

# Neshaminy Newsletter

*Two issues are focusing Neshaminy School District attention on State government this year. Both issues, the revision of the School Code and the reduction of the ratio which determines the amount of State aid the District will receive, are important to the residents of Neshaminy.*

*The School Code revision will have lasting effects on the education of children and on your financial responsibilities. It deserves your attention.*

*The State aid reduction may create a financial crisis in the Neshaminy School District this year.*

*The issues are described below. More detailed information can be obtained through the Superintendent's Office.*

## School Code revised

Legislation that will affect Neshaminy and all other school districts in Pennsylvania is currently being reviewed by the General Assembly of Pennsylvania.

House Bill 770, the revised School Code, was introduced two years ago. It has been revised by the House Committee on Education after public hearings throughout the state and examination by the House Appropriations Committee. The revised bill was set to leave the Education Committee late in February.

The much needed recodification of the School Code has been welcomed by school boards, administrators and staff members. The bulk of the present code was adopted in 1911. Since that time it has been extensively amended and in 1949 it was re-ordered and renumbered. The proposed new code is an extensive revision of existing laws, simplifying language, removing antiquated provisions, and logically organizing sections with a usable index and eliminating cumbersome procedures.

Moreover, many of the laws related to education which are not in the current School Code have been incorporated in the new code so that the entire body of law can be found in one place.

The drafters of the proposed School Code attempted to make it broad enough to allow for reasonable change without legislative amendment and broad enough to allow for reasonable initiative, flexibility and experimentation at the local and State levels. The Code is also meant to be specific enough to protect the public and provide guidance for local administrators and employees.

Major changes in the School Code proposed for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania include the following points:

- Provisions for adherence to the "Sunshine Law".
- Combining the Administrative Code of the State Board of Education and the Department of Education with the School Code.

## State Aid reduced

State aid is vital to the Neshaminy School District.

Until this year, State aid has been relatively constant, providing the District with from 40 to 45 percent of its total budget.

In 1976-77, the budget currently being prepared, it appears that State aid to Neshaminy will decrease by more than a million dollars. It would take an additional 10 mills in local real estate taxation to make up the loss.

Decreased State aid plus increased salaries and higher costs of operation could mean an impossible 25 to 30 mill tax increase for 1976-77.

The amount of State aid Neshaminy receives is based on the value of the real estate in the District. Neshaminy's real estate market value has gone up since the reassessment program in Bucks County. The same situation exists in all Bucks County school districts.

The State uses an aid ratio to determine how much money each school district receives.

$$\text{Aid Ratio} = 1 - \frac{(\text{District MV/WADM})}{(\text{State MV/WADM})} \times .50$$

(MV=Market Value; WADM=Weighted Average Daily Membership) Neshaminy's aid ratio for 1975-76 was .5604.

The aid ratio for 1976-77 because of higher market values and lower enrollments is .4660.

The aid ratio multiplied by \$750 (the maximum allowance for each pupil) and the WADM produces the total state aid for each district.

Neshaminy is looking to the State Legislature for assistance. Actual expenditures for each student in the District exceed \$1,000 per child — \$750 per child is not a realistic figure to be used in computing State aid. Legislators should be asked to increase the maximum expenditure to \$1,000 per WADM.

## SCHOOL CODE continued

- Requiring the State Board to prepare a fiscal note for all regulations which would have financial impact.
- Addition of the chairperson and minority chairperson of the House and Senate Education Committees to the State Board of Education.
- Reduction of school board terms from six to four years.
- Outlining specific courses in the core curriculum which each school district must offer.
- Mandating Educational Quality Assessment (EQA) in all schools.
- Protections for parents and students when Educational Quality Assessment testing is administered.
- Emphasis on cooperation with community colleges.
- Guaranteeing parents the right to a hearing on the placement of an exceptional child.
- Making kindergarten a mandatory program in all school districts for children ages 5 and 6. No child would be required to attend kindergarten, however.
- Extending the right to free education to persons over 21 who have not received a high school diploma.
- Permitting educational trips and trips with parents at the discretion of the superintendent.

• Requiring that parents be notified of the regulations governing corporal punishment in a district. A student would be exempt from corporal punishment if his parents notify the district in writing.

• Raising the limit on construction work done by school personnel from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

• Classifying substitute teachers as professional employees requiring equivalent teacher pay and allowing sick leave benefits for long term substitutes.

• Prohibiting use of substitutes during strikes.

• Making seniority the sole criterion for order of furlough.

• Mandating uniform salary schedule protections for employees.

The proposed School Code will have financial impact on local school districts — up to \$140 million throughout the state as estimated by the Pennsylvania School Boards Association. The Department of Education, however, predicts net savings because of some amendments to the original bill.

Community interest in the state proposal is important now. Copies of the 476-page School Code are available at the Superintendent's office, Educational Services Center, East Maple Ave., Langhorne.

## STATE AID continued

In addition, the District would like to see some protection for school districts like those in Bucks County that suffer a drastic aid reduction in one year. The legislators should be asked to limit reduction in aid ratio to no more than 5 percent in any one year. This would spread large reductions over two or more years.

Of the nine categories of state revenue received by Neshaminy (See chart below) three major items are directly tied to the aid ratio. They are instructional subsidies, transportation, and rental payments (including mortgages on school buildings). While

the items are either constant or becoming more expensive, the State reimbursement is going down.

To help Neshaminy and limit local taxation increases, write your legislators and ask them to support:

• An increase from \$750 to \$1,000 in the maximum cost per Weighted Average Daily membership pupil.

• Limiting the reduction in school district aid ratio to no more than 5 percent in any one year.

## State Revenue 1971-1975

	Amount 1970-71	% of total	Amount 1971-72	% of total	Amount 1972-73	% of total	Amount 1973-74	% of total	Amount 1974-75	% of total
Instructional Subsidy	\$ 4,955,952.	33.9%	\$ 5,717,275.	35.9%	\$ 6,234,679.	36.7%	\$ 6,132,170.	33.0%	\$ 6,574,161.	32.8%
Homebound Instruction	3,343.	.1%	3,918.	.1%	7,855.	.1%	5,570.	.1%	7,577.	.1%
Special Education	296,853.	2.0%	351,514.	2.2%	136,111.	.8%	78,421.	.4%	419,434.	2.1%
Transportation	157,387.	1.1%	148,791.	.9%	155,320.	.9%	194,322.	1.0%	210,191.	1.0%
Vocational Education	28,483.	.2%	38,349.	.2%	45,081.	.2%	59,479.	.3%	42,449.	.2%
Rental Payments	1,131,760.	7.7%	818,076.	5.1%	823,194.	4.9%	752,064.	4.0%	1,007,787.	5.0%
Driver Education	48,844.	.3%	22,706.	.1%	31,500.	.2%	35,560.	.2%	35,595.	.2%
Medical & Dental Services	5,518.	.1%	5,613.	.1%	6,369.	.1%	8,619.	.1%	9,030.	.1%
Nurse Services	56,816.	.3%	57,445.	.3%	55,566.	.3%	54,463.	.3%	52,934.	.2%
<b>Total State Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 6,684,956.</b>	<b>45.7%</b>	<b>\$ 7,163,687.</b>	<b>44.9%</b>	<b>\$ 7,495,675.</b>	<b>44.2%</b>	<b>\$ 7,320,668.</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>\$ 8,359,160.</b>	<b>41.7%</b>
<b>Total Local Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 7,735,684.</b>	<b>52.9%</b>	<b>\$ 8,532,733.</b>	<b>53.6%</b>	<b>\$ 8,837,211.</b>	<b>52.1%</b>	<b>\$10,353,928.</b>	<b>55.7%</b>	<b>\$11,200,976.</b>	<b>56.0%</b>
<b>Revenue from Federal &amp; Other Sources</b>	<b>\$ 199,842.</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>\$ 225,780.</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>\$ 620,827.</b>	<b>3.7%</b>	<b>\$ 900,626.</b>	<b>4.9%</b>	<b>\$ 456,559.</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$14,620,482.</b>		<b>\$15,922,200.</b>		<b>\$16,953,713.</b>		<b>\$18,575,222.</b>		<b>\$20,016,695.</b>	

# Spotlight on alumni



MARCIA GORDON KJELDSSEN of the Neshaminy High School Class of 1962 has been elected to the Rider College Board of Trustees. She is the first woman graduate of Rider to serve on the Board.

Mrs. Kjeldsen, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Gordon of Langhorne Manor, is personnel manager of Bamberger's department store in the Monmouth Shopping Center in New Jersey. She lives in Cranbury, N. J.



PAUL HOFREITER and his wife JANICE are two Neshaminy graduates who work together in the field of music.

Paul, the son of Harold and Doris Hofreiter of Red Rose Gate, Levittown, is a member of the Neshaminy Class of 1970. He has a bachelor's degree from Juilliard College in New York and he will receive his master's degree at Juilliard in May. After a year teaching at the Pennington School, Pennington, N.J., he plans to return to Juilliard to work on his Ph.D. Paul is a composer as well as a performer. His Second Symphony was premiered by the Delaware Valley Philharmonic in 1972 and was recently performed in Philadelphia's Academy of Music by the Youth Orchestra of Philadelphia. Paul collaborated with Neshaminy choral director Theodore Kloos in composing "Crossing" performed recently at the Washington Crossing, N.J. Open Air Theatre.

Janice, the daughter of James and Alice Tippet of Oakford, is music director at the Pennington School. She is a 1969 graduate of Neshaminy High School and a graduate of Westminster Choir College, Princeton.

Janice and Paul often perform as a duo in piano and organ concerts.

## IT'S WORTH CHECKING

Is your student paying more than ten cents for School Lunch? For many, this is not necessary.

Congress has consistently shown concern for the nutritional well-being of the nation's children. New regulations show its intent to extend the benefits of the School Lunch Program to additional children.

We suggest that parents read this synopsis of new regulations very carefully. Chances are good that your family can benefit.

1. Income guidelines based on family size have been relaxed. Now a family of four is eligible for reduced price meals with income as high as \$9,770 per year. A family of twelve is eligible with an income of \$20,000.

2. Free or reduced price meals (\$.10) are available to all children of parents who are out of work.

Exact regulations and applications are in each school office. You are urged to take advantage of this opportunity.

## Headed for the East

Two Neshaminy Langhorne teachers have been chosen to join twenty other Bucks County educators in a trip to the Republic of China from April 14 to May 5.

Physical education teacher Charles Schmidt and social studies teacher Richard Weber are looking forward to touring the country and bringing beneficial information back to Neshaminy students.

Mr. Schmidt has studied physical education practices throughout Europe. He has done extensive research throughout Europe on the teaching of physical education — traveling in England, Scotland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia.

Mr. Weber, who works with the Neshaminy Hu-Man Corps in addition to teaching high school social studies, has also traveled extensively. He was a member of a group of Bucks County educators who toured India in 1970 and he spent the summer of 1972 in Morocco.



Richard Weber, left, and Charles Schmidt look over objects brought from a trip abroad.

## YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Let your legislators know if you are concerned about the new School Code.

Let them know if you want the state aid maximum subsidy to be increased from \$750 to \$1,000 per pupil (WADM).

Let them know if you would like to see a limit in reduction in aid ratio to no more than 5 percent in any one year.

### STATE LEGISLATORS

Representative Edward Burns, Jr.  
3480 First Avenue  
Cornwells Heights, Pa. 19020

Representative James L. Wright, Jr.  
116 Hollow Road  
Levittown, Pa. 19056

Representative John S. Renninger  
148 North State St.  
Newtown, Pa. 18940

Senator H. Craig Lewis  
421 Bustleton Pike  
Feasterville, Pa. 19047

Senator Edward L. Howard  
70 W. State St.  
Doylestown, Pa. 18901

## Laurels for service

*Thanks and congratulations go to staff members in Neshaminy who have reached milestones in their service to the District.*

*The following persons will be honored for their long service at the May Public Board Meeting.*

**10 YEARS OF SERVICE:** Kathryn Axelson, Alice B. Cohen, Edward Pindar, Cecile Tashlik, Thelby Clouser, Anita L. Moon, Gloria Press, Marjorie Summers, Carol E. Conn, Anita Gebhart, Marianna Groller, Elizabeth Augustine, Emily Hoagland, Elaine Smith, Marian Thomas, Raymond Thayer, Virginia Hartman, Ruth Conard, Elizabeth Tuerk, Warren McCarty, Barbara Bickel, Berthold Kramer, Debra Morgan, Armor Wolfe, Diane Brandt, Frances DeShields, George Douris, James Edwards, Robert Hess, Helen Nelson, Daniel Tyndale, Barbara Williams, Irwin Brambley, Mary Cameron, Margaret Dripps, Jerry Vanucci, Helmut Glaeser, Charlotte Lehner, William Stinger, Florence McManus, Henry Rossi, Josephine E. Weygant, Norah Lukens, William Minch, Myrtle M. Schabrich, Robert Bailey, Leon J. Gray, Osmond Winter, Arthur Sterner, George Flint, Jeanne Ivins, Lawrence Grau, Ralph Carver.

**15 YEARS OF SERVICE:** Helen Chuff, Miriam Silcox, Mildred Slaughter, Helen Hoy, Berenice Pearson, Joseph F. Sagolla, Mary Jane Murphy, Joyce L. Smith, Ida Hogeland, Paul Anderson, Arnold Levine, Charles R. Nelson, Louis D. Martini, Donald M. Latzel, Malcolm Macfarlan, Robert Parsons, William Patent, Sidney Watson, Marion Magee, Fay E. Weaver, Anne W. Merrill, Ruth Palmer, Catherine Walsh, Harry Meyers, Dorothy Gotwald.

**20 YEARS OF SERVICE:** Martha Hague, Lois Weaver, Thomas Pringle, Nancy Fleming, Samuel W. Rubin, Ellen Derby, Paris Allison, James Burt, Ruth Hopf, Charles Podlesney, Lyle R. Schwalm, William McMasters, James A. Wiley, David R. Kulp.

**25 YEARS OF SERVICE:** Shirley L. Stewart, Fred Gerst, Daniel C. Poust, Irma E. Peoples, Harry Franks, Robert R. Hook, Richard D. Fister.

## Langhorne, Maple Point students on the Board

Eight high school students have taken places as student representatives on the Neshaminy School Board. As non-voting Board members they are responsible for communicating between the School Board and the student councils of their schools.

Four seniors and two juniors from Neshaminy Langhorne and two juniors from Neshaminy Maple Point are the representatives

for 1976. Starting with the school year, September, 1976, two seniors and two juniors will represent each school.

The student representatives are: Chris Leonard and Maureen Hatzel, juniors from Maple Point; Joseph Wingert and Tammy Wahl, juniors from Langhorne; Wayne Reif, Chris Zubak, Betty Ohanian and Brian Welch, seniors.



*The high school representatives to the Neshaminy School Board were greeted by William Stinger, assistant superintendent in charge of secondary education, at a recent school board meeting in the Walter Miller School. From left are Joe Wingert, Tammy Wahl, Betty Ohanian, Chris Leonard, Brian Welch, Chris Zubak and Wayne Reif.*



# Rapid growth since 1950

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*The history of Neshaminy Schools as they developed in the Langhorne-Middletown area continues. Harriet Pickel, librarian at the Langhorne-Middletown Branch of the Bucks County Free Library, compiled the history in this and the December 1975 Neshaminy Newsletter.*

*The next issue will relate the history of the Lower Southampton Schools.*

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When the Pennsylvania Public School Law was passed in May, 1854, a public school house was built of brick. This building became a part of the Delaware Valley Advance (Advance of Bucks County, since April 3, 1975) building on Richardson Avenue. With this two story brick public school, the Bellevue Institute and the Friends' School, Davis notes that few country towns of this size were supplied with better schools.

In 1867 the present Friends School was erected. The dimensions of this school were 30 by 40 feet which, with desks and apparatus, cost \$4,609.75 and served as a Friends School until it was closed in 1929. The public school later rented it when extra classroom space was needed. Today it is used for, among other things, a meeting place for the Langhorne Sorosis. As extra space was needed at various times, several other buildings served as classrooms. Clem Mather recalls going to school at the Langhorne Borough Hall. Mayor Sheese's home was once a private school and the Richardson House served as a nursery. Even the Country Club was used for classrooms in the early 50's for one year.

Langhorne Manor's Borough Hall of today was built as a school and served children of the Manor while another served the Maple Point area and still another the Oxford Valley area. This school was built in 1894 and named the Edge Hill Public School.

There was a wooden building on Pine Street which served as an elementary school. At that time Pine Street was not

cut through from Maple to Winchester. The school was a one room school with a pot belly stove. Mrs. Mable Clark remembers the story her mother told her of the last day of school in the old building in 1898, the teacher, Mr. Hartney, told the children "pick up your books and go tomorrow to the new school." The new school was the Pine Street red brick building on the corner of Pine and East Maple Avenue. This also housed a small secondary program while Middletown Township maintained a high school in Hulmeville Borough. The Pine Street School was torn down in 1965.

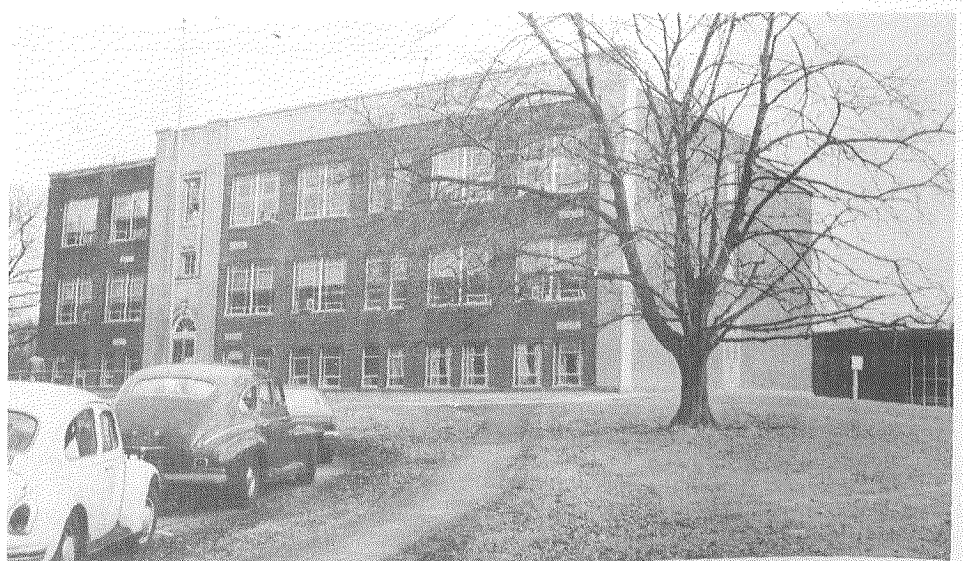
In 1926 one of the first school jointures in eastern Pennsylvania was established by the Boards of School Directors of Middletown Township and Langhorne Borough. The Joint Board agreement was made in order to erect a new high school building. This structure was started in 1926 and with several additions served as the secondary school for the children of Middletown Township and the Boroughs of Langhorne, Langhorne Manor, Hulmeville and Pennel until 1953. Originally known as the Langhorne-Middletown High, this building was later called the Cherry Street School. In the early sixties it served as an elementary school until the Oliver S. Heckman Elementary School, located right

behind it, was opened in 1967. Today Cherry Street School houses the Educational Services facilities of the Neshaminy School District.

By 1953 the new Neshaminy Junior-Senior High School on Old Lincoln Highway was sufficiently completed for boys and girls in grades eight to twelve to move over there. The high school has had additions made in 1955, 1957, 1960 and 1965. In 1965 the Neshaminy Junior High School on Route 413 north of Langhorne was opened and the Junior-Senior High School became a Senior High School for grades 10,11 and 12 only.

In the fall of 1975 a second high school opened at Maple Point on the acreage behind the early Maple Point one room school house. Thus the circle of education grows ever stronger around Langhorne as the surrounding area continues to become more populated. The Borough still has its elementary school named after Dr. Heckman. Today's principal of Heckman School is Irwin Shanken. East and west are two high schools known as Neshaminy Maple Point and Neshaminy Langhorne.

The spirit of education remains strong in Langhorne.



*The former Cherry Street School, once the Langhorne-Middletown High School, is now the Educational Services Center, housing administrative offices. Behind it is the Oliver Heckman Elementary School.*

## MEETINGS AHEAD

The Buildings and Sites Committee meetings in the Educational Services Center (ESC), East Maple Ave., Langhorne. Watch newspapers for meeting dates. Dates are also posted on the ESC door.

The Educational Policies Committee meetings at the Educational Services Center. Meeting dates in newspapers and posted on the ESC door.

School Board meetings scheduled for the following dates:

March 23	Public Meeting	Neshaminy Middle School Route 413, Langhorne
April 6	Working Session	Tawanka Elementary School, Brownsville Rd. Oakford
April 28	Public Meeting	Sandburg Middle School Harmony Rd., Levittown
May 4	Working Session	Poquessing Elementary School, Feasterville
May 11	Working Session	Educational Services Center, Langhorne
May 12	Working Session	Educational Services Center, Langhorne
May 25	Public Meeting	Buck Elementary School Levittown

Board meetings begin at 8 p.m. Tours of the elementary schools are held at 7:30 for interested Board members and the public. All working sessions are open to the public.

## TO GET A TAX REFUND

The Neshaminy School District occupational privilege tax was adopted in June, 1975, to gain additional revenue without adding to the burden of real estate owners. The tax is a levy of \$10 on every person who works within District boundaries. It is collected by employers as deductions from earnings of each employee.

Persons making less than \$3,200 a year are exempt from the tax. They may apply for a refund after Dec. 31, 1976, and before April 30, 1977.

Applications for refund of the occupational privilege tax deducted in 1976 will be available at the end of 1976 in the accounting office at the Business Services Center, the former Pennndel School, Hulmeville and Woodland Avenues, Pennndel.

Applicants will be required to show evidence of earnings for the year.

## CAFETERIA PRICES UP

Recent school board action increased the price of milk to students from five to seven cents a half pint.

In addition the price of extra servings and a la carte foods served to adults has been increased. No federal reimbursement or commodity foods are available for any food except those used in the nutritionally balanced Type A lunch. The new prices are a realistic reflection of current food costs.

The price of the Type A lunch, entree, beverage and dessert, remains at \$.55 for children and \$.85 for adults.

*The Neshaminy Newsletter was prepared under the direction of the Board Information Committee of the Neshaminy Board of School Directors; Leon DeVoy, Chairperson; James L. Betz; Jacqueline Herr; Irwin Kaplan; Bernard G. Hoffman, administrative consultant; Bridget Wingert, Editor.*

*Printed by: Printing Department, Division of Instructional Media Services, Bucks County Intermediate Unit No. 22.*



### NESHAMINY NEWSLETTER

published by the  
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Langhorne, Pa. 19047

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