

NESHAMINY

Maple Point auditorium to be named after late music teacher

The school board also approved Lou Muenker as the new Neshaminy superintendent at a salary of \$170,000.

By **RACHEL CANELLI**
STAFF WRITER

That which they call the Maple Point auditorium will now be known as the Harry M. Dengler Center for Performing Arts.

To audience cheers Tuesday night, the Neshaminy school board approved 6-2 the facility dedication to honor the late Neshaminy music teacher.

A ceremony will be scheduled, officials said.

"The family is very excited and honored," said Lisa Pennington, Dengler's daughter and a district coach.

"This (will) be a lasting remembrance as to what my father did for so many students. ... He touched so many ... lives in many different ways by sharing his musical talents along with his passion for teaching."

Dengler, a Feasterville resident who passed away at age 65 in April 2003, also served as a Neshaminy school board member.

Describing him as an inspirational leader, a few of Dengler's former students made a plea to the board for the naming earlier this month.

Several of his pupils went on to fame, including a few Broadway singers and children's music star David Jack, officials said.

Board members Frank Koziol and Richard Eccles, though, voted against the motion because they believe a wall of honor would better recognize multiple deserving people, rather than honoring a few.

In other school board business, Neshaminy has a new superintendent, with a familiar face.

Acting Superintendent Lou Muenker was appointed superintendent Tuesday night at \$170,000 salary for a term that expires June 30, 2012, by a vote of 6-1-1.

Spitz voted against the motion, saying he didn't have enough time to review Muenker's contract.

O'Connor abstained because his daughter teaches in the district.

Rachel Canelli can be reached at 215-949-4191 or .