

The Conference Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Board Conference Room, 375 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, April 10, 2000 at 6:35 p.m. with Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mr. Moscaritola 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 April 6, 2000. 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. Steven P. Picciano, Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio and Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola. Late: Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia (8:03 p.m.), Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. (7:58 p.m.) and Mrs. Maria Russo (6:41 p.m.).

1. Dr. Serafino asked the Board for approval for two trips, information for which had been provided prior to the last meeting.

Mrs. Fleitell moved that the Board approve the trip to Spain, seconded by Dr. Casale and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Cafone moved that the Board approve the high school Peer Leadership trip to Washington, D.C., seconded by Dr. Casale and unanimously approved by the Board.
2. Dr. Serafino announced she wanted to have an in-service training day near the end of the year for the elementary teachers for the new language arts program assuming the Board approved the new program.

Mrs. Russo entered

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Moscaritola 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 recess to closed executive session at this time to legal 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.

Mrs. Roncaglio moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Dr. Casale and unanimously approved by the Board.

RECESS MEETING:

The meeting recessed at 6:41 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 7:58 p.m. with Mr. Restaino present at this time. Dr. Casale and Mrs. Russo were not present.

3. Dr. Serafino introduced Director of Special Services Barbara Hirsch who presented the proposed new rating scale for the Cultivating Academic Talent Program.

Mr. Pelaia entered

4. Miss Hirsch also commented on the proposed special education policy that the Board needed to adopt prior to the end of the school year and she noted that the first reading needed to take place at the April meeting.

Miss Hirsch also spoke about the middle school's participation in the intervention and referral services program being run by the New Jersey Department of Education.

Mrs. Fleitell asked if Mrs. Tolve was not returning next year and it was explained that, indeed, we were planning on the resumption of her duties in the next school year.

Dr. Serafino thanked the committee members who assisted Miss Hirsch for their efforts in these matters.

5. Dr. Serafino introduced Mrs. Grayce Berk who presented the recommendation for the replacement of the language arts text series.

Mrs. Russo entered during this report

Mr. Pelaia asked if this was a completely new series and Mrs. Berk indicated that, indeed, it was.

Mrs. Russo wanted to know how different schools function in terms of grouping and teacher assignment. She was concerned there is a lack of consistency among the elementary schools.

Dr. Serafino said it depends on how scheduling in each school permits this but it was something we were working on.

6. Dr. Serafino introduced Mr. Zarra who reported on the Committee Concerning School Safety. Mr. Zarra reviewed sections of the report, in particular highlighting those items which characterize a safe school environment.

Mr. Pelaia noted that the recommendations contained a request for improved or new communications systems and video cameras and he felt these should be given a high priority and further noted he doesn't think we should be waiting for the next budget.

Mr. Moscaritola complimented Mr. Zarra and the work of his Committee and spoke about the committee he was chairing which would involve community members and expressed his concern that, so far, no one but school personnel had volunteered to be part of this committee and hoped that we might generate interest so that community members would join in this important endeavor.

7. Dr. Serafino then introduced Anna Melnyk who reported on the committee which examined the curriculum for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs (ATOD). Ms. Melnyk highlighted the activities of the committee and, in particular, highlighted warning signs for educators and students involved with ATOD.

Mr. Pelaia noted that he liked the idea of intervention at earlier grades. Ms. Melnyk said that there is a major concern that a change in behavior often occurs when students are in grades 6,7 and 8.

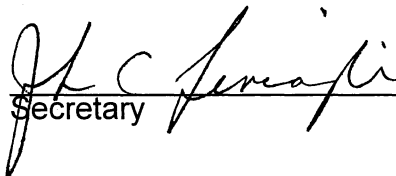
Mr. Pelaia thanked Dr. Serafino for giving this subject the recognition it deserved.

Mrs. Russo said that she felt the School Safety Committee work and the ATOD Committee work suggests there needs to be clear guidelines for the school staff on indicators of ATOD abuse by pupils.

Mr. Moscaritola asked if there was any suggestion to bring law enforcement officials in to discuss ATOD regarding student liability such as loss of driver's license. He also asked about other substances such as ones which may be used in "date rape."

ADJOURNMENT:

On motion made by Mr. Pelaia, seconded by Mrs. Roncaglio and unanimously approved by the Board the meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.


Secretary

4/14/00
Date