

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
October 28, 2014

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on October 28, 2014, in the Harry M. Dengler, Jr. Performing Arts Center at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

Mr. Scott Congdon, President  
Ms. Irene Boyle, Vice President  
Mr. John Allen  
Mrs. Susan Cummings  
Mr. Mike Morris  
Mr. Stephen Pirritano  
Mr. Ron Rudy  
Mr. Mark Shubin  
Mr. Anthony Sposato

**ADMINISTRATORS:**

Mr. Robert L. Copeland  
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz  
Dr. Gloria Hancock  
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger  
Mr. Anthony Devlin  
Mr. Don Harm

**BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:**

**OTHERS:** Approximately 300 persons from the public, staff and press

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Jennifer Burns

**SOLICITOR:** Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire  
John Torrente, Esquire

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**Call to Order**

Mr. Congdon called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Announcements**

None

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Copeland advised the Board on the following:

- 8th grade students from Maple Point are hosting their Annual Veteran's Day Program on November 7th, at 11:30 am.
- Program evaluation using the Bucks County IU involving the AE program.

**Public Comment**

Kevin Gallagher, IT analyst, resident of Middletown Township, thanked the Board for their time and service. Mr. Gallagher remarked that there are varied views on the subject of school consolidation and the 5-8th grade model and everyone has their own opinion; however, there are some undisputed truths, which are that the future expenses will only grow and the consolidation will help to lessen some of the burden.

Isabella Capecci and Jared Preston, students of Maple Point Middle School announced that the school is hosting the Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on Friday, November 7, 2014. Registration and refreshments begin at 11:00 a.m. and the program starts at 11:30 a.m. All veterans interested in attending can register in the main office at Maple Point.

Bob Krayter, Neshaminy teacher, resident of Langhorne, voiced his opposition to the consolidation project and moving 5th grade to middle school. He asked the Board to reconsider their vote.

Angie Manning, New Jersey teacher, resident of Langhorne, thanked the Neshaminy High School students for the "pink out" event at a recent football game. Ms. Manning stated that many educators have come forward to declare that moving 5th grade to middle school is counterproductive for the students. She pleaded with the Board to reconsider their decision.

Michele McIntyre, school psychologist, resident of Levittown, remarked that she would like to know more details about the 5-8th grade model, particularly what is meant by "retain the elementary experience for the fifth grade." She asked the work study group to go back to the table and work out the details more thoroughly.

Robert Sanna, resident of Levittown, voiced his opposition to the consolidation project and moving 5th grade to middle school. Mr. Sanna noted the age difference between 5th graders and 8th graders stating that at that age 3 years is a big difference.

Reita Bakshi, resident of Langhorne, said that the discussion on school consolidation has been occurring for many years. She said the future of education is not attached to buildings and Neshaminy needs to add to the curriculum on all grade levels. She said the district has to move forward now with the decision.

Raina Shoemaker, resident of Langhorne, said history shows that declined enrollment has necessitated closing some Neshaminy schools in the past. She stated that the consolidation and moving 5th grade to middle school is a good idea and it needs to be implemented now.

Mark Fiore, realtor, resident of Middletown Township, commented that enrollment will consistently fluctuate from time to time. He said the logical solution would be to move 9th grade back to middle school instead of moving 5th grade forward.

Matt Wilitary, resident of Levittown, said that there are numerous studies that show that 5th grade students thrive better socially and academically in the elementary school environment than in the middle school environment. He stated that these facts were omitted from the 5-8th grade model presentation that was offered.

Jennifer Wilitary, resident of Levittown, remarked that studies from across the nation showing it is detrimental to students to place 5th graders in middle school were disregarded by the 5-8th grade work study group. She declared that the facts are well documented and easy to access and this is not an option that Neshaminy should even be considering.

Jeannette McVeigh, resident of Levittown, mentioned that the decision seems to be too rushed. She asked the Board to take more time to consider this decision and inform the public what contingency plans are in place.

Dara DeMari, resident of Levittown, stated that the rush to the decision about the consolidation plan and 5-8 grade model is astonishing to her and she wonders if there is a hidden agenda regarding the decision.

Greg Millward, software architect, resident of Langhorne Borough, said that most of the parents throughout the Neshaminy district stand united against the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model. He said that he has seen examples of consolidation savings not being realized across the country. Mr. Millward asked the Board to delay voting on this issue and reconsider the consequences.

Jessica Millward, resident of Langhorne Borough, thanked the Board for their time and service. Furthermore, she asked the Board to take more time to study the matter of consolidation and moving 5th grade to middle school for the sake of the better educational and social welfare of the children.

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Kathleen Hoffman, resident of Levittown, voiced her opposition to the school consolidation and 5-8th grade school model.

Angela Clark, resident of Langhorne, voiced her opposition to the school consolidation and 5-8th grade school model.

Tim Sauritch, Neshaminy teacher, said moving 5th grade to middle school does not make any sense, so the better solution would be to move the 9th grade back to middle school. He stated that the plan being considered defies common sense, so it should be stopped.

Ed Kern, retired educator and school superintendent, resident of Levittown, said that the public has not been shown any empirical data that the proposed plan is the right thing to do. He said with the absence of that data, the plan should not go forward.

Doug Suessegger, resident of Levittown, remarked that middle school students are more likely to be exposed to hate crimes, violent crimes, weapons, drugs and cyber bullying than elementary students. He said the Board has been entrusted with administering the needs of the students of the district and he implored them to do their due diligence and vote no for consolidation and 5-8th grade school model.

Tina Hollenbach, resident of Feasterville, said that while she has reservations about the consolidation and 5-8th grade model, she thinks it is a plan that must be considered. She said the children should be given every opportunity academically and to do nothing would be wrong. She said if the plan is done correctly it can work.

Howard Lindner, retired, resident of Langhorne, stated his disagreement with the Board's proposal to move 5th grade to middle school. He said that this decision is wrong and the Board should listen to what the people want.

Mr. Morris made a motion to extend the first public comment, but not to exceed one half hour.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

Steve Rodos, retired, resident of Villages of Flowers Mills, said that all the thoughts, views, and opinions on the subject have been heard and it is time for the Board to vote on the matter. Mr. Rodos remarked that the Instructional Assistants in the classroom are invaluable to students and teachers and he asked the Board to avoid any future outsourcing of these positions.

Michele Palmer, retired, resident of Levittown, voiced her opposition to the consolidation plan and moving 5th grade to middle school. She asked if the plan can be delayed until a future date.

Karen Lowry, resident of Feasterville, commented that 5th graders have more in common with 4th graders than 8th graders. She expressed her opposition to the 5-8th grade school model and voiced the reasons why she feels the model does not work. Ms. Lowry asked Mr. Copeland why the 5-8th grade model seems to follow him to whatever district he is employed.

Mr. Copeland answered that in several of the former school districts where he was employed he did have some experience working with the 5-8th grade models; however, it certainly does not "follow" him. In the most recent districts where he was employed that was not the configuration that was used. He further stated that he would not recommend a model that was not a valid approach educationally.

Stacy Kirsch, resident of Langhorne, said that 5th graders will be negatively impacted emotionally, socially and intellectually if put in the middle schools. She said there are serious issues in the middle schools that need to be fixed first before considering moving 5th grade up to middle school.

Deb Harker, resident of Middletown Township, thanked the members of the 5-8th model study group for their time and efforts. She said that she supports the consolidation plan and moving 5th grade to middle school. She said there are many different grade configurations and who is to say which one/s are best. Ms. Harker remarked that it is the job of parents and educators to allay the fears of the students during the transition. She said that the plan will allow for a better educational experience.

Tara Huber, Neshaminy High School teacher, resident of Huntingdon Valley, asked the Board to not dismiss the valuable input of parents and teachers in considering moving 5th grade to middle school. Ms. Huber said the 5th grade students need time to mature cognitively, emotionally and socially before transitioning into middle school. She also extended the NFT's support for the members of NESPA saying they are invaluable to the district and do not deserve to be outsourced to the highest bidders.

Della Jenkins, Neshaminy employee, advocated the resolution for more high quality pre-school in the Neshaminy District and across the state. She urged the Board to pass the resolution.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of September 23, and October 14, 2014. Upon motion of Mr. Rudy and seconded by Mrs. Cummings the Board approved the minutes of the September 23, and October 14, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes, by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention, (Mr. Morris). Mr. Morris abstained due to the fact that he was not in attendance for the entire meeting.

#### **Approval of Treasurer's Report, Check Register, and Exonerations of Personal and Per Capita Tax**

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following for approval:

- September, 2014 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – September, 2014
- Investments
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for September, 2014

Ms. Boyle moved the September, 2014 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for September, 2014, the Investment report, and the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for September, 2014. Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

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

#### **Certified and Support Personnel Actions**

Mr. Copeland presented the following for approval: (See Attached Report.)

- Elections – Certified Personnel
- Resignations and Leaves of Absence – Certified Personnel
- Elections – Support Personnel
- Sabbatical Leaves – Certified Personnel
- Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report

Mr. Copeland recommended the approval of the Personnel Report for Certified and Support Personnel and the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report.

Mrs. Cummings moved the Certified and Support Personnel actions and the Extra Curricular Staff and Salary Report be approved and Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

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

Mr. Congdon read the following statement:

The Ad Hoc Committee and the Educational Developmental Committee of the Board of School Directors have held public meetings to review and to obtain public comment on whether or not to approve the holding a hearing on Act 34 for the New Tawanka Elementary School and whether or not to implement the 5 through 8 middle school grade level configuration.

The Board of School Directors have not received a formal recommendation from either the Ad Hoc Committee or the Educational Development Committee, so I am, at this time, going to ask each member of the respective committees to report to and provide the Board of School Directors with their recommendation on the proposals of the Act 34 Hearing for the New Tawanka Elementary School and for the 5 through 8 middle school grade level configuration.

Mr. Congdon asked the Educational Development Committee members for their recommendation for the 5 through 8 middle school grade level configuration, 2 ayes, (Mr. Shubin and Mr. Sposato), and 1 nay, (Ms. Boyle.)

Mr. Congdon asked the Ad Hoc Committee members for their recommendation for the proposal of the Act 34 Hearing for the New Tawanka Elementary School, 2 ayes, (Mr. Pirritano and Mr. Sposato), and 1 nay, (Mr. Rudy.)

Mr. Morris asked if any Sunshine Law was violated.

Mr. Profy and Ms. Boyle stated that there were no violations of the Sunshine Law, because the committee members indicated their vote at tonight's meeting.

Mr. Shubin made a motion to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Neshaminy Board of School Directors and the Neshaminy Educational Support Association, PSEA and NEA, for 2014 - 2018.

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin thanked Mindy Anderson and her team for their cooperation and professionalism during the negotiations.

Mr. Morris thanked Mr. Shubin and the support staff for their hard work.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated the motion passed by a vote 8, ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Morris, Mr. Rudy, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and 1 nay, (Ms. Boyle.)

**Motion: American Education Week**

Mr. Rudy presented the following motion:

AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

November 17 - 21, 2014

WHEREAS, public schools are the backbone of our democracy, providing young people with the tools they need to maintain our nation's precious values of freedom, civility, and equality; and,

WHEREAS, by equipping young Americans with both practical skills and broader intellectual abilities, public schools give them hope for, and access to, a productive future; and,

WHEREAS, public education employees, be they substitute educators, custodians, teachers, bus drivers or librarians, work tirelessly to serve our children and communities with care and professionalism; and,

WHEREAS, public schools are community catalysts, bringing together adults and children, educators and volunteers, business leaders and elected officials in a common enterprise;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors hereby proclaims November 17 - 21, 2014, as the 93rd annual observance of American Education Week.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

**Motion: Implementation of the 5th - 8th Middle School Grade Level Configuration**

Mr. Shubin presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to provide for overall economic efficiencies, the Board Educational Development Committee has reviewed options as presented by administration,

WHEREAS, the Board Educational Development Committee has held meetings to discuss the options for the implementation of the 5-8 middle school grade level configuration, and

WHEREAS, after review by the Board Educational Development Committee, the District is ready to recommend the implementation of the 5-8 middle school grade level configuration.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approves the implementation of the 5-8 middle school grade level configuration as recommended by the Board Educational Development Committee.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of 6, ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and 3 nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Rudy.)

**Motion: Support of High Quality Pre-K for Pennsylvania**

Mr. Sposato presented the following motion:

Whereas, the School Board of Directors, are aware respected research shows that children who have had access to high-quality Pre-K perform well in school and further in life, and

Whereas, more children are enrolling in Kindergarten in need of extra assistance and preparation that is often difficult for school districts to provide and which may be avoided with greater access to high quality Pre-K

Whereas, research conducted in Pennsylvania finds that increased access to Pre-K can decrease the rate of special education placements by nearly fifty percent through the second grade, and

Whereas, an increasing number of our region's families are finding it difficult to meet the costs of high-quality Pre-K, which can frequently exceed spending on rent or mortgage, or college tuition, and

Whereas, childcare centers, nursery schools and pre-k centers do not uniformly have the capacity or resources to offer high quality Pre-K programs.

Therefore, be it resolved, that:

We, the Neshaminy School Board of Directors, support the adoption of state policies that ensure every three and four year old child in Pennsylvania can access high-quality Pre-K and as a result will more likely be ready for kindergarten, as well as academic and lifelong success.

Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

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

**Motion: Approval of Revised Board Policies 226, 326, 426, and 325**

Ms. Boyle read the following motion:

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

WHEREAS, recommended policies meet the requirements of Federal Law; and

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

Revised Policies 226, 326 and 426 – Leave for Long Term Illness

Revised Policy 325 – Medical Examination Requirements

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the revised Policies as recommended by the School Board Policies Committee.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

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

**Motion: Revised PlanCon A, and PlanCon B for the New Tawanka Elementary School**

Mr. Profy read the following motion:

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby approves and adopts the revised PlanCon A and PlanCon B forms for the New Tawanka Elementary School as prepared by Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs its administrative staff, Solicitor and Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. to submit the revised PlanCon A and PlanCon B forms to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and to do and perform or cause to be done and performed on behalf of the School District any and all action or things as may be necessary in connection with the revised PlanCon A and PlanCon B forms for the New Tawanka Elementary School Project in order to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

The proper officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents and do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for the execution and carrying out of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION adopted this 28th day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott E. Congdon, Board President

Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept the Revised PlanCon A, and PlanCon B for the New Tawanka Elementary School.

Mr. Allen seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of 6, ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and 3 nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Rudy.)

**Motion: Amended District Wide Facility Study**

Mr. Profy read the following motion:

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby approves and adopts the annexed Amendment to District-Wide Facility Study for Neshaminy School District dated October 23, 2014, and prepared by Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs its administrative staff, Solicitor and Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. to submit the Amendment to District-Wide Facility Study to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and to do and perform or cause to be done and performed on behalf of the School District any and all action or things as may be necessary in connection with the Amendment to District-Wide Facility Study in order to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

The proper officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents and do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for the execution and carrying out of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION adopted this 28th day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott E. Congdon, Board President

Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept the Amended District Wide Facility Study.



Mr. Pirritano seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked for clarification.

Mr. Scott Mallen, with Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc., indicated that the report that was presented was an updated report with more specific data.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of 6, ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and 3 nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Rudy.)

**Motion: New Tawanka Elementary School Educational Specifications**

Mr. Profy read the following motion:

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby approves and adopts the annexed Neshaminy School District New Tawanka Elementary School Educational Specifications dated October 26, 2014, and prepared by Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs its administrative staff, Solicitor and Spiezle Architectural Group, Inc. to submit the New Tawanka Elementary School Educational Specifications to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and to do and perform or cause to be done and performed on behalf of the School District any and all action or things as may be necessary in connection with the New Tawanka Elementary School Project in order to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

The proper officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents and do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for the execution and carrying out of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION adopted this 28th day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott E. Congdon, Board President

Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept the New Tawanka Elementary School Educational Specifications.

Mr. Sposato seconded the motion.

Mr. Morris asked why there is a difference in the maximum construction cost of \$34 million and the maximum building construction cost of \$27 million.

Mr. Mallen explained that the lower cost of \$27 million is a basic cost of the building, furniture, and fees. The higher cost of \$34 million includes the total cost plus financing.

Mr. Shubin asked are these costs defined as "not to exceed" numbers.

Damien Spar with Reynolds Construction stated that what is being decided tonight is to acknowledge that the formula set by the state and through the Pennsylvania Department of Education that they understand what the maximum costs would be.

Mr. Morris requested to receive a copy of the blueprints from the architects.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of 6, ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and 3 nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Rudy.)

**Motion: Act 34 Hearing New Tawanka Elementary School Hearing**

Mr. Profy read the following motion:

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby adopts for the New Tawanka Elementary School Project ("Project") a maximum project cost of \$34,117,261 and a maximum building construction cost of \$27,264,141 for the construction of the New Tawanka Elementary School, Lower Southampton Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

The Board of Directors of the Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs a public hearing to be held at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time on December 4, 2014, and if needed, at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time on December 5, 2014 at the Theodore Kloos Auditorium of the Neshaminy High School, 2001 Old Lincoln Highway, Langhorne, Pennsylvania 19047 to provide information to the residents and taxpayers of the School District with respect to the Project, and to solicit comments relative to the Project.

The Secretary of the School District is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of such public hearing to be published once in the Bucks County Courier Times, such publication to appear on or before November 13, 2014, and to be in the form attached.

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs that a Description of the Project be prepared and made available to the public not later than November 13, 2014, and that such description be mailed to the news media for release no later than November 13, 2014.

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs its Administrative Staff, Solicitor, Independent Financial Advisor, Architect and Construction Manager to do and perform, or cause to be done and performed on behalf of the School District, any and all acts and things as may be necessary in connection with the Project in order to carry out the purposes of the act of this Resolution.

The proper officers of the School District are hereby authorized and directed to execute any and all documents and to do and cause to be done any and all acts and things necessary or proper for the execution or carrying out of this Resolution.

The Board of School Directors of Neshaminy School District hereby authorizes and directs the proper officers of the School District to submit to the Pennsylvania Department of Education (the "Department") a certified copy of this Resolution, together with a copy of the minutes or transcript of the aforementioned public hearing, a proof of publication of the notice thereof and a complete description of the Project, all as required by Act 34 of 1973 of the Pennsylvania General Assembly, as well as any other documents required by the Department in connection therewith.

RESOLUTION adopted this 28<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2014.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott E. Congdon, Board President

Mr. Congdon made a motion to accept Act 34 Hearing, New Tawanka Elementary School Hearing.

Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Congdon called for a roll call vote and the tally indicated the motion passed by a vote of 6, ayes, (Mr. Allen, Mr. Congdon, Mrs. Cummings, Mr. Pirritano, Mr. Shubin, and Mr. Sposato) and 3 nays, (Ms. Boyle, Mr. Morris, and Mr. Rudy.)

**Federal Programs**

Mrs. Markowitz advised the Board that the total amount of Federal Grants is \$90,940.00.

**Other Board Business**

None

**Public Comment**

Jim Kates, resident of Feasterville, recommended to the Board that goals and objectives for the school superintendent should be put into practice, because everyone should be accountable.

Mark Fiore, resident of Middletown Township, reiterated that the projected savings costs for the consolidation project are incorrect. He stated that the project will end up costing the district more money instead of realizing a savings.

Gene Sonn, resident of Langhorne Borough, said that we are facing a \$100 million project over 23 years when all the interest is taken into consideration. He questioned why the Board is reluctant to put the issue to a vote from the public saying that it appears they do not have confidence in their own plan. Mr. Sonn said he is astonished how the Board can disregard the wishes of the majority of the public.

Dara DeMari, resident of Levittown, voiced her disappointment in the vote to approve the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model. She vowed that the public will not abandon their struggle to fight against this plan.

Raina Shoemaker, resident of Langhorne, asked Mr. Morris what kind of experience his children had attending Herbert Hoover Elementary School since it is a large school similar in size to what the new school will be.

Mr. Morris replied that they had a positive experience at Herbert Hoover, but he noted that Hoover is a community school and it is still a K-5 school model.

Michele McIntyre, resident of Levittown, asked the Board to explain what plan will be followed - a Cadillac plan or bargain basement plan. She further questioned how many teachers will her 5th grader have next year in the middle school.

Heather Walter, resident of Langhorne, said she is disheartened by the outcome of the Board meeting. Ms. Walter said her family is seriously considering moving out of the Neshaminy district because of the turmoil. She urged the Board to listen to the public.

Karen Lowry, resident of Feasterville, voiced her disappointment in the approval to move forward with the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model.

Howard Lindner, resident of Langhorne, said it is now time to put emotions aside and put their trust in the administration. He also advised the public to work together to change the Board to their liking.

Joanna McGee, resident of Langhorne Borough, voiced her opposition and disappointment in the approval to move forward with the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model.

John McGee, resident of Langhorne Borough, voiced his opposition and disappointment in the approval to move forward with the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model. He also voiced his concern with the audit report from Reynolds on the 3 schools marked for closure.

Nicole Schultz, resident of Levittown, said that outsourcing is very inefficient and she urged the public to oppose it.

Richard Eisenacher, resident of Middletown Township, said 5th graders are not ready to go to middle school. He also inquired if there is a contingency plan if enrollment declines because parents are unhappy with the 5-8th grade model.

Rich Geiger, resident of Levittown, asked what are the plans for the 3 buildings that are designated for closure.

John Lackey, resident of Langhorne, expressed his dismay why the Board is against a referendum. Mr. Lackey voiced his opposition and disappointment in the approval to move forward with the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model.

Tara Huber, President of NFT, resident of Huntingdon Valley, offered the cooperation and assistance of the NFT's executive board to help make the transition for the students as efficient and unproblematic as possible.

Karen Sorillo, therapist, resident of Levittown, asked for an accounting of how the students will be dispersed when the 3 schools are closed. She also thanked the teachers of Samuel Everitt for their caring and devotion to the students.

Drew Russo, resident of Levittown, voiced his opposition and disappointment in the approval to move forward with the consolidation plan and the 5-8th grade model.

Diane Byer, resident of Middletown Township, said it is time for parents, community members and Board members to lead by example so Neshaminy can move forward to be an excellent school district.

Deb Harker, resident of Middletown Township, thanked the president of the NFT for the offer to assist with the transition. She said she believes that the students will adapt and everything will work out as we move forward.

#### **Board Comment**

Mr. Rudy noted that it is a very small group from the public that supported the consolidation plan and 5-8th grade model. He said in his opinion the decision was rushed and not enough consideration was given to this serious matter. Mr. Rudy said he thinks the \$9 million that they already have plus a smaller loan should be used to repair and renovate the school buildings and not build a new school. However, he said any mention of the former plan that was proposed under Mr. Webb was flatly rejected leading him to believe that building a new school was the main objective from the start.

Mrs. Cummings said that Neshaminy closures have been considered since 2001 to save money.

Mr. Rudy countered that no action was seriously considered after the McKissick report came out in 2007. He said that due to the teacher's contract dispute any discussions for consolidation were suspended. Then the Ad Hoc committee was formed in 2011 and even then it was not voted on until recently.

Mr. Morris declared that he feels that closing the 3 schools is the wrong action and moving 5th graders to middle schools is also wrong. He said he is still in favor of a referendum. Mr. Morris apologized to Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick that his letter was not read in its entirety during public comment at the last Board Meeting. (Note: The 3 minute time limit was expired and the letter reading was completed in the second public comment session.) Mr. Morris advised anyone interested in becoming a Board member to see him for assistance. He asked Mr. Profy if Mr. Copeland's revised contract agreement has been signed.

Mr. Profy replied that the terms and conditions have been agreed upon and will be signed on November 5, 2014.

Mrs. Cummings reiterated that a referendum would only include the bond issue.

Mr. Morris expressed his dissatisfaction that the public was not afforded the chance to vote on an issue that is so important to them.

Mrs. Cummings wanted it to be made clear that school closings would not be part of a referendum.

Mr. Profy confirmed that a referendum is a direct vote to accept or reject the electoral debt for a project. He stated that there is no statutory provision for a referendum for school closures.

Ms. Boyle noted that referendums are not binding, so regardless of the outcome, the matter can still come to pass.

Mr. Pirritano thanked the NESPA union for working together with the negotiating team. Mr. Pirritano confirmed that the McKissick study came out in 2007 and then the Strategic Planning committee conducted another study in 2009 chaired by Dr. Rattigan and the Ad Hoc committee was formed in 2011. He explained that the main thing is that the district needs to borrow money and it comes down to the question of what plan to choose to solve the problems. Mr. Pirritano said he empathizes with the public's emotions; however, he truly feels that consolidation is the most efficient way for the district to go.

Mr. Allen acknowledged that he appreciates everyone's disappointment and frustration; however, he voted for the plan because he honestly thinks it is the best plan. He thanked the negotiating team and the NESPA union for coming together and achieving an agreement.

Mr. Shubin said he has a child in 4th grade that will be directly affected by the 5-8th grade model and he has high hopes for the plan. He agrees that the administration should be accountable for their performance as should everyone. Mr. Shubin thanked the president of the NFT for her offer of assistance. He said the Board will do their very best to insure that the children of Neshaminy get the best education possible.

Mr. Copeland emphasized that the administration works closely with the teachers. He said that teachers who are devoted, passionate and committed will be directly involved as the district moves forward with the new plan. Mr. Copeland reiterated that factors such as the expertise of particular teachers and the academic needs will determine the framework of the teaching teams in middle school. Mr. Copeland stressed that it is more important to be judicious in funding programs rather than putting money into a program without being fiscally responsible.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Congdon moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Sposato seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Congdon adjourned the meeting at 10:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns  
Board Secretary

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**ELECTIONS OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL**

**DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: October 28, 2014**

**TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**FROM: MR. ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent**

**CODE: R - Resignation S - Sabbatical**  
**L - Leaves O - Other**  
**M - Maternity T - Transfer**  
**A - Adoption SL - Sick Leave**

**CONTRACT POSITION**

NAME	REPLACING	NUMBERED CONSIDERED	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	2014/15 ANNUAL SALARY*
1. Aubrey, Kimberly	D. Howie (R)	2 (Pool)	English 7-12 Communications 7-12	M.Ed., in Literacy Ed., Arcadia BS in English, Penn State	3 Yrs. LTS English, High School 5 Mos. Abington & Tredyffrin Sub List	.6 English, High School  (Was LTS)	10/29/2014	\$33,611
2 Huber, Melissa	K. Meade (R)	3	Certified School Nurse K-12	MS in Nursing, Holy Family BS in Nursing, Thomas Jefferson Univ..	12 Yrs. Clinical Work Exp., Aria Hospital, Frankford Torresdale Sub List, Bristol Township & Centennial SD	.7 Nurse, Buck	10/29/2014	\$38,717

## LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE POSITIONS

NAME	REPLACING	NUMBERED CONSIDERED	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	2014/15 ANNUAL SALARY*
1. Belmonte, Ashley  (also .6 Contract)	L. Devine (M)	1	Special Education Elementary	MS in Elem./Spec. Ed., St. Joseph's Univ. BS Elem., St. Joseph's Univ.	1 Yr. Special Ed., High School 3.2 Yrs. LTS Elem/Special Ed. Miller, MP, HS	.4 Special Ed., High School	11/03/2014  (earlier if required)	\$24,506
2. Calebaugh, Brooke	K. Cridland (SL)	5	Elementary	M in Education, Gratz College BS in Elementary, Temple Univ.	3 Yrs. LTS Elem., Various Elem. Schools 3.2 Yrs. Nesh. Sub List	Grade 2, Schweitzer	10/29/2014	\$62,743
3. Hibbard, Hans- Ethan	J. Hurd (M)	3	Music K-12	BS in Music Ed., Chestnut Hill College	1 month Bldg. Sub, Mastery Charter School	Music, Miller, Hoover & Sandburg	10/29/2014	\$44,248
4. Kenney, Kathleen  (also .6 Contract)	D. Palmer (T)	Recalled	H&PE	MS in Ed. Admin., Gwynedd Mercy BS in Phys. Ed., College of New Jersey	5 Mos. LTS H&PE, 5 ½ Yrs. H&PE, Maple Point, HS	.4 H&PE, High School	10/29/2014	\$33,238
5. McGee, Walter	C. Hoyas (SL)	4	Elementary Special Ed.	MS in Education, Holy Family BS in Elem. Ed., West Chester	5 Mos. LTS Spec. Ed., S4T 1 Yr. S4T Sub List	Special Ed., Buck	10/29/2014	\$55,310



## LONG TERM SUBSTITUTE POSITIONS

NAME	REPLACING	NUMBERED CONSIDERED	PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATION	EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION	PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	TEACHING ASSIGNMENT/SCHOOL	EFFECTIVE DATE	2014/15 ANNUAL SALARY*
6. Yost, Jamie	L. Devine (M)	5	Elementary Special Ed.	BS in Elem. & Special Ed., E. Stroudsburg Univ.	3 Yrs. Inst. Asst., Lower Moreland SD 1 Yr. Job Coach, IU #22, Doylestown	.6 Special Ed., High School	11/01/2014 (earlier if required.)	\$26,548 (.6)

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**LEAVES OF ABSENCE OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL    DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: October 28, 2014**

**TO:            NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**FROM:       MR. ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent**

**CODE:       R - Resignation    S - Sabbatical**  
**L - Leaves            O - Other**  
**M - Maternity       T – Transfer**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>GRADE OR SUBJECT ASSIGNED</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>REASON GIVEN</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE AT NESHAMINY</b>
1. Chantry, Renay	Special Ed., Maple Point	M	Maternity	2/09/15	13 Years
2. Erb, Jill	Cafeteria Mgr., Maple Point	L	Medical	10/06/14	23 Years
3. Howie, Jennifer	A/E, Maple Point	L	Medical	10/02/14	11 Years
4. Hoyas, Corinne	Special Ed., Buck	L	Medical	9/11/14	10 Years
5. Jaouen, Sally	Special Ed., High School	O	Injury on Job	9/08/14	6 Years
6. Punturiero, Barbara	Special Ed., Maple Point	M	Maternity	2/02/15	3 Years

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**RETURNING FROM LEAVES OF ABSENCE/  
SABBATICALS OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL**

**DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD:** October 28, 2014

**TO:** NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** MR. ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

**CODE:** R - Resignation S - Sabbatical  
L - Leaves O - Other  
M - Maternity T - Transfer

**RETURNING FROM LEAVES OF ABSENCE/SABBATICALS**

NAME	GRADE OR SUBJECT ASSIGNED	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
1. Marquis, Megan	Special Ed., Schweitzer	Illness	10/20/2014

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**SABBATICAL LEAVES OF CERTIFIED PERSONNEL    DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD: October 28, 2014**

**TO:            NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS**  
**FROM:       Mr. ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent**

**CODE:       R - Resignation    S - Sabbatical**  
**L - Leaves            O - Other**  
**M - Maternity       T – Transfer**

NAME	GRADE OR SUBJECT ASSIGNED	CODE	REASON GIVEN	EFFECTIVE DATE	SERVICE AT NESHAMINY
1. Jaouen, Sally	Special Ed., High School	S	Sabbatical	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	6 Yrs. (+6 Yrs. Twin Valley SD)
2. Konowal, Stephen	Physics, High School	S	Sabbatical	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester	14 Years
3. Maguire, Kathryn	2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade, Hoover	S	Sabbatical	2 <sup>nd</sup> Semester (14/15) 1 <sup>st</sup> Semester (15/16)	10 Years

# NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Langhorne, Pennsylvania

## ELECTIONS OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL

DATE PRESENTED TO BOARD October 28, 2014

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, Superintendent

CODE: F - Full Time	A - Apprentice
P - Part Time	G - Grandfathered
T - Transfer	R - Resignation
S - Sick Leave	O - Other

*(Note: Rates are subject to change based on Contract)*

### SUPPORT STAFF

#### New Hire

NAME	NUMBER CONSIDERED	REPLACING	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	EFFECTIVE DATE	HOURLY RATE	DAYS/ HOURS
1. Davenport, LaRhonda	5	K. Hartley	To: Dishwasher Heckman	P/A	TBD	\$13.64	2.5/182
2. Doster, Timothy	10	K. Hartley (2 <sup>nd</sup> Position)	To: Cleaner High School	P/A	TBD	\$15.15	4/255
3. Ocasio, Christine	6	K. Kline	To: Dining Room Aide Maple Point	P/A	10/29/2014	\$13.92	2.5/189
4. Sauer, Roseann	6	C. Wesley	To: Dining Room Aide Maple Point	P/A	10/29/2014	\$13.92	2.5/189
5. Tweedie, Denise	5	D. Danieluk	To: Dishwasher Lower South	P/A	10/29/2014	\$13.64	3/182
6. Vince Powell	10	R. Kaufmann	From: Cleaner/Miller To: Custodian Hoover	P/A F/A	10/29/2014	\$15.15 \$17.07	5.75/255 8/258
7. Zimmerman, Denise	10	D. Lawrence	From: Dining Room Aide/HS To: Building Aide High School	P/G P/G	10/29/2014	\$20.23 \$20.23	3.5/191 5.75/195

### SUPPORT STAFF

#### Long-Term Substitute

NAME	NUMBER CONSIDERED	REPLACING	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	EFFECTIVE DATE	HOURLY RATE	DAYS/ HOURS
1. Haney, Judy	10	B. Crooks	To: Cleaner Hoover	P/A	TBD	\$15.15	4/255
2. Kuneck, Ryan	10	C. Wood	To: Cleaner Hoover	P/A	TBD	\$15.15	4/255
3. Slavitt, Marc	10	R. VonClef	From: Cleaner Sandburg To: Custodian High School	P/A F/A	10/29/2014	\$15.15 \$17.07	5.75/255 8/258

**SUPPORT STAFF SUBSTITUTE**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>NUMBER CONSIDERED</b>	<b>REPLACING</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>CODE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>	<b>HOURLY RATE</b>	<b>ANNUAL SALARY</b>	<b>DAYS/ HOURS</b>
1. Amante, Amor			To: Neshaminy Aquatics		10/29/2014	\$9.00		
2. Crohe, Edward			To: Health Aide Sub		TBD	\$18.50		
3. Falk, Ariel			To: Neshaminy Aquatics		10/29/2014	\$9.00		
4. Faughnan, Kathryn			To: Health Aide Sub		TBD	\$18.50		
5. Robidoux, Skylar			To: Neshaminy Aquatics		10/29/2014	\$9.00		
6. Simcox, Shannon			To: Neshaminy Aquatics		10/29/2014	\$9.00		
7. Wiley, Jessica			To: Neshaminy Aquatics		10/29/2014	\$9.00		

RC/la  
9/23/3014

**NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Langhorne, Pennsylvania**

**Support Retirements, Leaves, Resignations**

**DATE PRESENTED TO THE BOARD: October 28, 2014**

TO: NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS  
FROM: ROBERT COPELAND, SUPERINTENDENT

CODE:	F - Full-Time	A - Apprentice
	P - Part-Time	G - Grandfathered
	T - Transfer	R - Resignation
	S - Sick Leave	O - Other

NAME	ASSIGNMENT	CODE	REASON GIVEN	EFFECTIVE DATE	SERVICE AT NESHAMINY
1. Ferretti, Joy	Instructional Assistant	R	Decline Position	9/30/2014	
2. Kroker, Ryan	Computer Lab Aide	R	Resignation	10/31/2014	2 Months
3. Lynch, Ken	Playground Aide	R	Declined Position	9/30/2014	
4. Messina, Dawn	Playground Aide	R	Resignation	10/16/2014	1 Year
5. Milke, Jean	Secretary	R	Retirement	1/2/2015	28 Years
6. Morrone, Karen	Food Service Porter	R	Resignation	10/3/2014	1 Week

# 2014/2015 School Year

October 28, 2014

Code: E-Certified or Support Employee

N- Coach Only

NAME	CODE	Location	Assignment	Season	Salary
<b>Appointments</b>					
Foor, Marcia	E	PMS	Musical Assistant #1	Y	\$1,539.00
Force, Jennifer	E	PMS	Musical Assistant #2	Y	\$1,539.00
Gross, Elliott	N	MP	Football - 110 LB (2/3 of season)	F	\$1,557.00
Hutchinson, Kristy	N	MP	Basketball - 7th Grade Girls	W	\$2,335.00
Kirsch, Helen	E	Schweitzer	Orchestra Program	Y	\$855.00
Krangel, Cara	E	Sandburg	Yearbook Assistant	Y	\$1,195.00
Norton, Joseph	E	Sandburg	Field Hockey - 7th Grade	F	\$2,335.00
Oksyuk, Anna	E	PMS	Orchestra Director	Y	\$2,810.00
O'Neill, Sean	E	Schweitzer	Band Program	Y	\$855.00
O'Neill, Sean	E	Buck	Band Program	Y	\$855.00
Pecuch, James	E	PMS	Wrestling Assistant	W	\$2,335.00
Pecuch, James	E	PMS	Baseball 7th Grade	S	\$2,335.00
Pulak, MaryEllen	E	Schweitzer	Safety Patrol	Y	\$468.00
Reardon, Thomas	N	MP	Wrestling Assistant	W	\$2,335.00
Rodos, Jeffrey	E	Buck	Safety Patrol	Y	\$468.00
Sophy, Giuliana	E	Everitt	Safety Patrol	Y	\$468.00
Stankevich, Eleanor	E	Miller	Safety Patrol	Y	\$468.00
Stoverschlegel, David	E	Schweitzer	Choral Director	Y	\$241.00
Sutin, Marianne	E	Buck	Choral Director	Y	\$241.00
Tanicello, Andrew	E	Buck	Orchestra Program	Y	\$855.00
Wiatrowski, Michelle	N	Sandburg	Assistant Choral Director - Full	Y	\$1,405.00
Wiatrowski, Michelle	N	PMS	Assistant Choral Director	Y	\$1,405.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$28,899.00</b>
<b>Resignations/Terminations</b>					
Matika, Amanda	N	Sandburg	Field Hockey - 7th Grade	F	\$2,335.00
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$2,335.00</b>