

LETTERS

Sad day for Neshaminy and Middletown Twp.

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April 8 was indeed a sad day for Middletown Township and the Neshaminy School District. On that day, I attended both the township supervisors and the Neshaminy school board meetings. These meetings were a disgrace, an insult to the residents and an ominous reflection of the conduct of elected officials who allegedly represent us.

At the township meeting, when a former supervisor was nominated to fill a vacant board position, the chairman accused the nominee of accepting a bribe while serving on zoning board. The rebuttal was that the charge was related to a campaign contribution and that the payment was neither solicited nor received by the nominated individual. One can only wonder why an elected official would wait six months before raising the charge if there was any validity to it. The counter charges against the chairman were likewise questionable. Violations of campaign finance laws should be investigated within the parameters of the law which require timely reporting to the state attorney general.

I then went to the Neshaminy school board meeting where, this time, one board member charged another with interfering with the hiring process in violation of school district policies. The allegations were not supported by evidence but rather hearsay. Again, there were counter-charges of some sort of violation with some documentation.

However, the incident documented occurred prior to his election. The initial discussion was concluded upon the passing of the original personnel issue resolution, but the discussion came up again under other business. At this point other accusations were raised and the resignation of the chairman was proposed by another board member. Again the allegations were unsubstantiated.

The best interests of the Neshaminy School District's taxpayers, parents, teachers, administrators and especially students are not being served. Rather, one board member called for an independent investigation of the allegations made by all parties and another member called for revised policies to define and enforce the policies and procedures of the board. By consensus the matter was referred to the Board Policy Committee.

Several times during the discussion various members alluded to a recent retreat attended by the board members. This retreat was scheduled to explore differences in the board conduct and to reprise a sense of civility to the board proceedings. In other words, "sensitivity training."

Obviously, the retreat failed.

This behavior is even more frightening when one considers that similar conduct exists at the commonwealth and federal government levels. Many of our elected officials are more concerned with personal ambitions, power, and name calling. What happened to "We the People"?