

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

March 18, 2002

The Special Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Franklin School Auditorium, 325 Franklin Avenue, on Monday, March 18, 2002 at 7:37 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 March 15, 2002. 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 approving a referendum for facility improvement projects.

"Formal action may be taken."

FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was opened with Dr. Casale leading the Board members and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

ROLL CALL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mrs. Maria Alamo, Mr. Alan Genitempo, Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, Dr. Gerard M. Parisi, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr. and Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio. Late: John Cafone (7:55 p.m.). Also present were: Mr. Alan Ianuzzi from Tri-Tech Engineering, Mr. Lee Heckendorn from DCM Architecture and Mr. Ron Ianoale from McManimon and Scotland, Bond Counsel. Approximately 40 citizens were present.

PRESENTATION OF SURVEY

Dr. Casale stated that this meeting was not intended to set a date for the referendum but to see what options are available with our current plan. He noted that the Board has no intention of going for a referendum until the survey results are completed and they have an opportunity to ask our professionals some questions. He then introduced Ian Viemeister, Computer Network Technician.

Mr. Viemeister explained in detail how he came up with the following results of the survey:

38%	Yes
43%	No
19%	Undecided

He said that out of the nearly 12,000 surveys sent out, the percentages were calculated from the 2,293 surveys returned.

Mr. Presuto, Technology Coordinator, said that the comments from the surveys will be available in approximately a month. He also stated that the results will be provided in graph form.

Mr. Pelaia asked that the results of the survey be put on the web site.

A lengthy discussion ensued among all Board members, Dr. Serafino and Mr. Sincaglia regarding the referendum date, the projects themselves and the bond terms. During the conversation Mr. Heckendorn and Mr. Ianoale were called upon for their professional opinion. It was agreed by all, that September would be the next date to go out for a referendum.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Jack Magnifico, 25 Chestnut Street, said that he attributes the poor return of the surveys due to lack of understanding. He suggested that communication be enhanced between the Board and the community.

Kathy Rempusheski, 525 Kingsland Street, stated that she feels the referendum has to be marketed better and suggested hiring a public relations firm.

Dr. Casale stated that what needs to be corrected is how we get information out to the public. He noted that does not necessarily mean hiring a public relations firm.

Lori Wiedman, 28 Stanley Avenue, suggested that the money put aside for the security system, which is now in the referendum, be used for marketing purposes.

Mr. Moscaritola said there must have been a misunderstanding because there was never any money put aside for a security system.

There was a discussion regarding the security system by Mr. Moscaritola, Dr. Casale, Mr. Sincaglia and Dr. Parisi.

Gretta Lyden, 40 Hillside Avenue, said she cannot emphasize enough how important it is to communicate why each improvement is necessary. She thinks the money is not the main issue. She feels it is important to document the overcrowding in the schools with either a video or photographs.

Dr. Casale said that there is a video being made by the high school students.

After a conversation by Dr. Serafino, Mr. Sincaglia and all Board members it was agreed that a time line needs to be established.

Peggy Rucinski, 125 Church Street, suggested that the Board go to organizations throughout the community to spread the word about the referendum since there is only a small group of citizens attending the Board meetings.

Dr. Casale said it is an excellent suggestion and a tea list has been started where citizens invite people to their home to speak about the referendum.

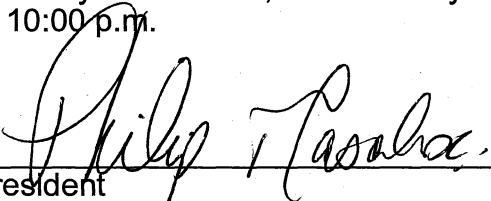
Margarite Fritch, 31 Briar Avenue, suggested that the television station be reactivated in Nutley so Board meetings and other important information can be televised.

Frank Comune, Lincoln School Teacher, stated that he feels it is important that the Board make people realize that money comes back to the community. He suggested that the information be put into a flier with statistics attached. He also commented that the failed referendum might have had something to do with September 11, 2001 and the fact that a lot of people were worried about the economy and their jobs. He feels that things are turning around now and that society is not as fearful.


Mr. Pelaia said that in the future, he would suggest that meetings be focused on the substance of the project and have other meetings to focus on the other aspects of the project.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on a motion made by Mrs. Alamo, seconded by Mr. Restaino, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.



 President



 Secretary

4-15-02

 Date

March 18, 2002