

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

June 15, 1998

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Board Room, 375 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, June 15, 1998 at 7:37 p.m. with Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Mr. Pelaia read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), proper notice of this Special Meeting was provided on June 11, 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.

"The purpose of this meeting is as follows:

1. To pass a resolution to hold an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.
2. Consideration of appointment(s) to teaching position(s).
3. Consideration of appointment(s) to coaching position(s).
4. Report of Committee on K-12 Music Curriculum.
5. Report of Committee on Transcript/Numeric Grading.

"Formal action may be taken."

ROLL CALL:

The other members present at roll call were: Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Vincent Moscaritola, Mr. Steven P. Picciano, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr., Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo and Mrs. Maria Russo. Absent: Mr. Louis F. Williams. Approximately 20 citizens were present.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Agenda Items Only):

None

RESOLUTION TO RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Moscaritola presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Picciano and unanimously approved by the Board:

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.

RECESS MEETING:

The meeting recessed at 7:41 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 8:27 p.m.

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:

Mr. James Kelly

Mr. Restaino presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Russo. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education appoints Mr. James Kelly as teacher for the 1998/1999 school year effective September 1, 1998 at the annual salary of \$57,841, B.A.-Max 2, in accordance with the 1998/1999 Teachers' Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENT - Athletic:

Mr. James Kelly

Mr. Restaino presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Russo. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. James Kelly as head football coach for the 1998/1999 school year at the salary of \$6,995, Step 4, in accordance with the 1998/1999 Athletic Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENT - Athletic:Mr. James Kelly

Mr. Restaino presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Russo. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mr. James Kelly as assistant softball coach for the 1998/1999 school year at the salary of \$4,122, Step 4, in accordance with the 1998/1999 Athletic Salary Guide.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON K-12 MUSIC CURRICULUM:

Dr. Votto introduced Mr. John Vitkovsky, Coordinator of Music Education, who presented the report of the committee on the K-12 music curriculum. He also presented recommendations.

Mrs. Russo moved that the Board approve the curriculum presentation, seconded by Mr. Restaino, and unanimously approved by the Board.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSCRIPT/NUMERIC GRADING:

Dr. Votto then introduced high school principal Mario Cocchiola who reported on the committee concerning numeric grading on the transcript. Mr. Cocchiola indicated that the committee had been composed of all coordinators and department heads, one teacher from each department, middle school principal, guidance counselor and teacher from the middle school and two Board members who attended the last committee session.

Mr. Cocchiola said his opinion was they didn't think numbers on the transcript were a good idea. He noted that they had not found any other school that has a number-only system. Our computer consultant had been contacted and he said the software could be modified but Mr. Cocchiola thought this could be costly.

Mr. Cocchiola claimed there had not been enough time for the committee to do its work. He also brought up questions about how this might be fitted in with reference to grades that were already on transcripts and how you would go about computing a grade point average if a numerical system was used.

Mrs. Russo noted that her original recommendation was to consider using numbers on the transcript. She noted that a survey of the high school staff showed support for using numbers.

A question was raised as to where was this survey that Mrs. Russo was referring to since it had not been provided to other Board members. Mr. Cocchiola's response was the survey had been provided to the committee members.

Mr. Rusignuolo asked if the recommendation had been to consider numerical grades on report cards and transcripts. Mr. Cocchiola said he was not in favor of doing this on transcripts only.

Mr. Pelaia asked if it was possible to put numerical grades on transcripts. Mr. Cocchiola said it was possible but he did not think it was a good idea to do only that. Mr. Rusignuolo noted that the committee's charge was to deal with the transcript issue.

Mr. Pelaia noted that the Board had a report and now it was up to the Board to determine in which direction it wishes to proceed. Dr. Votto felt that the committee had not come to closure on many implications of this idea; in fact, he noted that the committee had raised more questions than he had originally posed to it.

Mrs. Fleitell felt we should be consistent with grades on the report card and transcript and that there was much significant information here and the committee's work should continue. She felt that more discussion was needed and viewed this as a serious beginning.

Mr. Moscaritola questioned how long would we need to continue this study. Mr. Cocchiola suggested Saturday committee work. Mr. Pelaia asked how long this might take. Mr. Cocchiola thought that perhaps it could be done within one semester.

Mrs. Russo wanted to know could we find a district that does use numerical grading and ask a professional staff member from that district to come and explain how their system works. Dr. Casale felt more study was needed but also stated that he thought we should have both alpha and numerical grades.

Mr. Picciano said he thought that the numerical grade could be a motivator for children to want to move to a higher level. Mr. Rusignuolo said he felt that whether it was numerical or alpha grades, class rank was really the key factor for colleges.

Mrs. Fleitell said that we have often heard the concern that colleges did not look at our "key." She said we have to be sure what it is we want and be honest in what we want to accomplish in what is the best way to grade our students.

Mr. Pelaia noted that many issues have been raised as a result of this report. He felt that the Board should look at things before any decision is made as to what we might want to do next. Dr. Votto felt the report was inconclusive and further study was warranted. Dr. Votto further said are we looking at a new charge for this committee.

Mr. Pelaia wanted to know would something be able to be prepared for next week. Dr. Votto again asked is there a new charge to this committee. Mr. Pelaia stated that we need to clarify what must be examined. Mr. Pelaia then asked the Academic Committee to hold a meeting to develop a new charge. Mr. Moscaritola asked if it would be possible for the Academic Committee to meet before next week's Board meeting.

Mrs. Russo made a statement, concluding by saying that she felt that the Board seems to feel that something needs to be done to move this issue along further.

Mr. Pelaia thanked the members of the committee for their work.

RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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 negotiations, 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. Moscaritola and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

  
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Date