



For Immediate Release

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**Statement by Louise Boyd,
President, Neshaminy Federation of Teachers,
In Response to the School Board's Open Letter about Negotiations**

Today the Neshaminy School Board posted an open letter to teachers regarding ongoing negotiations seeking a new contract between the School District and the NFT.

LANGHORNE, PA (March 24, 2011)—In an open letter posted on its website today, the School Board tells Neshaminy teachers that “it’s time to negotiate a contract that both the teachers and the community can live with.”

We couldn’t agree more, but what the Board fails to mention is that the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers has been trying for three years to get the Board to engage in serious talks. While they claim they are ready to meet, they have not been willing to schedule any bargaining sessions that would lead to a fair settlement.

The letter says the Board respects its teachers. However, anyone who heard Board Member Mike Morris at this week’s School Board meeting would have a hard time equating his vicious comments about Neshaminy teachers with “respect.” Once again, the administration sat idly by while Board members publically attacked our teachers.

Teachers have not ignored the District’s financial challenges, as the letter asserts. We have offered a plan that includes considerable savings, but for reasons that are unclear, the Board is unwilling to acknowledge our concessions.

While the School Board obviously wishes to argue about semantics, the healthcare savings speak for themselves. The counter-proposal that we offered in August 2010 would enable the District to save \$2.8 million annually relative to their current healthcare expenditures.

Once again, the Board fails to understand that the certified staff of this District is unified and steadfast in its resolve to negotiate a fair and equitable contract. This letter is a clear attempt to divide our membership by subverting the bargaining process. It is a failed strategy. They would

be better off directing their time and energy towards finding creative solutions to reach a fair settlement.

Louise Boyd,

President, NFT