

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, May 11, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. with Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, 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 May 4, 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: Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Vincent Moscaritola, Mr. Steven P. Picciano, Mrs. Maria Russo, Mr. Louis F. Williams and Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia. Late: Mr. Alfred R. Restaino (8:07 p.m.). Absent: Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo.

1. Dr. Votto introduced Math Coordinator MaryLou Dowse who presented the proposed K-8 math curriculum. She highlighted changes and the new elements. Mrs. Dowse concluded her presentation by passing out recommendations of the Committee.

Mr. Williams noted he was impressed with the report and particularly with the bringing down of different skills and concepts into lower grades.

Mrs. Fleitell commented that she had had many questions prior to Mrs. Dowse's presentation; however, most of them had been answered. She questioned the idea of when new textbooks would be required and Mrs. Dowse responded not earlier than the 1999-2000 school year.

Mrs. Russo indicated she was impressed with the Committee's work. Mr. Williams asked a question about the current textbooks in use and indicated his willingness to move quickly to purchase new ones. Mrs. Dowse indicated she felt that the textbook issue would require study and she felt there was ample time to do this.

Mrs. Russo noted that she liked the idea of having previously received a mid-year report and, hopefully, we will continue that process.

Mr. Pelaia indicated he was pleased with the report and asked for an informal vote from the Board regarding the report. All members indicated they were in favor.

2. Dr. Votto then introduced Carl Ohlson, Chairman of the K-8 Art Committee who presented the proposed art curriculum. Mr. Ohlson explained the Committee's tasks and work that had been done during the Saturday curriculum sessions. Mr. Ohlson also passed out recommendations of the Committee.

Mrs. Russo asked a question relating to the amount of time students actually spend on creating art work. Mrs. Fleitell mentioned her concern about having an art room in every elementary school. Mr. Picciano asked about the number of computers in the elementary art rooms.

Mr. Pelaia indicated his support of the report and asked for the Board's informal approval. All members indicated they were in favor of the report.

Mr. Restaino entered

3. Dr. Votto introduced Catherine Danchak, Science Coordinator, who presented the proposed science curriculum for grades K-8. Mrs. Danchak reviewed the goals, standards and scope and sequence of the curriculum. She highlighted grade 2 as a typical example.

Mrs. Russo indicated that she thought the Committee's work was well done and asked questions about some of the kits that had been recommended. Mrs. Fleitell asked if enough time was being provided to prepare students for the ESPA tests. Mrs. Danchak said she felt there was.

Mr. Picciano asked a question relating to hands-on activities by students. Mrs. Danchak indicated she thought there should be more of this. Mr. Williams asked if Internet access would help in the curriculum, to which Mrs. Danchak replied yes but noted that that would be somewhat of a supplement to actual hands-on activities. Mr. Restaino commented that he thought the work was well done.

Mr. Pelaia noted that in a recent article about college graduate employment it was noted that science jobs seemed to be near the top of the list. He expressed his thanks to Mrs. Danchak and her Committee and asked the Board for its informal approval. All Board members gave their approval of this report.

RECESS MEETING:

Mr. Pelaia declared a recess at 8:33 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 8:38 p.m.

4. Dr. Votto noted that at the May 26 meeting there would be a large number of award recipients and it was likely that we would have the awards portion of the meeting in the Radcliffe multi-purpose room.
5. Dr. Votto and Mr. Walker noted that we had a few finalists for a history competition but more information was needed about what the next phase of the competition was.
6. Dr. Votto gave the Board an update on the band trip to Toronto particularly with reference to the incident concerning the illness of some of the students on the return trip apparently as a result of a malfunctioning of the bus' exhaust system. He noted that all students had been medically checked at a hospital in New York and all had been cleared for release.
7. Mr. Sincaglia distributed Policy #501/5111, Eligibility of Resident/Nonresident Pupils and accompanying Regulations. There was discussion about this policy and Mr. Pelaia indicated that last year's Ad Hoc committee would continue and have a chance to review. It was indicated that the policy may be placed on the agenda at the May 26 meeting.
8. Mr. Sincaglia reported on his discussions with an architect concerning the division of a classroom at Yantacaw School and a possible use of a currently unused space at Washington School. He indicated that the architect suggested that we proceed with specifications but that we would come back to the Board before any actual construction would take place.

There was discussion concerning the overall facilities situation and the need for the Facilities Committee to once again get involved with the district-wide issue.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

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

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.


Secretary

5/14/98
Date