

The Conference Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Nutley High School Auditorium, 300 Franklin Avenue, on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at 7:20 p.m. with Dr. Philip T. Casale, 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 November 30, 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."

The purpose of this meeting will be for the Board to review plans and information regarding improvements to school facilities.

CALL OF ROLL:

The members present at roll call were: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Mr. John Cafone, Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mr. Alan Genitempo, Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, Dr. Gerard M. Parisi, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, and Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio. Late: Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. (7:45 p.m.)

Mr. Pelaia stated that he had a family emergency to attend to and would not be staying for the meeting. He asked Tri-Tech if they had the artist renderings that he requested for Franklin School at the September 27, 2001 meeting. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the renderings would be ready within two weeks.

Mr. Pelaia left the meeting at 7:30 P.M.

REVIEW OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES RENOVATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Dr. Casale introduced Lee Heckendorn, of DCM Architecture, Inc., who went through the schematic drawings one building at a time pointing out in detail the renovations and additions. Also present from Tri-Tech Engineering were Alan Forziati, Alan Ianuzzi and Joe Grabowski.

Mr. Heckendorn gave the following estimated amounts for renovations and additions for each school:

Lincoln	- 3.7 million
Radcliffe	- 1.7 million
Spring Garden	- 4.7 million

Washington	- 4.1 million
Yantacaw	- 5.6 million
Franklin	- 13.9 million
High School	- 4.4 million

Mr. Heckendorn indicated that each school is considered a separate project. The specified amount must be used for that school only. He went over the **estimated** numbers below:

Total Projected Cost	- \$49,900,732
State Share (34%)	\$16,966,248
Nutley Share (66%)	\$32,934,484

HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS:

Several of the Board members asked numerous questions concerning the renovations and additions. The following highlight some of their concerns:

Mrs. Alamo was particularly concerned with the children experiencing disruption during the construction period.

Mr. Heckendorn said that they would try to construct the additions without interfering with the interior and then the work that had to be done inside would be scheduled during the span of two summers.

Mr. Cafone asked if the existing square footage per student in Nutley meets the state requirement.

Mr. Heckendorn said that it did not, and that is one of the reasons why the district will get reimbursements for the additions.

Mr. Cafone asked if furniture is allotted for the additional classrooms. Mr. Heckendorn responded that there was a furniture allotment.

Mr. Cafone asked if we will know what exactly will be reimbursed.

Mr. Heckendorn said we will get a "Final Determination Letter" that will list all the items that will be reimbursed before we go for the referendum.

Mr. Genitempo asked several questions about the front of the Franklin Middle School and also said that one of his major concerns for all the schools is security. He asked about adding security cameras to the entrance of each school since it is not addressed in the plan.

Mr. Heckendorn said that it was not a capitalized item and it is an item that you talk to vendors about for installation.

Mr. Genitempo asked if our gymnasiums were state level as far as size. Mr. Heckendorn responded that they did not meet state level.

Mr. Genitempo asked if it was possible for the renovations and additions be performed simultaneously. Mr. Heckendorn responded that they would want to do it that way.

Mr. Genitempo asked if the school principals had any input in the needs for their buildings. Mr. Sincaglia responded that each principal got a set of plans and went over their needs. He said that is how the architects knew the problem areas in each school, i.e., science labs in high school, etc.

Dr. Parisi asked if there were funds allotted for landscaping. Mr. Heckendorn responded that there were no funds available for new landscaping.

Dr. Parisi also asked if the auditoriums in the schools will be air conditioned. Mr. Heckendorn said that air conditioning had been budgeted in all the auditoriums.

Dr. Parisi was concerned with the old heating systems handling the additions and renovations. Mr. Heckendorn said that each new addition will have its own heating system.

Mr. Restaino asked if there was a line item numbers for each school. Mr. Heckendorn said that the number is based on a square footage number of \$160 sq. ft. for the addition and \$80 sq. ft. for renovations.

Mr. Forziati and Mr. Grabowski indicated that there were "no frills" in this project.

Mrs. Roncaglio asked if the parking issue was addressed since there will be additional staff after the additions and renovations.

Mr. Heckdorn said that issue was not addressed.

Mr. Cafone left at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Sincaglia said that the parking issue was addressed at Franklin School. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that parking is a problem throughout the district.

Mrs. Roncaglio asked if fire protection equipment was considered. Mr. Heckendorn said that they have smoke detector systems in the plans.

Mr. Moscaritola commended Tri-Tech and Lee Heckendorn for an outstanding job. He also commended the Board for moving ahead with this tremendous undertaking. He asked if there was any money allotted for the seating in the auditoriums district wide. Mr. Heckendorn responded that there was no allotment for new seating.

Dr. Casale asked Mr. Sincaglia to go over the formula to achieve the number per household this is going to cost.

Mr. Sincaglia said that the tax rate is \$6.13 per 100. He calculated the tax addition to be approximately \$230 per household for this referendum.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Maria Russo, 251 High Street, asked if the auditoriums in the schools were left untouched.

Mr. Heckendorn responded that the auditoriums except for Yantacaw will remain untouched but air conditioning has been worked into the budget.

Mrs. Russo stated that she cannot understand why the auditorium situation has not been looked at. She stated that with the growing population and additions to our school programs she felt that some type of enhancement should have been looked at for our auditoriums.

Mr. Moscaritola commented that when they did talk about the auditoriums it was estimated that it would cost approximately one million dollars to renovate each auditorium.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that during the Ad hoc Committee meeting it was mentioned but it never rose to the level of a recommendation.

Dr. Casale stated that when it was discussed it was agreed that the architecture of the older auditoriums should be preserved. He said by adding a large multi-purpose room to each school it gives us the option of using the rooms for larger crowds.

Mr. Genitempo said that Mrs. Clerico had a function last night and just had two grades present and that reduced the crowd level. He noted that with some ingenuity of the principals the crowd level can be reduced.

Steve Picciano, 5 Stockton Place, asked if the Board office is moving out of Radcliffe School.

Mr. Sincaglia responded that the Board is committed to move the administrative space someplace else and it is under discussion right now.

Mr. Picciano asked about upgrading the safety in every school. Dr. Casale stated that they will be talking to vendors but that is a budget item and is not in the referendum.

Mr. Picciano then expressed his concerns regarding parking around Yantacaw school.

Mr. Picciano asked that with 50% renovations when, as an architect, do you stop and think that this is not feasible and that it might be better to build new.

Mr. Heckendorn explained why it was not feasible to build new.

Tony Iannarone, 103 Rhoda Avenue, stated that he was wondering about the mechanics of the referendum and if it had to go through the Commissioners.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that the Board of Commissioners do not have any action to take, but hoped that all Commissioners would be supportive.

Dr. Casale stated that the Commissioners do have a say. He noted they have been invited to the facilities meetings and are invited to attend all future meetings concerning the referendum.

Mr. Iannarone stated that he feels that the taxpayers in Nutley are concerned with the dollar amount of the tax increase. He noted that the average taxpayer is not that concerned with the distribution of the taxes, just the increase.

Mr. Sincaglia and Mr. Iannarone had a discussion concerning the taxes in Nutley and the impact on the taxpayers.

Mr. Moscaritola said that we have had a growth of enrollment of about 800 students in the last decade and growth equals spending. He stated we are fortunate that the growth equals the spending in a town like Nutley to maintain our property value. He noted that he fully supports this referendum because a town is as good as its school system.

Mr. Moscaritola asked when the approximate 34% reimbursement fund from the state will become a final number.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that there are two steps that need to occur before we get a final number from the state. First, the Board has to adopt the educational specifications in a resolution and then there is a Planning Board Meeting after both are accomplished we should get a formal letter from the state with the final number.

Mr. Magnifico asked if another floor could be added to Radcliffe School.

Mr. Heckendorn said that the school was not designed to take a third floor and explained the reasons why.

Mr. Magnifico asked if the money allocated to each school has to be spent on that school only. Mr. Heckendorn responded that it did have to go to the specific school.

Mr. Magnifico said that when you give this public a plan to vote on it has to be accurate figures so they know exactly how it impacts their taxes.

Dr. Casale said by the time the referendum goes to a vote the wording will show exactly how much this will cost. He noted that the figures are very close right now to what this will cost.

Mr. Magnifico asked how the extended day program will impact our facilities. Dr. Casale responded that we will be using the existing facilities and will impact the schools minimally since they are using our facilities now.

Mr. Moscaritola said that in regard to upgrading the Oval, it is his intention to get some corporate sponsorships to help with the cost of renovating the Oval, just like the deal he spearheaded with Coca-Cola.

Mr. Forziati said that one of the things sitting on his desk is a booklet called "Public and Private Partnerships." He noted that there are places to look for public support and they know where to look for them.

Mr. Iannarone asked how solid the state number is since Governor McGreevey is saying we are going to have a billion dollar deficit.

Mr. Forziati responded that everything is already in place and this is a one shot deal with the state.

Richard Meola, 7 Harvard Street, asked if by the time we get done with this project and the \$50 million dollar project is now \$70 million, is the state still going to maintain the 34% contribution or is there a cutoff.

Mr. Heckendorn said the number is not going to change.

Kerry Tyerman, 38 Burnett Place, asked questions about Washington School's elevator access as well as other concerns regarding the grounds around the school.

Mr. Heckendorn responded to all her questions.

Frank Russo, 83 Bloomfield Avenue, was concerned about the demand of contractors and the fact that they might go to the highest bidder.

Mr. Heckendorn said Nutley is in a good position because if the referendum passes in January they will be leading the pack and we will get in before the Abbott Districts.

Mr. Grabowski stated that the timing is very important and the faster we move the better it will be for the district.

Mr. Heckendorn said Nutley is in a very good position to pass a referendum in January to get in under the wire. He stated that when this was budgeted in February they budgeted it at \$150 sq. ft. and now for those reasons mentioned above we now budgeted \$160 sq. ft.

Horst Wiedersch, 52 Oak Street, asked if the money that was being spent will improve the value of his property. He stated that most of the drawings show improvements in cafeterias, auditoriums and gyms.

Mr. Heckendorn stated that anytime you put dollars into your school district it becomes an attraction for housing cost. He noted the first thing people inquire about when they move to a town is the school system.

Dr. Serafino stated that kindergarten classrooms are being added for the full day kindergarten program and science labs will be added to the junior high and high school so that will directly effect our curriculum. She said the present gymnasiums and libraries are going to be turned into classrooms. She said that this is definitely impacting our curriculum.

Mr. Magnifico was concerned about the impact on the community when all this construction is going on at once.

Mr. Grabowski stated that he thought there would be very little impact on the community. He noted that the safety of the students is a concern and it is all worked out with the contractors.

Dr. Casale added that we cannot put forth this curriculum or expand it within the existing facilities. He noted that what is being done is pro-active by enhancing the curriculum so Nutley will continue to be a desirable location.

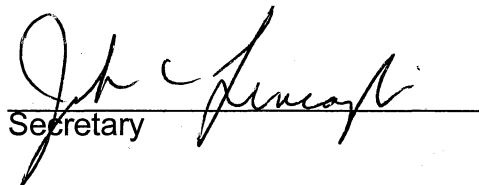
Mrs. Alamo asked when will this project be completed if the referendum passes.

Mr. Forziati and Mr. Heckendorn both agreed that it would take approximately two years.

Dr. Casale thanked everyone for coming and encouraged all present to spread a positive word in support of the referendum.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.


Secretary

12/11/01
Date _____