

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, January 26, 2001 at 6:11 p.m. with Dr. Philip T. Casale, Vice-President presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Dr. Casale 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 January 11, 2001. 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: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Mr. John Cafone, Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Steven P. Picciano, and Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio. Late: Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. (6:24 p.m.). Also present were the following representatives from Tri-Tech Engineering: Mr. Alan Forziati, Mr. Lee Heckendorn, Mr. John Dawkins, and Mr. Wai Lee.

1. Mr. Heckendorn distributed two new booklets for the Board to use in the discussion concerning the five-year plan. He indicated that the booklets have different cost items in them and they should be used in their discussion.

Mr. Forziati said that as we move along the Board would want to engage the services of a cost estimator to get better actual numbers prior to finalizing the amount for a referendum.

2. The Board then proceeded with a building-by-building review of the five-year plan drawn up by Tri-Tech Engineering. The elementary schools were reviewed first starting with Lincoln School.

In the Lincoln School review, Mr. Moscaritola raised a question about the issue of auditoriums at the elementary schools and there was discussion regarding this matter.

Mr. Picciano left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

In the Radcliffe School review, there was a discussion concerning the issue of the multipurpose room and a separate cafeteria/auditorium.

In the Spring Garden School review, Mr. Pelaia commented on the possibility of the relocation of special education classes that were located in Lincoln School and where they might be distributed.

In the Washington School review, it was noted that the plans did not show a third kindergarten and there would be a need to include a room for that purpose since this plan calls for all day kindergarten at all schools. It was also noted that the current gymnasium serving as a lunch room would not provide sufficient room.

Mr. Restaino left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

In the Franklin Middle School review, there was a discussion about the location and size of the gymnasium, the room for life skills, the location of the cafeteria and the media center.

In the Nutley High School review, there were questions on the weight room and the location of the TV studio. Mr. Heckendorn explained the way the science rooms would be configured. There was also a comment made regarding air conditioning the auditoriums in all the schools and it was suggested that this be included in the plan.

Mr. Restaino re-entered 8:26 p.m.

Mr. Pelaia questioned how the Board would respond if they were asked what is really needed on a bare-bones basis as opposed to some of the items which are desirable but not necessary. He wanted to indicate that he was not suggesting these were not important items, but he felt the Board needed to be able to defend what was absolutely essential and what was desirable.

Mr. Cafone asked if we could make changes and it was indicated that it could be done.

Mr. Forziati noted that often Boards of Education are criticized after the referendum is over for what they didn't do. It was mentioned that the dollars per square foot on anything added should be \$150 per square foot. It was noted that it was an imperfect measure but it is one that generally will work in most cases.

The Board questioned what the next step should be. Mr. Forziati said that the Board needs to come up with a bullet list of modifications to the plan that exist for right now. There was discussion about meeting with the Ad hoc Committee within two weeks.

Mr. Picciano re-entered at 9:25 p.m.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Ad hoc Committee with a suggested meeting date of February 6<sup>th</sup> in the High School Cafeteria. Upon further discussion it was agreed that since all Board members would likely be present the meeting be called as a conference meeting so that there was no violation of the "Open Public Meetings Act."

#### RECESS MEETING:

Mr. Restaino declared a recess at 9:48 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING:

Mr. Restaino reconvened the meeting at 9:51. Late: Mr. Vincent M. Moscaritola (9:53). Absent: Mrs. Michele Fleitell and Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia.

3. There was a discussion about the status of our architect. Mr. Restaino indicated that he felt we should remain with the present firm we are currently working with, DMR.

It was noted that the construction management contract would provide certain authority regarding the architect.

There was a discussion among the number of the Board members in regard to their feelings about DMR and what the future held as far as the Board's relationship with them. During the discussion there was talk that there might be consideration given to looking somewhere else, however, there were mixed feelings on this point.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Restaino 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 and other matters exempt from public discussion, 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.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

  
Secretary

2/7/01  
Date