

The Conference Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Washington School Auditorium, 155 Washington Avenue, on Monday, February 11, 2002 at 7:59 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 Annual Notice of April 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."

CALL OF ROLL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Mr. John Cafone, Mr. Alan Genitempo, Dr. Gerard M. Parisi, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. and Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio. Late: Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola (9:12 p.m.).

- 1) Dr. Serafino gave an update on the 2001-2002 priorities. Dr. Parisi thanked her and the chairpersons of the various committees. Mrs. Alamo suggested the need for an elementary SAC counselor.
- 2) Dr. Serafino noted that the transition for extended day has been smooth and also that the tuition rate for kindergarten pupils would likely be increased since more staff was being added to facilitate the lunch offering to kindergarten pupils.
- 3) Dr. Serafino noted that the high school and middle school choral groups were going to Carnegie Hall on Easter weekend and that the cost of busing would be approximately \$3,500. Mr. Restaino said he strongly supported this expenditure and it was agreed that the transportation arrangements should go forward.
- 4) Dr. Serafino reported on the School Resource Officer program that the township had inquired about as to our participation. Dr. Parisi was concerned about the future commitment once the funding dried up. Mr. Restaino noted this was not just to have a "cop" in the school. Mr. Pelaia also echoed the concern about the Board's eventual commitment. Dr. Serafino said that she and Dr. Casale would be meeting with Commissioner Orechio.

- 5) Dr. Casale asked the Board for permission to allow public participation on the next item -- what the next step was for the referendum. The Board agreed to allow public comment.

Dr. Casale said he had a meeting with the Mayor and asked for his and other Commissioner's involvement in our next move. The Mayor said he needed to clarify this with the township attorney before anything could take place.

Mr. Pelaia asked what had happened regarding the survey. He was concerned about the date of return. He also wanted to know how it will be tallied. Dr. Serafino said that Dr. Vivinetto is coordinating this and also that she might seek assistance from the PTO's.

Mr. Genitempo was concerned about the time frame if we wanted to hold the referendum in April. Dr. Casale said we should be prepared to go in April, but look to the public for input.

Mr. Pelaia said he did not want to consider any more changes until he hears from the public via the survey. Mr. Cafone said that the survey was a good idea and that we need to be cautious before making the next move. He hoped there would be a large response to the survey.

Mr. Restaino said he felt that in light of the results on January 22, perhaps April was too aggressive a time for the next referendum. He also wanted to know if the architect was responsible for the public relations campaign.

Dr. Casale asked Mr. Sincaglia to detail some cost items that might be considered to be removed if the Board so chose. Mr. Sincaglia noted that removing the high school library project, the weight room and the Oval would save about 2.8 million dollars, but only provide a net savings of slightly 2 million due to the lost state aid. He later added that removing the air conditioning from the elementary auditoriums would yield a net savings of only \$122,000.

Mr. Pelaia said he wanted to see other options for consideration of removal. Mr. Sincaglia commented that it was not always easy to list items because one part of a plan can impact on another.

Dr. Serafino noted that the project was primarily academically driven - mentioning the science labs as a specific example.

Mr. Genitempo suggested looking at other alternatives including the length of the bond issue. Mr. Sincaglia provided some tentative information on 30 year payment schedules noting he had consulted with the bond counsel and district auditors. Mr. Restaino and Mr. Pelaia both said they wanted more cost information about specific program items.

Mr. Joe Mattiucci, strongly cautioned the Board to not start cutting what he felt was a sound plan. He said he had faith in what was proposed and saw it as a need for the children.

Mr. Moscaritola entered at 9:12 p.m.

Carmine Alessio, wanted to know if property tax payers would be tallying the surveys. Dr. Casale said he could not understand the question unless Mr. Alessio was questioning the integrity of those people who would be doing this work.

Diane Palladino, who served on the original Ad-hoc Committee suggested showing the existing conditions in the schools. She also felt that the ballot language needed to be clarified as to what would happen in the event the state did not provide the promised share.

Dr. Casale said we may want to consider a public relations firm to assist us.

Tina Nocera, wanted to know what we are hearing from people who voted "no". Dr. Casale said he hoped that the survey would give us more detailed answers.

Dr. Cafone said that perhaps we need to consider doing the work in stages, perhaps starting with Franklin Middle School.

Mr. Moscaritola said that staging the work might sound like a good idea, but it was doubtful that state money would be available for future stages.

Mr. Pelaia noted that the entire Board voted for this referendum and now we are embarking on a survey. He said we should refrain from looking forward until we see the results.

Mrs. Roncaglio asked Mr. Sincaglia if there had been opportunities to get more state money by a different design. Mr. Sincaglia said that the only exception would have been the science rooms at Franklin Middle School which would have been wrong from an educational point of view which is why the architect did not propose it that way.

Mr. Genitempo said that as a Board we have to do what we think is right, not simply respond to what some people are saying. He said that many people who voted did so without obtaining information. Mrs. Nocera stated she agreed with this statement.

Mr. Jack Magnifico, said that people have to know what we are trying to accomplish.

Dr. Parisi said that there was some confusion about the ballot. He also said he had heard that there could be code issues that our plans don't meet.

Dr. Serafino commented that the plan was driven, in large part, by enrollment growth of over 800 pupils in the last 12 years.

Frank Palladino, said that many people simply did not know what was being proposed, and we must go out and speak to other people.

Mr. Restaino said we were supposed to contact organizations, but there had been no follow through. Mr. Genitempo volunteered to help reach out to various town groups.

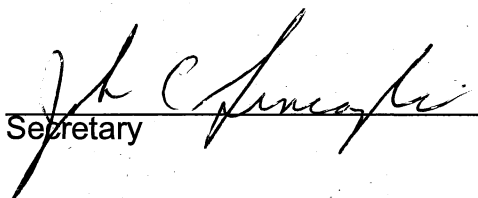
Brenda Sherman, asked the Board to realize that failing the first time was not the end of the world. She said that parents should be shown what the conditions are in the schools to see our needs.

A comment was made about televising our meetings and Dr. Casale noted that we cannot do this due to the lack of a special "key" from Cablevision that was misplaced, and that despite the immediate efforts of the administration, there was still a void in this area.

There were a few additional comments from various persons.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion made by Mr. Pelaia, seconded by Dr. Parisi, the meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.


Secretary

2/14/02
Date