



For Immediate Release

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**NESHAMINY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS FRUSTRATED BY
BOARD'S VINDICTIVE REJECTION OF NON-BINDING ARBITRATION
AWARD**

Teachers say Board's Attitude Exemplifies Why There's No Contract

LANGHORNE, PA (May 9, 2012) — The Neshaminy Federation of Teachers entered the Maple Point Middle School auditorium for last night's board meeting hopeful the Neshaminy School Board would announce its acceptance of the non-binding arbitration award handed down by state-appointed Arbitrator Rochelle Kaplan last week. Instead, what they witnessed was a vindictive speech by school board President Ritchie Webb, who ridiculed the arbitrator, the arbitration process, state officials, and the NFT before calling for a board vote that resulted in a 9-0 unanimous rejection of the arbitration award.

"I'm rarely lost for words," said NFT president Louise Boyd, "but I was nearly speechless when I heard Webb's rant about the arbitrator, the arbitration process, state officials, and teachers. It was flat out embarrassing. He blamed just about everyone on the planet for the mess they've created in this district – except themselves. In effect, he called into question the integrity of the arbitrator, accused the state of disempowering the school board, and blamed the NFT for all of its financial problems."

Boyd noted that the arbitrator's findings were very 'middle ground' with neither side coming out a clear winner.

"The district won and lost on a lot of points and so did the NFT," she said. "But to listen to Mr. Webb's rant last night, one would think that the arbitrator gave the teachers everything we've asked for, which is not the case by any stretch. This is the perfect example of what we've been telling the community all along – the district has a 100 percent 'take it or leave it' approach to

everything it does. No movement, no concessions, no willingness to find a middle ground. Not even an impartial third party arbitrator can get them to see there are numerous ways to resolve this issue. I guess the 'Neshaminy Nine' are committed to a scorched earth policy. Tragically, they're again moving our whole district a step backwards."

The complete version of the Final Arbitration Award is posted for review on the [NFT's Community Page](#).

"If you look at the items we were prepared to concur with the arbitrator on, many of which represented big concessions for us, you can see that we approached this process prepared to make tough decisions for the sake of closure and moving forward," said NFT Vice President Anne Schmidt. "The board, on the other hand, outright dismissed nearly everything that wasn't exactly what they wanted. They clearly did not take this process seriously and just don't seem that interested in finding an end to this impasse."

The NFT meets this evening to discuss the district's rejection of the arbitration award and to vote on accepting or rejecting the findings themselves – a moot point now as both parties must agree to the findings or the award is null and void.

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