

Support staff concerned jobs could be lost

26 Aug 2009 — Bucks County Courier Times

Neshaminy

The school board approved contracts with two other bargaining units Tuesday night.

Neshaminy support staff members staged "an informational protest" Tuesday night at the district school board meeting to let residents know about 200 jobs in their bargaining unit could be in danger.

"Our jobs are being threatened to be subcontracted out to [private] companies," said Mindy Anderson, president of the Neshaminy Educational Support Professional Association during public comment at the board meeting.

The association represents about 540 district employees, including school bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria workers, maintenance personnel and aides, she said.

"We have been working without a contract since July 1st, but the schools will be ready to open even with the threat of losing our jobs, because this is our home and we care about the children who attend our schools," said Anderson, an elementary school secretary.

Asking for bids on custodial, transportation, maintenance and food services are part of the negotiating process, said Superintendent Louis Muenker. Board and association representatives will be back at the bargaining table again today, he said.

Meanwhile, the district's governing body reached three-year deals with two other Neshaminy bargaining units, board President Ritchie Webb announced Tuesday night.

The agreements, effective through June 2012, are with Neshaminy's eight confidential secretaries and the Neshaminy Administrative Support Association.

The administrative association represents 13 middle level managers including cafeteria managers, Muenker said.

Each deal calls for annual 3 percent salary increases for the employees, he said.

The agreements also call for staff members to cover 15 percent of their health premium costs this school year, 16 percent in 2010-11 and 17 percent in 2011-12.

The health benefit contributions mirror the deal district administrators made with the school board earlier this year.

The contribution levels also are similar to what the governing body is asking Neshaminy teachers union members to agree to in their ongoing contract negotiations.

Webb joined Vice President Kim Koutsouradis, Joseph Blasch, Irene Boyle, Susan Cummings, William O'Connor and William Spitz in approving the two contracts Tuesday night. Richard Eccles and Frank Koziol did not attend the meeting.

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