

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, November 10, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. with Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mr. Rusignuolo 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 April 28, 1997. 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: Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Vincent Moscaritola, Mr. Franklin J. Patterson, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr., Mrs. Maria Russo, Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr., Mr. Louis F. Williams and Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo.

1. Dr. Votto introduced Mrs. Kathleen Serafino, Director of Computer Services, who presented the report of the Technology Implementation Committee. Recommendations of the Committee were reviewed as was the scope and sequence of the curriculum.

Mr. Williams made comments about where we had been and where we planned to go in the future. Mrs. Serafino then introduced Gene Murphy and Wendy Divine from ProMedia, Inc. who presented the proposal for the school district's network infrastructure.

Mr. Murphy showed a short video presentation and exhibited various components of what would be used in the network. Mr. Murphy and Ms. Divine responded to questions from Board members about the proposed network infrastructure.

Following their presentation Mr. Rusignuolo recessed the meeting at 9:05 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:12 p.m.

Dr. Votto indicated that the technology report would be formally adopted by the Board at the regular November meeting.

Mrs. Russo asked how would we evaluate what is actually going on with respect to the implementation. In other words, how do we know that our students know how to use the technology.

Dr. Votto indicated that, while we don't assess that part of it, it is infused throughout the curriculum.

Mrs. Fleitell felt that the Committee's report noted what children should do and seemed to make sure that the children can use the technology that is required. After considerable additional discussion it was suggested that the Academic Committee look into the matter of determining student proficiency with technology.

Mr. Schweikert asked questions relating to some of the job descriptions in the Committee's report. Mr. Williams noted that, with respect to new staffing, it was his and the Committee's feeling that the network manager job was the most important.

Mr. Pelaia said that he thought that perhaps the Personnel Committee should look into the staffing recommendations.

2. Dr. Votto noted that the Board would be honoring All-State music award winners at the next regular meeting.
3. Mr. Moscaritola commented on the Facilities meeting that had been held earlier this evening which reviewed room utilization in the elementary and middle schools and also discussed what should be done in the senior court yard at the high school as well as the fence on Franklin Avenue.

It was determined that we should receive a list from Mr. Cocchiola as to what exactly was desired in the court yard so the Board could move forward.

With respect to enrollment, Mr. Moscaritola indicated that the Committee felt we should go back to the company that did our last long range plan in 1995 and see if we can get a new projection to extend for five years from now.

Mr. Moscaritola brought up a new item dealing with the Municipal Alliance which had paid for uniforms for a winter color guard program. However, the amount of money available to the Municipal Alliance was insufficient to cover the whole cost and he was seeking the Board's willingness to pay the balance of the uniform cost. Mrs. Fleitell noted that the idea of a winter color guard was unsanctioned by the Board and had not been approved by the Board and, further, that it had been specifically rejected.

Mr. Moscaritola moved that the Board pay the balance of the uniform cost, seconded by Mr. Pelaia.

Mrs. Russo felt it was not appropriate for the Board to take such an action. Mr. Patterson felt that the Board's payment would be very similar to the Board helping out Project Graduation with the bus cost. There was further discussion about this matter and Mr. Schweikert asked Mr. Moscaritola if he would be willing to withdraw his motion and Mr. Moscaritola indicated that he would do so. Mr. Schweikert then moved to create a winter color guard program.

Dr. Votto noted that there was no information being presented to the Board at this time about a program and if a program was to be considered, it should be reviewed by the Athletic Committee.

Mrs. Fleitell commented that the consideration of an item that the Board has specifically determined not to endorse was a bad precedent.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that Board representatives to clubs are representatives of the Board, not representatives of the club.

Mr. Moscaritola commented that he brought the item up openly and had not made any commitment to the Music Boosters and, further, that the Band Director, principal and Music Coordinator had been involved in the discussion.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that requests must be taken through proper channels. Dr. Votto commented that this was the first time that anything was said about uniforms and the Board assuming the cost thereof. Mr. Restaino said if the Board could, we should approve both winter color guard and freshman girls' softball. Mrs. Russo said the administration should make it clear to various booster groups that requests for new programs must be made prior to the initiation of any new projects.

Mr. Williams said that we should send such a notice to all groups and Mr. Rusignuolo said that perhaps Mr. Sincaglia could draft a letter to that effect.

4. Mrs. Russo asked if children are allowed to ride bikes to schools. Dr. Votto said that it was discouraged. A question was asked if students would be able to lock a bike to a fence.
5. Mr. Restaino brought up the request of the Franklin PTO to erect a sign on the front lawn. The sign that the PTO would like to propose is not in conformance with the local ordinances and the PTO was requesting that the Board apply to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a variance. Mr. Restaino said he was not sure the Zoning Board would approve such a request. There was discussion on the concept of whether or not the Board should be seeking a variance.

Mr. Restaino moved that the Board seek a variance for the Franklin PTO sign subject to receipt of additional information regarding sign specifications (4' x 5'), seconded by Mr. Schweikert. On a roll call vote the resolution was adopted with Mrs. Russo voting "no."

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Rusignuolo asked Mr. Sincaglia to read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education will be discussing matters exempt from public discussion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12,

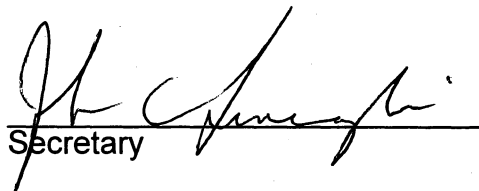
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adjourn to closed executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the results of the discussions will be made public by inclusion on the agenda of a subsequent meeting of the Board of Education, or when the reasons for discussing such matters in closed session no longer exist.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Restaino and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.


Secretary

12/2/97
Date