

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, March 12, 2001 at 7:45 p.m. with Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, President presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADEQUATE NOTICE:

Mr. Restaino 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 1, 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: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio and Mr. Alfred R. Restaino. Late: Mr. Steven P. Picciano (7:18), Mr. John Cafone (7:24).

1. Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Calicchio gave a presentation regarding team teaching and the middle school concept. They spoke about running the middle school as a true middle school and not a junior high school.

Dr. Vivinetto reported on information he received from his recent conference which he felt validated the work of the school district committee.

Mr. Calicchio noted this concept would allow for better coordination of field trips and group activities. He also noted that the concept called for a nine-period day.

Mr. Restaino stated that he liked the idea but questioned what was needed to make it a reality.

Dr. Casale asked if we had enough room. Mr. Calicchio responded that presently there was enough room, but not beyond next year.

Mr. Picciano asked if a third guidance counselor was needed. Mr. Calicchio responded that it would help, but hiring additional teachers was a bigger priority.

Mrs. Fleitell had concerns over not having a homeroom period and having it take place during period one. She indicated that this has pros and

cons. She was also concerned about how school would be scheduled.

Dr. Serafino said that we need to decide on where we are going with this concept and complimented Mr. O'Dell, Mr. Calicchio and the Committee. She noted that she thought the teachers of the school are in agreement with this, which was also stated by Mr. Calicchio.

Mr. Restaino felt that we should proceed, but thinks it should be referred to the Academic Committee for some fine tuning.

Mr. Sincaglia reminded the Board that if they committed themselves, it would mean that the additional faculty necessary in 2002/2003 must be authorized and not be subject to budget review when next year's budget is formulated.

Mr. Restaino thanked Mr. O'Dell and Mr. Calicchio for the presentation and also extended thanks to the members of the Committee.

2. The Board received a letter, through Dr. Serafino, from Jack Barry concerning the Cops in Schools Program. It was noted that this was a three-year grant that would provide \$125,000 per officer and that \$125,000 is for a three-year period not per year. It was also noted that the grant requires a commitment to go at least one year beyond the grant period. There was a discussion regarding whether or not it was appropriate and necessary to have police in the schools.

Mr. Moscaritola did not think the grant was germane to the issues in Nutley since some of the examples used were gang violence, which is not typical of what exists in Nutley.

Mr. Pelaia questioned the job description of the position.

Mr. Picciano stated that in his district they have one such officer in his building and he thinks it works very well. He also noted that it can make a difference if you have the right person.

Mrs. Flietell indicated that she was vehemently opposed to police officers in the building stating that additional counseling would be much more beneficial.

Mrs. Roncaglio indicated that she agreed with Mrs. Flietell. She also noted that the success in Mr. Picciano's district might be more of a testament to the individual than the concept.

Mrs. Alamo said she did not believe we need uniformed people in our schools.

Mr. Pelaia said that he felt Mr. Flietell's comments were quite persuasive.

Mr. Cafone said that he thought the approach of the program is "softer" than what is being said by members of the Board. He stated that he was against a patrol officer in a school but does not think that is what this program is all about. The program is supposed to show students that police are a resource that can help them.

Mr. Pelaia questioned what the cost would be if we entered into this program on our own.

Mr. Restaino said that he was originally opposed to the idea but felt there are aspects of the program that could be beneficial.

Dr. Casale wanted to know if this program was subject to the budget cap. He felt that spending enough money on a counselor would make more sense. He also questioned how much training this person would have and he said that we have a serious drug problem in Nutley.

Mr. Moscaritola said he felt that many of the duties do not have to be dealt with by a law enforcement person.

Mr. Restaino said he would appoint an ad hoc committee to look into this further.

3. The Board discussed the budget for 2001/2002.

Mr. Pelaia, Chairman of the Budget Review Committee, mentioned the issue of the textbooks that had been eliminated from the budget. He asked if the textbooks and science kits should be put back into the budget. It was agreed that this should be done. Mr. Sincaglia noted that it could take place at the public hearing.

The Board asked questions about the hockey program and the relocation of the Board offices. A decision was made that Mr. Sincaglia should prepare a notice advertising for new offices.

4. The Board received a letter from the High School PTO requesting that a plaque be put up in memory of Mr. Walker in the high school. This led to a discussion about some of the previous requests concerning other memorial possibilities. After a discussion it was agreed that the PTO be notified that the Board was not opposed to this, but would like more information on what exactly is being suggested before a final decision was made.
5. Dr. Serafino noted that there was a need to change the April Conference Meeting date from April 9 to April 2.
6. Mr. Picciano asked Mr. Sincaglia to mention the office sites that he had looked at. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned some of the places that had been considered and visited in recent months.
7. Mr. Sincaglia discussed with the Board Mr. Bonadonna's request to remove the scholarship memorial funds in memory of his daughter from the high school account to Nutley UNICO. Mr. Sincaglia noted he had discussed this matter with both our auditing firm and attorney, and an appropriate resolution had been prepared. It was requested that this be approved at the next meeting. All Board members indicated that they would like to honor Mr. Bonadonna's wishes.
8. Mr. Sincaglia mentioned there was a request for a professional wrestling match in the high school similar to the one last year. He noted that there was a date available and wanted to know the Board's feelings on it. There were a number of concerns from Board members related to how the fund raising is being conducted and the aspects of violence inherent in this, particularly in light of the recent court case in Florida which sentenced a 14 year old boy to life in prison. Mr. Sincaglia noted that last year he had expressed some concerns, but the Board had decided we should approve

such an event. After a polling of individual Board members, there was no support for such an activity, and Mr. Sincaglia noted he would notify the person requesting this that it was not something that could be done in our facilities.

9. There was a brief report regarding the possibility of an agreement with a bottling company for beverages in the schools.
10. There was also a brief discussion about the process for review and selection of the next Board attorney.

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 contract negotiations and 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. Fleitell moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Dr. Casale and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Conference Meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.


Secretary

Date 3/20/01