

NESHAMINY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langhorne, Pennsylvania

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NESHAMINY BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
April 23, 2013

The Neshaminy Board of School Directors met in public session on April 23, 2013, in the District Offices Board Room at Maple Point Middle School. The following persons were in attendance:

BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Ritchie Webb, President
Mr. Scott Congdon, Vice President
Ms. Irene Boyle
Mrs. Susan Cummings
Mr. Kim Koutsouradis
Mr. Mike Morris
Mr. William Oettinger
Mr. Mark Shubin
Mr. Anthony Sposato

ADMINISTRATORS:

Mr. Robert L. Copeland
Dr. Jacqueline Rattigan
Mrs. Barbara Markowitz
Dr. Geeta Heble
Mrs. Theresa Hinterberger
Mr. Anthony Devlin

BOARD MEMBER ABSENT:

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

SECRETARY: Mrs. Jennifer Burns

SOLICITOR: Thomas J. Profy, III, Esquire

Mr. Webb announced that prior to the meeting an Executive Session was held where negotiation and personnel issues were discussed.

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Announcements

None

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Copland advised the Board on the following:

- Five Neshaminy High School Students competed at the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center Fair.
- Dance fundraiser Saturday, April 27th, at Neshaminy High School.
- Ferderbar Elementary School and Poquessing Middle School take part in "Bubbles for Autism."
- Senior Citizens Tax Assistance Program.
- Update on budget.

Public Comment

Ed Kern, retired, Levittown, read an explanation of building code mandates according to the District Facilities Five Year Plan. Mr. Kern questioned what the District intends to do with the schools that will be closed in the consolidation project. He expressed his concern that the consolidation project will split the community and not benefit the entire population. He stated that only a fraction of the Neshaminy District will benefit from the new super school and asked what provisions will be considered for the remaining members of the district. Mr. Kern suggested that resources be used to upgrade technology, improve security, bring all buildings up to code and introduce new educational programs.

Angie Manning, New Jersey public school teacher, Langhorne, remarked that 4 educators have advised the Board that building a new super school is not a wise decision. She stated that the Board members need to get out and talk with the community about this matter and they will then realize what the community really wants.

Mindy Anderson, elementary school secretary and President of NESPA, Levittown, offered a rebuttal statement to comments and articles, which placed the blame on the Neshaminy Educational School Professional Association (NESPA) for the graduation date of Neshaminy. Ms. Anderson stated that this school year NESPA never received any contact from the Board or Administration regarding the change of the spring break holiday. Ms. Anderson said the NESPA would have gladly taken the necessary steps to accommodate the change had they been properly notified.

Cecelia Ridge, school bus driver, Levittown, said that the Neshaminy School bus drivers are willing to donate accrued sick days to help a fellow employee who is fighting a serious illness. Ms. Ridge asked the Board to find a way to support this request.

Dot LaBorde, school bus driver, Feasterville, requested that the Board consider allowing the bus drivers to help their sick co-worker by donating their sick days to her.

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville, said he hopes that a policy, which addresses the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU), will be discussed in order to avoid any recurrence in the future of unreasonable side agreements that cost the district millions of dollars. Mr. Pirritano also said he would like to see Policy 105 resolved. He mentioned that he feels the community has been well advised about the decisions made regarding the consolidation project and he thinks it should go forward without further delay.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Burns presented the minutes of March 18, 2013. Upon motion of Mr. Morris and seconded by Mrs. Cummings the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the March 18, 2013, Board Meeting Minutes.

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

Mrs. Markowitz presented the following for approval:

- March, 2013 Treasurer's Report, subject to audit
- Check Register – March, 2013
- Personal and per capita tax exonerations for March, 2013
- Investment Summary
- Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy) 13 - 4

Bid No. 14-12

Bid Amount: \$174,900.00

Bid Description: Masonry repairs to the facade of Maple Point Middle School. This project was budgeted at \$275,000.00.

Bid No. 14-13

Bid Amount: \$91,132.80

Bid Description: Repaving of Maintenance Garage, Transportation Garage and Bus Driver parking areas which includes 9,494 SY on High School Campus. This project was budgeted at \$120,000.00.

Mr. Shubin moved the March, 2013 Treasurer's Report be approved, subject to audit, Check Register for March, 2013, Investment Summary, the Personal and Per Capita Tax Exonerations for March, 2013, the Budget Transfer Report (Working Copy)- 13 - 4, and Bid No. 14 - 12, and Bid No. 14-13 be approved. Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said reports.

Certified and Support Personnel Actions

Mr. Copeland presented the following for approval:

- 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.

Mr. Shubin moved the certified and support personnel actions be approved and Mr. Congdon seconded the motion.

The Board approved said reports by a vote of 8 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 abstention, (Mr. Morris abstained for the reason of the \$27,500 retirement incentive bonus and believes that money in turn should go back to the children.)

Motion: New Master Agreement and E-Signature Pilot with the PA Department of Education

Mr. Webb presented the following motion:

BE IT RESOLVED, by authority of the Board of School Directors of the Neshaminy School District, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that Mr. Robert L. Copeland, who is the Superintendent of the above named body is authorized and directed to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s)) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department's e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Neshaminy School District to comply with the terms of said contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will notify the Department's Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer's authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

President

Board Secretary

Ritchie Webb, President

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

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I, Jennifer Burns, Secretary, of Neshaminy Board of School Directors do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors, held the ____ day of _____, 20__.

Dated: _____

Signature

Jennifer Burns, Board Secretary

TO BE EXECUTED BY AUTHORIZED OFFICER:

As the person authorized to sign on behalf of the above named body, I agree that I shall not provide any other person with my e-grants password or otherwise authorize any other individual to affix my electronic signature to any agreement with the Department.

Dated: _____

Signature

Robert L. Copeland, Superintendent of Schools
Neshaminy School District

Mrs. Cummings seconded the motion.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Motion: Revised Summer Programs 2013

Ms. Boyle presented the following motion:

WHEREAS, in order to provide Neshaminy students with an opportunity to get a head start on next year's course work, to strengthen foundational skills to build future success and to avoid summer learning loss, the Neshaminy School District is ready to recommend:

2013 Neshaminy JumpStart, a high quality summer enrichment experience with a focus on math and science. The following courses will be offered:

Everyday Writing, Prep for Success in AP Physics, AP Biology, AP English, AP Psychology, Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Biology, Chemistry and Physics

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Neshaminy Board of School Directors approve the revision of Summer Programs 2013, by including the 2013 Neshaminy JumpStart program as recommended by the Superintendent.

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Mr. Shubin seconded the motion.

Mr. Shubin asked if there are any plans to recruit members.

Mr. Copeland stated that once this motion is approved the high school will begin recruiting students. He also stated that the program is open to all students and it is provided without cost to the student.

The Board unanimously approved said motion.

Solicitor's Report

Mr. Profy recommended adopting the approval of the Architectural Services Contract between the School District and Spiegle Architectural Group for the new Tawanka Elementary School project.

Upon motion made by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mrs. Cummings the Board of School Directors approved the Architectural Services Contract bearing draft date April 22, 2013, between the School District and Spiegle Architectural Group for the new Tawanka Elementary School subject to incorporation into the Contract, the modifications dated April 1, 2013 proposed by the School District Solicitor and the Intellectual Property Rights Commitment of the Architect dated April 22, 2013.

The Board President and Secretary are authorized and directed to sign the Contract upon approval of the District Solicitor of the form of the Contract with the aforesaid modifications and Intellectual Property Rights Commitment incorporated into the Contract.

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

Mr. Profy recommended the Business Administrator Contract between the School District and Barbara Markowitz dated April 23, 2013.

Mr. Oettinger made a motion to approve the Business Administrator Contract between the School District and Barbara Markowitz dated April 23, 2013, and Ms. Boyle seconded the motion.

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

Federal Programs

Mr. Copeland advised the Board that the total amount of the 2012 - 13 Active Federal Programs and Grant Allocations to date is \$1,691,082.00.

Other Board Business

None

Public Comment

Almando Carrasquillo, retired State Trooper, Middletown Township, asked the Board to comment on why the members of NESPA would not be able to donate their accrued sick days to a fellow member who is in need due to a serious illness.

Jack Connolly, Vice President of NESPA, stated that Neshaminy is a family and the support staff really would like the opportunity to help out a fellow employee by donating sick days. He asked Mr. Webb to sit down with NESPA to work out a solution. Mr. Connolly also clarified that this matter does not have anything to do with the NFT contract.

Steve Rodos, retired, Villages of Flowers Mill, asked why a check was written to MaST Charter School. He said it is his understanding that first priority is given to Philadelphia students and he wondered why Neshaminy students would be attending MaST. Mr. Rodos commended Mr. Copeland on his excellent presentation to the

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Facilities and Finance Committee. Mr. Rodos asked the Board not to change the graduation date in the future out of respect to the education of the students.

Stephen Pirritano, self-employed, Feasterville, said he was very impressed by Mr. Copeland's presentation to the Facilities and Finance Committee and said the entire presentation should be given at a Public Board Meeting in the near future. Mr. Pirritano also said he would like to see something worked out for the bus driver who needs additional sick days, but he cautioned that it should be done as a business matter to avoid any side deal as that has caused problems in the past.

Board Comment

Mr. Congdon remarked that he noticed a significant price difference from the highest bid and the one chosen for the consolidation project and wondered if all things have been carefully reviewed. He said he sincerely wishes that the NFT would take a vote from the entire membership to settle the contract issue.

Mr. Shubin thanked those community members who have come out to attend the Facilities and Finance Committee meeting. He stated the presentation by Mr. Copeland and staff shows that the district is heading in the right direction for improvement.

Mrs. Cummings asked Mr. Copeland if there will be a meeting for the full-day kindergarten plan.

Mr. Copeland said that a report will be forthcoming from the task force and a meeting of the Education Committee will be held on May 13, 2013, which will include parents, teachers and administrators.

Mr. Morris said that although MaST Charter School does not presently have a charter within Neshaminy, they hope to in the future.

Ms. Boyle clarified that Mr. Rodos was asking for an accounting of the check on the check register that was written to MaST Charter School.

Mr. Copeland explained that there could be a variety of reasons why a student from the Neshaminy District may attend a charter school out of the district.

Mr. Morris stated that a lottery system is used for charter school enrollment, so it is founded on a first come, first serve basis.

Mr. Webb said the members of the Board would be very willing to attend a PTO meeting whenever they are invited. He also stated that the Board is not against the NESPA members donating accrued sick time to a fellow employee, but it is a matter of figuring out how to administer it.

Adjournment

Mr. Webb moved the meeting be adjourned and Mr. Congdon seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Mr. Webb adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Burns
Board Secretary