

The Conference Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Board Room, 375 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, February 13, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. with Mr. Sam P. Battaglia, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mr. Battaglia read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), proper notice of this Conference Meeting was provided in the Annual Notice of May 2, 1994. Said Notice was:

1. Posted at the entrance of the Board Office.
2. Mailed to The Nutley Sun, the Star Ledger, the North Jersey Herald & News and the Nutley Journal.
3. Mailed to the Nutley Township Clerk."

CALL OF ROLL:

The members present at roll call were: Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Mrs. Aileen Hresko, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo, Mrs. Maria Russo and Mr. Sam P. Battaglia. Late: Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel (7:36 p.m.). Absent: Mr. Charles J. Piro.

1. Dr. Fadule reported on a request from the Essex County Freeholders to hold a public meeting at Franklin School on March 9 for the purpose of a public meeting on the privatizing of county golf courses.

Mrs. Hresko moved that the Board approve said use of Franklin School, seconded by Mr. Kucinski and unanimously approved by the Board.

2. Dr. Fadule then introduced Mrs. Kathleen Serafino, the Chairperson of the Computer Curriculum Committee who then proceeded to give the Committee's report.

Mrs. Serafino began by reviewing what had taken place thus far during the Saturday curriculum sessions.

Mrs. Scheckel entered

Mrs. Serafino highlighted what is done in the district at the present time with computers and reviewed the philosophy and goals of the Committee.

Mrs. Hresko wanted to know what exists at each elementary school at the present time. Mrs. Serafino noted that two schools have computer labs, and every class now has at least one computer. The types of computers being utilized in the elementary schools are Apple IIE's, Apple IIGS' and a limited number of Macintosh. The Macintosh computers are now found in all elementary libraries, and all have CD-ROM capability.

Mrs. Hresko asked if the laboratory approach was a better concept than computers in individual classrooms. Mrs. Serafino felt that the best approach was several computers in each room so that they would be integrated in the classroom curriculum as a learning tool.

Mr. Kucinski commented that he liked the idea of our getting involved with Internet. Mrs. Russo expressed her concern about the integration of computers as opposed to having a separate computer subject. She also wanted to know what students would be graded on, and Mrs. Serafino noted that it would depend on what subject the use of the computer impacted upon.

Mrs. Scheckel asked how students who do not have computers at home could do homework, and Mrs. Serafino noted that that was not an expectation, however, many students were submitting projects and assignments using their home computer.

Mrs. Scheckel wanted to know if we had all the software listed in the Committee's report, to which Mrs. Serafino responded in the affirmative.

Mrs. Serafino then presented the recommendations of the Committee (attached). She noted that if the number of computers in each room became a reality, the idea of labs would not be a necessity. She also said that staff development was a top priority, particularly during the summer when teachers were not busy with the responsibilities of their regular instruction.

Mr. Pelaia wanted to know if grant money was available, and Mrs. Serafino responded that there might be some available grants but often we did not find out about them until it was too late. She noted that Radcliffe School was receiving a \$1,000 grant through Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Mrs. Scheckel wanted to know if most of our teachers were comfortable with computers. Mrs. Serafino felt they were and mentioned what the district does in orientating new staff members.

Mrs. Scheckel also asked about the proposed stipend increase, and Mrs. Serafino noted it implied that the Network person would be spending more time on computer responsibilities.

Mrs. Hresko noted that she had recently visited the high school library and was very impressed with what is being done there under the supervision of Mrs. Tropiano. She felt that the recommendations would be very difficult to meet in light of the financial requirements and wondered what would be the minimum requirements.

Mr. Battaglia thanked the Committee for its presentation and asked Mrs. Serafino to introduce the members of her Committee. Mrs. Serafino then introduced the Committee members who were present and asked them to stand and be recognized.

Dr. Fadule thanked Mrs. Serafino and her Committee for the fine work and presentation.

Mrs. Hresko moved that the Board approve the Curriculum Committee report, not including the recommendations, seconded by Mr. Kucinski and unanimously approved by the Board.

2. Mr. Sincaglia reviewed recent changes in the proposed 1995-96 school budget. He highlighted changes in state information and Budget Committee reductions which came to a net spending reduction of \$283,658. He and Mr. Kucinski explained the Committee's recommendations for revenue changes, in particular, the increase in use of Surplus from \$400,000 to \$525,000 and the use of the unexpended Capital Projects fund to be used for Debt Service. This, along with a small additional amount of state aid, amounted to new revenue of \$236,439.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed the status of the appropriations and noted that the increase in the budget was now set at 2.5% from the 1994-95 school year. In reviewing the various main areas of the budget, Mr. Sincaglia noted that there was nothing that jumped out at you since, with a 2-1/2% increase, all the numbers showed relatively small increases or decreases. Capital Outlay and summer school were showing a decrease from the current year.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed the state aid information and pointed out that the district was receiving the lowest amount of state aid since the 1986-87 school year. He explained that that the district would be receiving an additional \$60,000

due to the fact that the state did not consider us to have excessive administrative costs and that even though the total state aid amount was less than 1994-95, it was not entirely unexpected. He pointed out that transition aid represents a future problem for the district.

The next item reviewed was the budget cap, and Mr. Sincaglia explained to the Board that we were now nearly \$350,000 below what the state would permit as a maximum budget. He and Mr. Kucinski noted that this was the greatest amount we had ever been under the budget cap as far as we knew.

Mr. Sincaglia then reviewed the revenues and noted that the school taxes in the General Fund were increasing by something over \$900,000 but that in Debt Service they were decreasing from approximately \$264,000 to \$89,000.

In response to a question from Mr. Rusignuolo, Mr. Sincaglia explained what our surplus status was and that it was well below what the state considered excessive and also pointed out the kinds of things the Board has utilized surplus for in the past.

Dr. Fadule noted that the Budget Review Committee had suggested that there be an explanation of the proposed tentative budget at the Conference Meeting on February 27 with an item on the regular agenda approving the adoption so that it could be submitted to the County Superintendent. He also noted that we were recommending the date of April 3 for the formal Public Hearing.

3. Mr. Battaglia asked if everyone had read the information that came from the Waterford Board of Education and if the Board desired to take any action. There was some discussion about this, and Mr. Pelaia agreed to investigate the matter further and bring information back to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

On a motion made by Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Pelaia, the meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

  
Secretary

2/15/95  
Date

## ***Recommendations to Nutley Board of Education***

Submitted by  
Computer Curriculum Committee

1. Two to four Macintoshes in each elementary classroom
2. Modem in each classroom
3. Macintosh lab in each elementary school
4. Two Macintosh labs in Franklin Middle School
5. Automation of card catalogs in each school (books, audio-visual materials and computer software)
6. Development of CD-ROM collection in each school as part of audio-visual budget
7. Controlled access to Internet through networking available to classrooms and community
8. Full time computer instructional specialist
9. Increased stipend (\$2,500) and scheduled released time for elementary network person
10. Summer staff development