

## NESHAMINY

## Residents ask board to focus on kids

By **RACHEL CANELLI STAFF WRITER**  
*Rachel Canelli can be reached at 215-949-4191 or .*

Some Neshaminy School District residents Wednesday night gave the school board a homework assignment — stop arguing and work together.

After accusations were exchanged by a few members over alleged behind-the-scenes hiring decisions earlier this month, many senior citizens and parents pleaded with the board to focus on children and education.

Some people presented the board with a letter demanding a two-to-five-year strategic plan, including a budget that the community can afford, and for officials to define the roles of the board and superintendent.

They said the board has lost the community's confidence and described members' behavior as embarrassing.

"We have to have harmony on the board," said Langhorne senior citizen Solis Basen.

Board member William Spitz pointed out that the district approved a six-year strategic plan two years ago, and the board's ethics and conduct policies partially describe the board and superintendent's jobs.

Several residents showed support for board President Richard Eccles, who was recently urged to resign by board members William O'Connor and Spitz.

Those who spoke out in support of Eccles said O'Connor and Spitz should resign.

"Mr. Eccles has always been the voice of the people ... and committed to the people," said Langhorne resident Howard Lindner.

Other speakers asked administrators to focus on possible school closures, the budget and ongoing negotiations with the Neshaminy Federation of Teachers since their contract expires in June.

Langhorne resident Chris Graham called the board members' finger-pointing a disgrace to the community that has made Neshaminy the laughingstock of the area and distracted officials from focusing on business.

Spitz said the board could improve by following its own ethics and conduct policies.