

## District support staff holds protest during meeting

25 Nov 2009 — *Bucks County Courier Times*

Neshaminy

Another negotiation meeting is scheduled for Dec. 2, officials said.

Several members of Neshaminy's support staff were once again picketing outside Tuesday night's school board meeting at Maple Point Middle School in Middletown.

The bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers continue to protest the district's consideration of bids on custodial, transportation, maintenance and food services. Union President Mindy Anderson had no comment on Tuesday night's protest.

Board members also did not comment on the picketing.

The support staff also protested at the end of the school's driveway during an August meeting. The 500-plus union members have been working without a contract since July, administrators said.

Talks have centered on health care, according to district officials. School board members say they can't continue to pay for a top tier plan, but support staffers say they can't afford to pay what the board is asking.

Mirroring what the board offered the teachers, the board is asking the support staff to contribute from 15 percent to 17 percent to the current plan over three years, or change the plan and pay 10 percent to 12 percent. The district also is offering a 3 percent annual salary increase over three years, board President Ritchie Webb previously said.

The support staff counter-offered, saying they'd forgo a salary increase this year if they don't have to contribute to their health care premiums. They said they'd then contribute to their health care in increments up to 5 percent over five years. They also asked for 3 percent, 3 1/2 percent and 4 percent salary increases over five years, according to district officials.

Almost 200 members are full-time and receive benefits. The rest don't, because they're part-time, administrators said. Another bargaining session is scheduled for Dec. 2, officials said.

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*"District support staff holds protest during meeting" Bucks County Courier Times 25 Nov 2009: B11*