

NESHAMINY

Residents say hiring committee not necessary

The superintendent said he wanted to discuss outside influences trying to penetrate the hiring process with the school board in private.

By RACHEL CANELLI COURIER TIMES

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For the second time this year, Neshaminy residents told the school board that they don't want a personnel committee.

Several residents Tuesday night repeated those feelings first expressed earlier this year and spoke in support of Superintendent Paul Kadri and his administration.

"This is getting way out of hand," said Langhorne mother Lisa Reiser, who, to applause, thanked Superintendent Paul Kadri for doing a fantastic job. "How many people does it take to hire a teacher?"

Earlier this year, the board discussed the idea of a group that would include board members and oversee the hiring process.

After many residents said no to the concept, the board didn't move forward.

But the topic was recently brought back up and the board agreed to investigate the possibility.

Langhorne resident Esther Mikus said the board should let Kadri do his job and added that board meetings aren't a proper forum for "political grandstanding."

Gail Longden, mother of three, agreed.

"I think Paul Kadri is doing a phenomenal job and I'd hate to see you tie his hands," she said.

But board member Ritchie Webb, who recently sparked the personnel committee conversation, said the board isn't interested in participating in interviews. Board members want to see what positions are needed or not, and look at hiring procedures and practices, he said.

"I'd like to see the most qualified people appointed," board member Irene Boyle said. "We have a responsibility to ask questions."

Board member William Spitz, though, said he's opposed to forming such a group.

"The role of the board is not to help select a particular candidate, but to make sure the process is fair and unbiased," he said.

Kadri said the hiring to date has been done without bias. He also asked to talk to the board privately about outside influences trying to penetrate the hiring process.

"I was brought here to take politics out of the district," he said. "I'm focused on student success. We're not in sync, but I desperately want us to be."

Board President Richard Eccles pointed out the committee has yet to be formed, but said it's an issue that needs to be debated in public.