

NESHAMINY

Board OKs project to improve pool air

A few board members expressed concern that the work wasn't going to be bid.

BY RACHEL CANELLI
STAFF WRITER

Neshaminy swimmers — breathe easy.

The district's swim teams sighed with relief Tuesday night after the Neshaminy school board approved 5-0-3 a roughly \$100,000 project to Poquessing Middle School's pool that should rectify complaints of poor air quality.

Board members Ritchie Webb, Frank Koziol and Rick Eccles abstained from the motion.

Even though the pool's air passed tests, students were complaining that they were having difficulty breathing during competition, officials said.

Through research, business administrator Joseph Paradise found out that when chlorine in the pool is interacting with the teens' body oils, including sweat and hair products, it creates chloramines, a gas that hovers over them in the water, causing the difficulty in breathing. Administrators in other districts reported similar problems during competition in their own pools.

But, if the district installed an ultraviolet lighting system, it could help purify the water as it passes through the filtration system and kill bacteria, according to other districts and experts. That would allow administrators to use less chlorine and hopefully reduce the problem, administrators said.

Board members Ritchie Webb and Frank Koziol questioned why the work was presented as a change order, instead of being bid.

But district solicitor Tom Profy III said while the work could be bid out, but the board had the right to approve it as a change order because it still deals with the original scope of work, would most likely be less expensive.

Board President Rick Eccles asked if the pool at Carl Sandburg Middle School was causing similar trouble. Officials said no, but Paradise said they would double check. Rachel Canelli can be reached at 215-949-4191 or .