

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

December 10, 2001

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Radcliffe School Multi-Purpose Room, 379 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, December 10, 2001 at 7:25 p.m. with Dr. Philip T. Casale, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Dr. Casale read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), proper notice of this Special Meeting was provided on December 7, 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 consider the following matters:

Establishment of Bank Account for Extended Day Program

Presentation of Facility Improvement Projects

Consideration of Approval of Educational Specifications and Schematics for Facility Improvement Projects

Following the conclusion of the Special Board meeting, the regularly scheduled conference meeting will take place.

"Formal action may be taken."

ROLL CALL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Mr. John Cafone, Mr. Alan Genitempo, Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, Dr. Gerard M. Parisi, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. and Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio. Approximately 100 citizens were present.

ESTABLISHMENT OF DEPOSITORY FOR THE EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM:

Mr. Cafone presented and moved the adoption of the following

101.

resolution, seconded by Dr. Parisi. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That First Union Bank be designated as the official depository for the Nutley Board of Education Extended Day Program for the 2001/2002 school year, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the following officers of the account be authorized to sign checks drawn on the account effective December 11, 2001:

John C. Sincaglia, Secretary

and

Jean Unglaub, Manager of Accounts

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 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:

Mr. Cafone asked about the cafeteria facilities in each school and Mr. Heckendorn responded.

Mr. Restaino expressed his concerns regarding citizen participation and asked what the plan was to ensure this.

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Mr. Heckendorn suggested coffee gatherings and mailings to spread the word.

Mrs. Roncaglio stated she felt it was equally important to reach the community so they are educated enough to vote on the referendum in January.

Dr. Casale responded that the January date is not etched in stone, it is a target date and we are going to give it our best shot.

Mr. Ianuzzi stated that Tri-Tech is in the process of putting a mailing together now.

Mr. Sincaglia said that once the mailing is ready they will do an informative mailing to the entire community similar to what is done for the school budget.

Mr. Cafone asked at what point in time are these plans going to be etched in stone and if the Board votes on this tonight is there time for alterations. Mr. Cafone then asked for an explanation on the resolution pertaining to the approval of educational specifications and schematics for the facility improvement plan that was going to be voted on later in the meeting.

Mr. Heckendorn explained that in the design process there are phases and the schematic design is the loosest form of development. He said that the schematics indicate the space and shape of the building and that is to establish the general scope of work and a budget so the Board can go to the voters and request their support. He noted once it is enacted then they go through a more detailed process and the system allows for modifications as they go through and look at the budget more closely. He stated that at this point it is not etched in stone, it is simply to get this process started. He said there are opportunities along the way for adjustments as long as after the referendum you stay in the budgets established for the projects.

Mr. Cafone asked if the Board moved on this resolution tonight is there still time to make changes in the plans that are being shown.

Mr. Heckendorn responded that this can be refined up until January 22 except once the question is on the ballot the amount of money is fixed. He said you can't say your going to do this amount of scope and then when the referendum is passed do something completely different. He noted we have to stay within the general description that was created for the referendum. Mr. Heckendorn said the educational specifications are a written description of what you want and the schematics are an attempt to verify that the educational specifications can be realized in some form in that building. He noted that as we go through to the next phase after the referendum is passed there can still be changes within the scope of the educational specifications.

Mr. Sincaglia said to pass the resolution tonight enables DCM to go to Trenton armed with what the Board needs from the Planning Board after a presentation on Wednesday night. He said this enables the state to review the plan and let us know the amount of money they will provide. He noted we must come out of that meeting with an official letter from Trenton stating the amount of money the state will provide. He said at that point in time the Board of Education needs to adopt the resolution for the ballot question no later than the end of December. He said if we do not vote on this by next week then the referendum date of January 22 will not happen.

Mr. Sincaglia said that Governor Elect McGreevey is saying that we are going to have more than a billion dollar deficit so it is in our best interest to move forward on this. He noted that once the dollar amount is committed to the district by the state it cannot be taken back.

Mr. Grabowski said that the bond rates are excellent at this time. He noted that if the concern is that you are looking for changes within the schematic scope, there is nothing to worry about since it is a normal course of this project.

Mr. Moscaritola asked if the educational specifications and the schematics go together. Mr. Heckendorn responded that they do go together. He said one is a written description of the program and the other is the drawings.

Mr. Moscaritola asked if the number from Trenton would be effected if anything was deleted from the drawings or if there was a change in the location of an addition.

Mr. Heckendorn stated that there is some cushion in this plan for changes.

Mr. Cafone asked if the resolution is passed tonight does that tie the district to the January 22 date for the referendum. Mr. Grabowski stated that if this resolution is not approved you will not meet the January 22 date.

Mr. Sincaglia stated that when the January 22 date was agreed on, it was provided that the proper authorization was in place.

Mrs. Roncaglio asked if any input from the Planning Board is required.

Mr. Heckendorn said they are only going to review the plan as it reflects the towns master plan. He noted they can offer comments and suggestions but it has no bearing or impact on what is taking place tonight.

Mr. Pelaia stated that maybe the Planning Board might feel that they should have had an opportunity to give us their comments to consider before we vote on it.

Mr. Heckendorn stated that it is Tri-Tech's professional obligation to advise you of the timeline for a January 22 referendum. He noted that if the Board wants to proceed with the January 22 referendum date then the educational specifications have to be approved and brought down to the Department of Education as soon as possible.

Mr. Genitempo stated that he understands Mr. Restaino's concerns that the public have a right to be involved. He feels that there have not been any major changes within the last year in the plans from the Ad hoc Committee meetings and that a mailing to every registered voter would educate the whole community.

Dr. Parisi asked if the Board passes the resolution tonight, and we get the letter from the state, would our state allowance change if the Board feels that the referendum date needs to be changed from January to March for more publicity.

Mr. Heckendorn stated that the allowance would remain the same.

Dr. Parisi stated that we had nothing to lose and should hear what the public had to say.

Mr. Restaino left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

HEARING OF CITIZENS :

Mark Azierski, 22 Colonial Terrace, stated that he is a contractor and the message he is getting is that even if you are not sure of exactly what you want you can make changes so get your plans approved. He said we should be first in line because progress is only going to get slower as time goes by.

Tracy Scheckel, 22 Newman Avenue, asked what portion of the 9 million dollars in deficiencies is directly related to the new construction and what is deferred maintenance.

Mr. Heckendorn stated that the deficiencies are a stand alone list of items and are not generally deferred maintenance items but are items that are deficient and need to be fixed. Mr. Grabowski gave a detailed explanation of deficiencies and deferred maintenance costs.

Diana Pedalino, 171 Nutley Avenue, encouraged the Board to reach out to the public as much as possible. She then asked Mr. Sincaglia for an explanation of what the tax rate would be.

Mr. Sincaglia explained, in detail, how he calculated the the school tax addition to be approximately \$215 per household per year for this referendum. Mr. Sincaglia noted that the 33 million dollars that the taxpayers would be coming up with initially would be leveraged into hundreds of millions of dollars in increased property value.

Mrs. Pedalino then asked several questions regarding the steps towards the referendum to which Mr. Sincaglia, Mr. Heckendorn and Mr. Grabowski responded.

Dave Grossman, 482 Prospect Street, stated that Mr. Sincaglia made a very valid point in how this will increase our property value in the long run. He added another benefit of passing this referendum would be the increased recreational facilities for the community.

Connie Alexis-Laona, 36 Freeman Place, stated that she thinks the biggest issue is timing and we should abide by what the state needs to move forward on this. She noted that the Board should approach this like a school board election to inform the public.

John O'Brien, 16 San Antonio Avenue, said that he thought this was a wonderful proposal and thinks the Board should vote tonight to move forward. He asked about the infrastructure technology and said he did not see it in the plan.

Mr. Sincaglia said that our infrastructure for technology is very solid and all the classrooms have already been wired.

Kerry Tyerman, 38 Burnett Place, stated her concerns regarding the grounds around the schools. She said that the inside of the buildings will be ADA compliant, yet the outside of the buildings are not. She said she felt that there should be more safety improvements around the grounds of the schools.

Mr. Heckendorn said that any site work is not a reimbursable item from the Department of Education so they limited that amount of improvements.

Eric Steck, 76 Hillside Avenue, expressed his concerns regarding the steps leading to the playground at Radcliffe School and asked why four other schools will be getting larger gyms and Radcliffe will not.

Mr. Heckendorn said it had to do with the site constraints and the desire was that a new cafeteria would be more cost effective on this site.

Barbara Calluori, 8 Forest Avenue, inquired about the safety and the kind of window that will be installed and if a sprinkler system will be put in every school.

Mr. Heckendorn explained the kind of window that will be installed in each school and stated that it is not a requirement to have

sprinkler systems in the schools.

Maria Russo, 251 High Street, commended our Administration, Board and prior Boards in getting to this point. She said she agrees with Mr. Restaino that the public needs to be informed but she also agrees that time is of the essence to get the state share. She noted she also has a strong concern regarding the safety issues around our buildings and said that we must be aggressive in next year's budget to address the concerns.

Dr. Casale acknowledged Mrs. Russo as a past Board member and said how her help was invaluable in helping to put this plan together since it has not changed much in the past year.

Dr. Casale encouraged everyone in the audience to comment on the plans since the Board is concerned about the input from the community.

Ken Reilly, 33 Raymond Avenue, supports the proposal and thinks its great for the children and a plus for the town and we should move forward. He suggested that the presentation be put on the internet to help spread the word. He asked for the financial breakdown of what was presented to the state and Mr. Heckendorn and Mr. Sincaglia responded.

Mrs. Alamo suggested that maybe the Board can form a Public Relations Committee in order to help market this project.

Dr. Casale said that the Board has a Public Information Committee and plans on adding the Ad hoc Committee that will be opened to the public.

Dr. Casale stated that the reason they are in a rush to get this out to the public is because they just got the numbers from the state a week and a half ago. He stated that they do not want the public's perception to be that they are not included in this project so we will make every effort to get the public more involved. He asked if any of the principals present wanted to comment.

Dr. Serafino stated that all the plans have been very carefully reviewed with the principals and they shared them with their staff and PTO Executive Board. She said that they plan to market the project and hope to move forward on the much needed renovations to our school buildings. She commended this Board for moving forward with this and bringing it to fruition.

APPROVAL OF EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS AND SCHEMATICS FOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENT PLANS:

Mr. Cafone presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Alamo. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board approves the educational specifications and schematics for the proposed scope of work

for facility improvement plans as prepared by DCM Architecture, Inc., and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board authorizes DCM Architecture, Inc. to submit said educational specifications and schematics to the New Jersey Department of Education.

Dr. Parisi made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Alamo, and unanimously approved by the Board to cancel tomorrow nights meeting.

RECESS MEETING:

Dr. Casale declared a recess at 9:43 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING:

Dr. Casale reconvened the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Dr. Casale asked Mr. Sincaglia to read the following resolution:

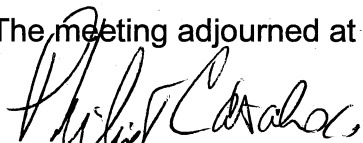
WHEREAS, the Board of Education will be discussing matters exempt from public discussion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adjourn to closed executive session at this time to discuss contract negotiations, and

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.

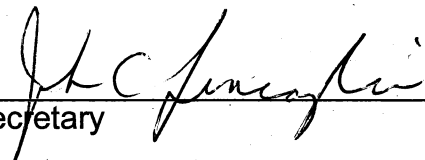
The resolution was moved by Mr. Pelaia, seconded by Mrs. Alamo and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

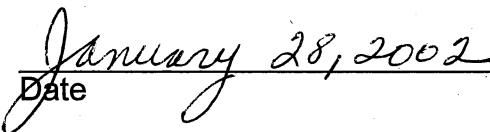
The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.



President



Secretary



Date