

Neshaminy board OKs \$22.5M tech school budget

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Bucks County Technical High School

The approval gives the comprehensive tech school enough approvals to enact the 2010-2011 spending plan.

Bucks County Technical High School will operate on a \$22.5 million budget in the coming school year, having successfully secured enough approvals from the sending districts it serves.

That means that the comprehensive tech school that serves the Bensalem, Bristol, Bristol Township, Morrisville, Neshaminy and Pennsbury school districts, will be able to move forward with hosting a variety of student-related programs over the summer break.

The tech school needed a 2010-2011 budget in place by today, or the school would have had to shut down until the boards from the sending districts approved a revised plan.

That will not be necessary, because Neshaminy school board members put the comprehensive tech school over the top in the approvals process Tuesday night when they voted 8-1 to approve the spending plan.

It calls for Neshaminy to contribute \$3,991,475 toward the tech school's 2010-2011 operating expenses. That's about \$70,000 more than the district's 2009-2010 contribution.

This is the second time the Neshaminy board voted on a 2010-2011 tech school budget. The first time around board members rejected the initial \$22.7 million proposal that included an increase of nearly \$114,000 in Neshaminy's contribution toward the operating expenses.

So did the Bristol and Morrisville boards, sending the proposed budget back to the school for administrators to look for places to trim.

They suggested trimming 15 positions. A few of the reductions will be done through attrition and the rest with layoffs.

The proposed 2010-2011 budget is 0.28 percent greater than the spending plan for the just-ended school year, officials said. It includes \$18,712,971 in contributions from the sending districts. The rest of the expenses will be covered with federal and state grants and adult education fees, school officials said.

The Bensalem, Bristol Township and Pennsbury school boards previously approved the \$22.5 million proposed budget. The Bristol and Morrisville boards rejected it.

That left the budget's future in Neshaminy's hands because the tech school's bylaws call for four boards and at least 28 board members from the sending districts to approve the spending plan. The tech school secured approval of the 2010-2011 budget from four boards and 33 board members.

Richard Eccles was the lone Neshaminy board member to vote against the revised tech school budget. He said the proposed reductions were not steep enough given the current economic climate.

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