

February 23, 1998

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 23, 1998 at 6:30 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 Notice of February 13, 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. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr., Mrs. Maria Russo, Mr. Louis F. Williams and Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo. Absent: Mr. Vincent Moscaritola, Mr. Franklin J. Patterson and Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr.

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 recess 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 Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board.

RECESS MEETING:

The meeting recessed at 6:31 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 6:51 p.m. with Mr. Moscaritola and Mr. Schweikert present at this time.

1. Dr. Votto announced that the school report cards would be going out in the very near future.

Mrs. Fleitell wanted to know if there had been a mistake in the rankings shown in the Star Ledger and Dr. Votto indicated there indeed had been shown an incorrect HSPT score which we had previously noted.

Mrs. Russo thought it would be worthwhile knowing if there has been any impact on our SAT scores since the Board now pays for the PSAT tests.

Dr. Votto wanted the Board to be mindful of the fact that the information in the press showed that 90% of our students take the SAT which inevitably results in lowering the overall average.

2. Dr. Votto remarked to the Board that he was working on the 1998-99 calendar and indicated that the basic question would be do we start on September 1 or September 8 given that Labor Day is September 7.

Mr. Pelaia asked if there was any reason why we couldn't have school start on Thursday, September 3. There was a short discussion about when parent conferences should be held.

Mrs. Russo remarked that an earlier start might impact on those people who had shore houses. Dr. Votto noted that he would have the calendar to the Board for their review by the March 9 Conference Meeting.

3. Dr. Votto noted that the ABC's History Fair had been switched to March 21.
4. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned that the Lincoln School PTO was planning to have a circus on the school grounds on Tuesday, June 2 wherein two performances were being scheduled. The first performance would occur during school time and the second would possibly be around 5 in the evening.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that he had some concerns as to the impact of the second show on the neighborhood. He also indicated that he had asked for additional clarification from the PTO which he had not yet received. Additionally, he pointed out that there were permit issues with the Nutley Code Enforcement Department that had to be resolved.

There was additional discussion about this activity. Mr. Moscaritola indicated he would advise the contact person to get in touch with Mr. Sincaglia as soon as possible.

5. Mr. Williams, Chairperson of the Budget Review Committee, reported on the tentative budget for 1998-99. He noted that the budget would be increasing by 1.85% and would create a 1998 tax increase of no more than seven points. He noted that the Special Education aid represented the majority of the state aid we were receiving and felt that the state's contribution on core curriculum aid is very inadequate.


Mrs. Russo commented that there was no inclusion in the budget for an additional soccer coach. Mr. Schweikert said that the Athletic Committee had reviewed this and did not feel it was appropriate.

Mrs. Russo asked about the job description for the computer network technician and felt that the minimum education requirement of a high school diploma was inadequate.

There were various questions on the budget to which Mr. Sinaglia and Mr. Williams responded. Mr. Williams indicated that it was the unanimous recommendation of the Budget Review Committee to adopt the budget. He further noted that if the Board approved the addendum item dealing with the budget adoption, then the Board could also vote to cancel the Special Meeting that had been scheduled for February 24.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Mr. Moscaritola, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board, the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.


Secretary

3/4/98
Date