

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, November 9, 1998 at 7:15 p.m. with Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mr. Pelaia 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 August 31, 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, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. and Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia. Late: Mrs. Maria Russo (7:19 p.m.) and Dr. Joseph P. Scarpelli (7:29 p.m.).

1. Dr. Serafino reviewed the attachments that had been sent out in the Board packet.

Mrs. Russo entered

2. Dr. Serafino discussed the vitae she had enclosed of Dr. Cancelli and noted that she wanted to utilize him as a consultant helping her and the district analyze some data relative to the grading system. She indicated that his fee would be between \$500 and \$700 for this work. Dr. Serafino mentioned that she intended to recommend the use of minus grades in our grading system and would be formally presenting this to the Board at the Conference Meeting on December 7.

Mr. Picciano wanted to see a report from the district and didn't think we needed to use an outside person. Mrs. Russo questioned what is it we were seeking from this consultant. Dr. Serafino indicated she wanted to utilize his input and would also consider using him to aid with staff development. She felt that he would help provide her with clarification of local issues as an expert, objective outsider.

Mrs. Fleitell wanted to know if Dr. Cancelli would address the public and Dr. Serafino indicated that this would be the case and she anticipated him going to the meeting when Dr. Serafino made her report about the grading system.

Dr. Scarpelli entered

Dr. Serafino reiterated that she wanted to get the benefit of Dr. Cancelli's expertise. Mr. Moscaritola said he believed the Superintendent should be given the leeway to use this consultant. Mrs. Russo asked did not the Board hire someone who could make decisions. Dr. Casale stated that he had no objection to using this consultant and, in fact, wanted to hear from a learned outsider.

Dr. Serafino was asked how long it would take to produce a report and she commented that she didn't feel it would take that long and that she had already spent some time with Dr. Cancelli but she doubted she would be ready at the November 23 meeting.

Mr. Pelaia said that Dr. Serafino has indicated there would be a change in the grading system coming which would be reflected in her report and he also stated that the amount of money she was seeking to use this consultant was small and should be approved.

Mrs. Russo commented that she thought the study that had been sent to the Board should have been clarified by a memo. Mrs. Fleitell thought the use of a consultant would be a good idea. Mrs. Russo asked if there wasn't sufficient data here now. Mr. Pelaia asked Dr. Serafino what would be the time line, to which Dr. Serafino replied she would be ready by December 7 at the latest.

Dr. Casale moved that the Board approve the use of the consultant, seconded by Mr. Moscaritola and approved by the Board with Mrs. Russo voting nay.

3. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned that the Adult School had presented the Board with a check for \$1,000 and requested that this money be used to purchase a new projector. Mr. Sincaglia noted he had been in touch with Mr. Affinito and we would purchase a new LCD projector which the AV department could sorely use.
4. Mr. Sincaglia noted that Mr. Ackerman, the Chairperson of the Industrial Arts Department of the high school, had advised him that some large boxes of equipment were available from Hoffmann-LaRoche at no cost to the Board of Education if the Board of Education was willing to be responsible for the transporting of them. The type of equipment was much larger than our men could handle and Mr. Ackerman made contact with a local company who could do this work for approximately \$600. He indicated that the equipment we would gain would cost in excess of \$20,000 and would be used in our industrial arts program.

The Board indicated that Mr. Sincaglia should proceed in securing this equipment.

5. Dr. Casale mentioned that the Planning Board had made a determination that the Town and Country development project would not receive full site approval until the impact study had been completed. There was some question as to how many people were planning to move from existing homes in Nutley into the new development.

Mr. Picciano stated that at the Planning Board meeting to be held on December 2 to which the district had been invited, we should have our expert witness present and also suggested that we have an attorney present.

There was some discussion about what role the attorney might play and Mr. Moscaritola suggested that our attorney call the Planning Board attorney to determine the process of the Planning Board meeting and the possible involvement of our attorney.

Mr. Picciano moved that the Board attorney be present at the Planning Board meeting on December 2 and that the Board receive input prior to November 23 to help the Board prepare its presentation, seconded by Mrs. Russo and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Pelaia asked if we did not need a special meeting to discuss what we would be doing prior to November 23. Mr. Sincaglia was asked to try to arrange a meeting on either November 16 or 17 and insure that both Dr. Richardson of Whitehall Associates and the Board attorney were present.

6. Mr. Restaino stated that in his opinion the fence at the front of Nutley High School was past the point of repair; it had outlived its useful life and needs to be taken down now. He further said that if we find we need a fence after we take it down, we can always get a variance. Mrs. Russo suggested that this matter be referred to the Facilities Committee.

After additional discussion Mr. Moscaritola moved that the Board have a recess, seconded by Mr. Restaino and unanimously approved by the Board.

RECESS MEETING:

The meeting recessed at 8:33 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 8:43 p.m.

Mr. Restaino mentioned that the Facilities Committee ought to be involved in this item and it was not his intent to circumvent our committee structure.

He moved that the Board proceed with the removal of the phase 1 portion of the fence and the Committee talk about how to add some shrubbery and other improvements to the front of the high school facility, seconded by Mrs. Russo and unanimously approved by the Board. It was further clarified that this would not take place until after the first of the year.

7. Mrs. Russo commented that she believes there is still a problem of school children smoking on school grounds and that the Board policy prohibiting such be reiterated to the students.
8. Mr. Restaino noted that the sign for Franklin School was now in place.
9. Dr. Scarpelli felt the grading report should be issued as soon as possible. He also said that the condition of the lamp posts on Booth Drive should be checked out and, further, that the Board should investigate if we could utilize the building at DeMuro Park more extensively than is done now.

Dr. Scarpelli also wanted to know what could be done about Nutley moving to a different athletic conference than the one in which we presently reside.

Mr. Restaino said that he hoped to have an athletic meeting soon to discuss this matter even though it had been explained previously.

Mr. Picciano expressed his concern over the behavior of some of our spectators at the Montclair game in the so called "hound pound." He felt that no fan should be standing along the fence area as there was a potential for problems. Mr. Pelaia felt this matter should be referred to the high school principal.

10. Dr. Casale mentioned a concern about recent use of buses for the band. He noted that a driver from a hired company wore a neck brace and seemed not to have full mobility. He also expressed concern about the band not having the use of a coach bus at all times.

Mr. Moscaritola moved that when the band goes to any event it be transported by a coach, a school bus and the equipment bus when the equipment bus was needed, seconded by Dr. Casale and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Pelaia wanted to know what was the age of the buses used by Jimmy's Bus Company. Mr. Sincaglia provided some information he had received from Jimmy's with respect to their obtaining a favorable report from the U.S. Department of Transportation as a follow up to violations which had been earlier reported.

11. Mr. Picciano expressed his concern about the outdoor basketball baskets at the Yantacaw School playground. He felt their facing into the parking lot would not allow them to be used properly and we should consider turning them around and paving an additional portion of the field for basketball use.

Mr. Picciano also commented that he felt the portable lunch tables in the Radcliffe School gymnasium constituted a danger.

Mr. Picciano also commented that the Board should do a much better job in recognizing students with academic achievements as they do for those receiving awards for athletics.

Mr. Restaino asked that any Board member with any facilities concerns forward them to him.

Mrs. Russo commented that she did not think that the outdoor baskets at Spring Garden School were in the best possible place.

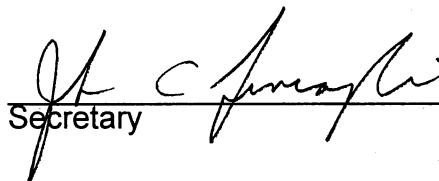
Mrs. Fleitell wanted to know what was being done about the vacancy on the Board.

Mr. Picciano said it would be preferable for the Board to receive their packets on Thursday. Mr. Sincaglia explained that there were problems with this with respect to the bill list and he did not want to see the Business Office change its procedure with respect to getting bills ready. He said it might be possible if other changes were made to get some materials to the Board on Thursday with the remainder on Friday but noted this was not something that could happen right away.

After some discussion there was consensus by the Board that there should be a change by January or February with respect to the issuance of the Board packets prior to the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Dr. Scarpelli, seconded by Dr. Casale the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.


Secretary

12/7/98
Date