

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 Thursday, January 22, 1998 at 6:00 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 Notice of January 16, 1998. 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, Mrs. Maria Russo, Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr., Mr. Louis F. Williams and Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo. Late: Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. (6:04).

1. Mr. Rusignuolo explained that the purpose of tonight's Conference Meeting was for the Board to discuss the selection process for the next Superintendent of Schools. He noted that the Board had invited representatives of the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) who would be making a presentation about this process.

Mr. Restaino entered

He then introduced Janet Lobsenz, JoAnn Borin and Marie Bilik. Ms. Lobsenz noted that the next appointment needed to be made by the incoming Board; however, due to the time the process usually takes, it was important that we begin rather quickly. She noted that there is no reciprocity with other states for Superintendent certification and that all candidates must meet the Department of Education requirements by possessing the proper certificate or certificate of eligibility. All candidates must meet current criteria.

She noted that this tended to limit the pool of any out-of-state applicants. She noted that it was necessary for the Board to have an up-to-date job description. She indicated that the prospective pool of applicants has dropped tremendously over the years and the Board would likely anticipate between 40-50 applicants for this position.

Ms. Lobsenz indicated that the Board would likely want the community involved in the process. Ms. Borin noted that the Board would be involved and could be involved at other stages because Board members know the district best. She also noted that in the NJSBA application process everything was criteria based.

Ms. Borin and Ms. Lobsenz reviewed the process used by the NJSBA, indicating some recent locations where it was under way or recently concluded and discussed fees. They also discussed the Board's need to establish parameters for an employment contract for the Superintendent.

Following the NJSBA presentation and questions from various Board members, Mr. Rusignuolo called for a recess at 7:22 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 7:27 p.m.

2. Mr. Rusignuolo asked Board members for their reaction to the presentation by the NJSBA. Mr. Pelaia noted that there were certain legal issues that had been addressed of which he was previously unaware and he wanted time to consider the ramifications of same.

Mrs. Russo asked how the Board thought we would move ahead in the process, specifically, how will the Board go about making decisions regarding what it is they will actually be doing.

Mr. Restaino noted that he would like some more time to review the information presented this evening but ultimately wanted the Board to be able to focus on who the best person might be. He also noted there was a need to quickly come up with language for an advertisement.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted there would be a need for the Board to meet again to consider what the next step would be.

Mrs. Fleitell asked if the Board was prepared to do this ourselves and if that was really a desirable idea.

Mr. Williams said he thought that the number of prospective applicants did not appear to be an unmanageable number for the Board to handle.

Mr. Pelaia said the Board must be ready to set the necessary time aside for this process.

Mr. Rusignuolo said that some things that had been said tonight were, in his opinion, what he had previously suggested as to the use of a steering committee which would meet with a subcommittee of the Board to narrow the focus of the search for the rest of the Board.

Mrs. Russo asked doesn't the whole Board want to be involved in this process? She stated that she thought that this matter had been resolved at the previous Conference Meeting and wanted to know when will we move on from here?

Mr. Rusignuolo said all Board members can fully participate but noted that some people will be busy with other responsibilities.

Mr. Schweikert said the number of applicants will be much smaller than some people had been led to believe and he said there was no need for a steering committee. Mr. Schweikert said for the record, "I am against such an idea."

Mr. Williams said that he thought the Board had made it clear that the process was to be a committee of the whole and said he did not appreciate reading about things that had been resolved in the paper and that the comments made did not represent the viewpoint of the Board.

Mrs. Fleitell said that this is one reason why we need to consider the use of the NJSBA in that it offered the best chance of confidentiality.

Mr. Schweikert said he was concerned about the confidentiality of the process and that all persons on the Board be informed at the same time.

Mr. Williams felt that confidentiality could be achieved through use of a post office box and a secretary.

Mr. Pelaia said that since the pool of candidates appeared to be much smaller than previously anticipated, the magnitude of the project was clearly reduced.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that in his former district the Board had utilized a consultant but that there were many ways the Board could determine how they wanted to be involved in the process which might include some aspects of what the NJSBA was suggesting.

Mr. Moscaritola said that there appeared to be three positions for the Board:

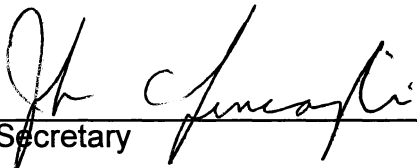
1. The use of NJSBA
2. The Board controlling the entire process or
3. Someone else to manage the process

Mr. Rusignuolo inquired about the Board coming in early at the Conference Meeting on January 26 but Mr. Sincaglia noted that would not be permissible since there would not be time to legally advertise the earlier meeting.

Mr. Sincaglia further noted, however, that the Board would be able to discuss this matter under New Business since it is the last item on the agenda at the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Mr. Pelaia, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved by the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

  
Secretary

1/26/98  
Date