

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, March 9, 1998 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. Louis F. Williams and Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo. Late: Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr. (7:33 p.m.).

1. Dr. Votto introduced George Ackerman, Industrial Arts Department Head, who presented the proposed textbook, Small Gas Engines.

Mr. Schweikert entered during this presentation

There were questions and comments from Mr. Pelaia, Mrs. Fleitell and Mrs. Russo.

Mrs. Fleitell moved that this item be placed on the agenda at the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved by the Board.

2. Dr. Votto then introduced Dianne DeRosa, Language Arts Coordinator, who presented the proposed textbook, Speech for Effective Communication.

Questions were asked by Mr. Pelaia and Mrs. Russo.

Mrs. Russo moved that this item be placed on the agenda at the regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Williams and unanimously approved by the Board.

3. Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that Marie Bilik from the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA) was here and needed to make a brief report to the Board and also discuss some aspects related to the selection of the new Superintendent of Schools.

Mrs. Bilik indicated they had received 37 resumes. Mrs. Bilik noted that of the 37, 36 were generated from the Star Ledger. She reported on the recent input meetings with the staff and community.

Mrs. Bilik noted that NJSBA was in need of a district contact person from this point on and thought the appropriate person would be a confidential secretary of the district. There was some discussion about how this would be arranged. There was also discussion about how the Board would review the applications and arrange the first round of interviews. It was determined that the Board would schedule three meetings at which time applications would be reviewed. These were as follows: March 31 - 6:00 p.m.; April 1 - 4:30 p.m.; April 4 - 10:00 a.m.

There was discussion about how these meetings would be advertised, to which Mr. Sincaglia indicated that he felt that all the Board needed to do would be to approve these dates at the next public meeting; however, he would contact the attorney to be sure of the proper procedure.

Several Board members mentioned the fact that at these scheduled meetings some of the members might be arriving or leaving early depending on schedules. It was noted that the important thing is that the public would be properly advised that all activities would take place in closed session so there would be no reason for any member of the public to attend.

4. Dr. Votto presented two proposed calendars for 1998-99, one of which would require staff and students to report prior to the Labor Day holiday. Dr. Votto said it was his belief that the earlier time would be in the best interests of the students.

There was discussion about this and several Board members indicated the need to think about this before coming to a decision.

It was agreed that this matter would be considered as an addendum item at the March 23 meeting.

5. Dr. Votto noted that the school report cards would be issued in the near future.
6. Dr. Votto noted that an Athletic Committee meeting was scheduled on Monday, March 16 at 6:30 p.m. to meet with the ice hockey constituents.
7. Mr. Moscaritola indicated he wants to have meetings of the Facilities Committee and the Ad Hoc Residency Committee.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Ad Hoc Residency Committee would meet on March 20 at 4:00 p.m. and the Facilities Committee would meet on March 24 at 4:30 p.m.

8. Mrs. Russo indicated a need for a brief Policy Committee meeting and it was decided that would take place on March 18 at 6:00 p.m.
9. Dr. Votto noted that at the Board meeting on March 23 he would likely ask for a 6:30 p.m. starting time for the Conference Meeting.
10. The issue of the elementary school musicales was discussed. It was noted that the first one was on March 24. Dr. Votto noted that Mr. Sincaglia would have information sheets for Board members who were expected to speak about the school budget.
11. Mr. Sincaglia provided the Board with an update on the revised state aid information. He noted that Nutley received an additional \$662 in Debt Service aid, however, he also noted that we needed to make a correction of \$200 in Debt Service expenditures so the net gain to the district would be \$462.
12. Mr. Sincaglia reported on a request from a group of staff members who wanted to hold a garage sale on the Franklin School playground and indicated to the Board that we have not been approving this type of activity. After a brief discussion it was agreed there would be no approval for this activity.
13. Mr. Patterson indicated that UNICO was seeking a waiver of the rental fee for a recent activity and all Board members indicated that the fee should be waived.
14. Mr. Sincaglia updated the Board on the need to re-submit an amendment to the application for the Perkins Vocational funds for 1997-98 due to the fact that the state had considered Nutley's application. He pointed out that Mrs. Kehayes had revised the application and the Board would be approving this on March 23.
15. Mr. Sincaglia passed out the Facility Maintenance Plan which he indicated needed to be revised on an annual basis. He was hoping that the Board would be able to approve this at the March 23 meeting and reminded them that this was only a plan.
16. Mrs. Russo indicated she wanted the Board to look into grading as far as costs were concerned. She wanted numerical value stated on the transcript with the letter grade being shown as a key. Mrs. Russo said there has never been an explanation why doing this would be detrimental to the students. Dr. Votto noted that this had never been recommended.

Mrs. Russo repeated her comment that she saw no negative aspects of doing this. Dr. Votto said if Mrs. Russo wanted to specifically study this particular item, then the Board could vote to do it.

Mr. Restaino felt we should not be spending any more money investigating this as enough time and money has been spent. He also thought it would be a good idea to put a numerical grade on the transcript.

Mrs. Fleitell said that what was needed was a change in the grade point average value to reflect the more customary way of doing this as far as grading was concerned.

Mr. Rusignuolo said that this was an important matter and perhaps it would be better discussed at a future meeting.

Dr. Votto commented that he resented the idea that money had been wasted by previous committees who looked into the grading.

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 Mrs. Fleitell, seconded by Mr. Patterson and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.


Secretary

3/24/98
Date