstanding essay.

Mr. Rudy said that any repairs that would be needed at Oliver Heckman Elementary School, should the school be kept open, would not necessarily have to be done within the year. He said the school poses no safety concerns and any repairs could be done as needed.

Mr. Congdon thanked Kezia for reading her excellent essay. He also stated that the cancellation of the overseas trip is certainly a disappointment, but the safety of the children is of the utmost importance.

Dr. Hancock said that all clubs are charged for the use of Neshaminy facilities, which helps to defray custodial/maintenance costs, etc. She also stated that there are students from the community that attend Oliver Heckman through the IU. Dr. Hancock concluded by saying that she takes the Board's direction very seriously and all school trips will be researched thoroughly for in-country locations for safety reasons.

12 Adjournment of Meeting

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Hollenbach seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary