

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 10, 1999 at 7:15 p.m. with Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, 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 Annual Notice of May 3, 1999. 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: Mr. John Cafone, Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Steven P. Picciano, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr., Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio, Mrs. Maria Russo and Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola.

1. Dr. Serafino introduced Dr. Mutch who presented the kindergarten curriculum. She reviewed the activities and progress made by the curriculum committee and noted that the issue of full-day kindergarten was discussed. Dr. Mutch estimated that the operational cost would be at least \$500,000 per year.

Mr. Pelaia wanted to know what the research showed with respect to the benefits of full-day kindergarten by the time the student was in the fourth grade. Questions were also asked by Mr. Picciano and Mrs. Russo. Mrs. Russo also made comments regarding communications to parents.

2. Dr. Serafino then introduced Mr. Calicchio who presented the curriculum for physical education and family life education.

Mr. Restaino wanted to know if the AV materials mentioned were available in each school. Mr. Calicchio noted that they were available district-wide and were loaned around the district. Mrs. Russo asked a question on the tests being used in the middle school.

Mrs. Russo left the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

3. Dr. Serafino introduced Mr. Violante, the World Languages Coordinator, who discussed the world languages program which would be implemented for the first time in elementary grades as a result of the State of New Jersey core curriculum content standards.

Mrs. Fleitell complimented Mr. Violante for an outstanding presentation.

Dr. Serafino noted that as the program did proceed along, the issue of how it would be integrated into other grades was an issue that might not readily be addressed if grade 6 were at the middle school.

Dr. Casale asked if this program would be expected to cost more money as time goes on, to which Mr. Violante indicated it would.

4. Dr. Serafino introduced Mrs. Scerbo who talked about workplace readiness for all pupils.

Mrs. Russo returned at 8:11 p.m. during Mrs. Scerbo's presentation

She reviewed activities of the Committee and research materials. She also mentioned the consortium that Nutley had joined with the Bloomfield Board of Education as the lead agency.

Ms. Romaglia then discussed the issue of transition.

5. Dr. Serafino introduced Mrs. Clerico who reviewed the goals and progress of our technology plan.

Mrs. Russo asked questions about how we evaluated proficiencies.

#### RECESS MEETING:

Mr. Moscaritola declared a recess at 9:03 p.m.

#### RECONVENE MEETING:

The meeting reconvened at 9:09 p.m.

6. Mr. Moscaritola indicated that he would have committee assignments out to all members of the Board by Monday, May 17.
7. Mr. Moscaritola introduced Nutley Police Officer Jack Barry who discussed with the Board the ongoing arrangements of the town with respect to school crossing guards. Officer Barry reviewed problems that have occurred this year which have resulted in very heavy use of regular police on overtime. He noted that there are 40 full-time posts at the present time and six "floaters" who have assignments but can be reassigned if full-time posts are uncovered. He stated that the legal responsibility of the town was essentially whatever was necessary in the judgment of the Chief of Police. He pointed out that if the Board were not to continue contributing the approximately \$200,000 there would seem to be no choice but to lay off guards amounting to approximately 40% of the crossing guard force.

Mr. Pelaia asked if the issue of per diem substitutes had even been explored and Officer Barry said it had been considered but it was felt that it was not a viable possibility. He also noted that children crossing streets occurs all year round.

Mrs. Russo questioned the post on North Spring Garden Avenue and School Lane and felt strongly it should be maintained on a school-time basis.

Dr. Casale asked what would happen if the Board did not contribute the \$200,000 and Officer Barry reiterated the fact that approximately 2/5 of the guard force would be laid off.

Mr. Pelaia commented that while he thought it was valuable for the Board to have input, he did not want to see the Board tell the police where guards should be deployed and how they should do their jobs.

There was discussion about the possibility of a traffic study of the crossing guard posts and Dr. Casale wanted to know what could be done to expedite this and how much it might cost.

Mr. Picciano wanted to know could we start the study now and finish it next year.

Mrs. Russo wanted to know if the law allowed the school district to empower people to direct traffic to which Officer Barry said this was not permitted.

Dr. Casale stated the need to maintain safety required us to keep this \$200,000 in the budget. Mrs. Fleitell felt that she didn't think we had the right to take the money out of the budget since we had pledged this when we presented the budget to the voters.

In response to a question from Mr. Moscaritola Mr. Sincaglia noted that the Board was not legally obligated to spend the money for this purpose, however, he felt the Board had made a moral commitment to do this. Mr. Pelaia suggested that perhaps the Board might want to consider spending more money so there might be more guards.

Mr. Restaino said he was in favor of keeping the money for crossing guards in the school budget. Mr. Picciano wanted to know if the Board and township could jointly pay for a traffic study.

Mrs. Russo stated that she did not want to take the \$200,000 out of the budget but strongly noted that we should have input and wanted to know if the district did not spend this money would the Nutley Police Department simply cut the staff and was the township willing to accept the reduction in this service.

Officer Barry said that he had been led to believe that a layoff of guards would be the result of the Board removal of the funding.

Mr. Cafone asked if we were to decide on a joint venture such as a study would we agree to abide by whatever the recommendation is which might result in less guards than we have now. Mr. Pelaia suggested that Mr. Moscaritola continue the dialogue with the Nutley Police Department and report back to the Board.

8. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned the need to allow a hydropunch to be drilled at a location at the warehouse as a follow up to monitoring wells that were drilled two years ago. He noted that the solution to the problem in the area was not the responsibility of the Board; however, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) had the right to insist that we allow this work to be performed. He noted that he would simply seek to modify an agreement that had been reached two years ago and asked the Board for their approval to do so.

Mr. Pelaia moved that the Board allow Mr. Sincaglia to make the necessary arrangements to work with the adjacent property owner and the NJDEP in facilitating this matter, seconded by Mrs. Fleitell and unanimously approved by the Board.

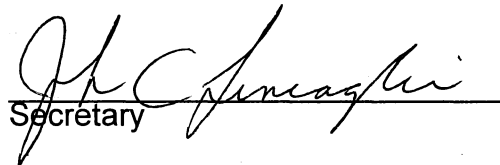
9. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned the request made to himself and Dr. Serafino from Mr. D'Aloia concerning the SYETP summer program and the employment of Mr. D'Aloia and one other staff member with funds from the County of Essex.

Mrs. Russo moved that the Board approve this assuming that the program was funded by Essex County, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board.

10. Mr. Sincaglia noted that bids for the band uniforms would be opened on Wednesday and if everything appeared to be in order, there would be a likelihood of a brief Special Meeting, probably on Monday, May 17, to award the bid to accelerate the process.

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Mrs. Russo, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

  
Secretary

5/21/99  
Date