

January 7, 2014

The minutes of the organization meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on January 7, 2014 at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mr. Sternberg called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the oath of office was administered to Thomas Kasper, Linda L. Bond-Nelson, and John A. Fellin, Jr. At the call of the roll the following members were present:

Thomas Allen - absent	Thomas Kasper
David Branan	Kathleen Mullen - absent
Sandra Dodd	Linda Bond-Nelson
John Fellin, Jr.	

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, and approximately 10 members of the staff and public.

The Secretary called for nominations for the office of President for the ensuing year. Mr. Kasper nominated, seconded by Mr. Branan, Linda Bond-Nelson for President. A call for a vote for President had Mrs. Bond-Nelson elected by a unanimous vote.

The meeting was turned over to the President, Mrs. Bond-Nelson, by the Secretary.

The President called for nominations for the office of Vice President for the ensuing year. Ms. Bond-Nelson nominated, seconded by Mr. Kasper, David Branan for Vice President. A call for a vote for Vice President had Mr. Branan elected by a unanimous vote.

Organization Meeting Recommendations:

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the following individuals be authorized on behalf of the Board of Education to sign checks issued on the General, Payroll Agency, Unemployment Trust, and Food Service accounts:

President – Linda L. Bond-Nelson
Secretary – Donald Sternberg
Treasurer of School Funds – Annette Wells

David Branan – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Regular Meetings of the Board of Education be scheduled on the first and third Wednesday of each month, with the exception of July 2014, and January 2015; no meetings will be scheduled for August 2014 at this time; schedule of meetings will be confirmed by June 30, 2014 and held at Watchung School, beginning at 7:30 PM.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the COURIER NEWS and STAR LEDGER be named the official newspaper for the publication of legal notices and classified ads.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that meeting notices shall be submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, Comcast, and posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall, North Plainfield Public Library, and on the district website www.nplainfield.org.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the following banks be named approved depositories for Board of Education Investment Funds:

TD Bank
NJ/ARM

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that TD Bank be named the depository for the following funds:

Payroll	General Account
Food Service	High School Student Account
Payroll Agency	Unemployment Insurance
Flexible Sending	Summer Pay

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the following banks be named as depositories for Bond and Interest Funds:

TD Bank
NJ ARM

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Bylaws and Policies of the Board of Education as amended be adopted and that all matters not contained therein be guided by existing practices.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Dodd and unanimously approved to table the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, that the President make the following appointments:

Committees

Board/Staff:
Communications:
Curriculum:
Finance & Facilities:
Negotiations:
Policy:

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools and the School Business Administrator to develop and implement the 2014-2015 school district budget pursuant with local and State policies and regulations.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that for the period of January 1, 2014 to June 30, 2014, the Board of Education employ Dr. Fernando R. Sitoy, as school physician at the rate of \$7,000 (1/2 annual salary).

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education name the Bank of New York as the paying agent for bonding.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the chart of accounts.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the awarding of contracts up to the bid threshold of \$36,000 and set the quote threshold of \$5,400.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the following bank to act as depository for the student activity accounts for all schools funds. Elementary school accounts will be a subset of the main student account, managed within the high school account:

TD Bank

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the following tax shelter annuity companies/brokers to administer 403B and 457 plans as follows:

AIG, Valic
AXA, Equitable
Lincoln Financial Group
MetLife
LSW

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education approve the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics, NJSA Title 18A:12-24.1, as attached.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education authorize the Board Secretary/School Business Administrator to procure goods and services utilizing state agencies (state contracts).

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reaffirm the Job Descriptions.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education reaffirm policy #6164.1 Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved, with Mr. Fellin abstaining, to accept the public session minutes of December 18, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved, with Mr. Fellin abstaining, to accept the executive session minutes of December 18, 2013.

Comments from the Public

Upon request of the chair for topics from the public, there were none.

Student Representative Report

The following report was submitted for the record:

Hope Club held a pre-winter break bake sale to raise funds to donate to help endangered species. We raised \$80.00! The brook trout have grown nicely and are now over an inch in size. We have about 100. They will be released in April to a pre-approved trout stream off Chimney Rock road to help maintain the wildlife population. The eggs were supplied in October from the Pequest Trout hatchery.

On Thursday, January 9, the first NJ Science League test will be given at Scotch Plains-Fanwood HS, to which 4 teams from NPHS will take part [Biology 1, Biology 2, Chemistry, & Physics]

The Mr. Canuck 2014 Pageant will be held on Friday, January 10, at 7:00pm in the Auditorium. The pageant will consist of 4 events – evening wear, street wear, beach wear, and a talent. Five judges will score the contestants throughout the evening and the top five contestants will have a brief question to answer. After the scores are tallied, a senior guy will be announced “Mr. Canuck 2014.”

January 7, 2014

There will be a Bullying Information Night for Grade 7-12 students on Monday, January 13, at 7pm in the high school cafeteria. All parents are encouraged to attend.

The Canuckling Club is pleased to announce that we have won the First Place with Special Merit award for *Canuckling 2013* from the American Scholastic Press Association. The American Scholastic Press Association has also informed us that *Canuckling 2013* has won the Most Outstanding award in the Best Jr.-Sr. HS Literary-Art Magazine category, as well. We are very proud of these awards. This year's club members are hard at work to make this year's issue an award winning one, as well. We continue to meet regularly to review submissions, discuss this year's T-shirt, and how this year's layout will look. We look forward to a very productive year.

Presentation

There was none.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students

Ashley Marshall, a junior at North Plainfield High School, has been selected by the coaching staff to represent NPHS as New Jersey joins the nation in celebrating the many achievements of girls and women in sports, particularly throughout our state. Ashley participates on the girls' soccer, basketball, and track teams.

*The statewide celebration for the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** will take place on February 9, 2014 at Seton Hall University in the Richie Regan Recreation Center. The program will include a state-wide awards luncheon, where outstanding high school and college/university female athletes will be presented with special awards from the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports. Immediately after the luncheon, all award winners and the adults accompanying them are invited to attend the women's basketball game between Seton Hall and Villanova University. The governor is also expected to issue a proclamation identifying February 9, 2014 as the Girls and Women in Sports Day in the State of New Jersey.*

Middle School Honor Roll First Marking Period

(*) = All A's

Grade 7:

Acevedo, Demetrius	Guox, Genesis	Nguyen, Tien
Adams, Kierra (*)	Havrilla, Danielle (*)	Orozco, Diana
Amancha, Laura (*)	Hernandez, Evelyn	Ovalles, Jose
Andrews, Alyssa	Holston, Chanel (*)	Pacla, Myles
Arguello, Kayla	Hosny, Rana	Parra, Stephanie
Bailey, Joseph	Ibrahim, Sarah (*)	Peregrina, Elisa
Balmer, Kori	Imtiaz, Hassan	Pineros, Laura
Barron, Kayla	Jackson, Teri	Pucciarelli, Nico (*)
Benson, Brian (*)	Jeffries, Stacy	Rehmatullah, Zamaleena (*)
Betancourt, Jeiner (*)	Jones, Janiyyah	Restrepo, Elijah

Butler, Darryl Jr.
 Canales, Arianna
 Carranza, Sarah
 Clancy, Stephen
 Cobo, Joseph
 Datu, Adon'Rich-Ter
 Dayton, Alexander
 DeMeola, Chloe
 Dombroski, George
 Edwards, Joy
 Enwerekowe, Soluchi
 Evans, Jahir
 Falowo, Mobolaji
 Ford, Troi
 Galvez, Jonathan
 Garcia, Johel
 Gonzalez, Maria
 Gonzalez, Daniela
Gordon, Kristen (*)
 Granizo, Stacey

Josias, Joshua
 King, Noah
 Lacon, Taylor
 Lindsay, Amanda
 Llewellyn, Mason
 Marin, Catherine
 Marquez, Samantha
 Martinez, Laura
 Mendoza, Jennifer
 Monegro, Jordy
 Monrroy, Abraham
Monrroy, Chris (*)
 Morales, Cindy
 Morris, Marquis
 Motta, Katherine
Muhando, Ashley (*)
 Muhando, Jasmine
Muhando, Sydney (*)
 Ndegwa, Bernice
 Newman, Myles

Rivera, Donaven
 Rosa, Veronica
 Sandoval, Katherine
Shahzad, Shafaq (*)
 Soliman, Bassant
 Somwaru, Samuel
 Stacey, Jamie
 Tapia, Anthony
Thomas, Courtney (*)
 Tiban, Danisha
 Urmaza, Audrey
 Vargas, Mariely
 Vega, Daniela
 Vega, Veronica
 Villacis, Sheila
Walsh, Maeve (*)
 White, Jared
Womack, Amaya (*)
 Zafar, Sabriya
 Zarate, Alveiry

Grade 8:

Abrantes, Daniela
 Adams, Caprice
 Adams, Kayla
 Adil, Hajira
 Appezzato, Reilly
 Athar, Dlavar
Atubi, Ashley (*)
 Aurelien, Kiora
 Aygun, Neslihan
Bahnasy, Menatallah (*)
 Barbosa, Erika
 Barrett, Kalin
 Carhuaricra, Samantha
 Castaneda, Edgar
Cerdena, Jessica (*)
Chen, Fiona (*)
 Conroy, Zachary
 Corral, Francisco
 Crowther, Jane
Dardignac, Jessica (*)
 Del Rosario, Rikka
 Duncan, Joseph
 Eason, Andre
 Ebanks, Floyd Jr.
Elsais, Ayah (*)

Evans, Lance
 Funelas, Abigail
 Galvez, Wendy
 Gamez, Allison
Giron, Estefany (*)
 Grundy, Jordan
 Guevara, Jenna
 Guillen, Abraham
 Herring, Brittany
 Hosny, Mohamed
 Jackson, Akirah
 Jackson, Walter III
 Joback, Benjamin
Joseph, Anne (*)
Kaur, Crispheet (*)
 Lawson, Jada
 Leiva, Cristabel
 Lesaca, Jared
Lozada, Teresita (*)
 Mady-Abraham, Salma
 Martinez, Stephanie
 Metz, Olga
 Morales, Justin
 Nunez, Sheila
O'Neal, Shaniyah (*)

Pacheco, Julia
 Pacla, Lyle
 Palacios, Sebastian
 Patel, Radha
 Perez, Evelyn
Pompey, Alyssa (*)
 Recinos, Flabia
 Reyes, Kelly
 Rodriguez, Tyler
 Romero, Arelis
 Sanon, Naica
Scopel, Jaclyn (*)
 Shahzad, Aisha
 Sloan, Seneca
 Smith, Brandon
 Spontak, Daniel
 Sullivan, Trevor
Turcios, Selena (*)
Urquizo, Jimmy (*)
 Vera, Melissa
 Weyand, Bruce

**East End School's Citizens of the Month
December 2013**

Kindergarten

Gabriela Andahur
David Paredes
Jordyn Barcelo
Dayana Castro
Ashlee Castillo
Eleina Guidos
Angie Olivo
Olman Amaya

First Grade

Melanie Cruz
Sofia Jerez-Salazar
Lilly Lozada-Villegas
Krishna Patel
Naomy Fiallos
Jermaine Smallwood
Jada Pinzon
Jordan Phillips
Alex Pozalente

Second Grade

Shelsea Escobar
Patricia Gomez
Maria Castillo
Joseph Ehling
Jason Sparrow
Cassandra Bellucci
Giselle Peraza-Lopez
Xavier Sample
Nikko Evans
Kathiana Saldarriaga

Third Grade

Jeimy Garcia
Victoria Caraballo
Chelsey Ramkrith
Alex Ortega
Samantha Draben
Julissa Ramos
Amy Zarate
Maria Muso-Moya
Dre'Yuan Robinson
Yasmen Zafar
Serge Ngoma

Fourth Grade

Ashlie Nunez
Milena Ramos
Angelina Brito
Farah Baijnath
Daniel Portillo
Melissa Grimaldy
Alexa Lourenco
Nala King
Brayan Valentin
Amani Weeks

Vocal Music

Nevaeh Terry/K
Allessia Capodiferro/1
Estrella Arriaga-Garcia/2
Esau Anchecta/3
Liam Alvarado/4

Instrumental Music

Aliyah Walker/4

Art

Zane Stites/K
Andreicha Veras/K
Heather Oyola/1
Emilio Ortiz/1
Alexander Meza/1
Deven Sampson/2
Joseph Ehling/2
Juleanna Santos/3
Victoria Caraballo/3
Darrell Cogdell/3
Nahsiyah Newton/4
Betsy Murillo/4
Tatiana Sarmiento/4

Physical Education

Nia Prather/K
Eleina Guidos-Estanislau/K
Kailyn Mendoza/1
Krishna Patel/1
Maria Castillo/2
Bisleisy Cordon/2
Donovan Miranda/3
Andrea Carrillo-Hernandez/3
Nala King/4
Adonis Gomez-Cargua/4

Library

Bayron Murillo/K
Maya Murillo/1
Gissel Alvarenga-Martinez/2
Lamont Jordan/3
Maya Ore/4

ESL

Naomy Fialla/1
Seynabou Dia/3
Jack Quito/4
Sammi Zhang/4

Principal

John Hernandez/4
Noeli Martinez/4
Karina Quinteros/3
Jonathan Guevera/2

Immediately following the Citizens of the Month Assembly, music teacher **Diana VanHise** led the school in its traditional sing-a-long. First, the third and fourth grade students stood up, faced the audience and sang for everyone. Then, academic support teacher **Leslie Hansen** played the piano as everyone sang along. Then, keeping with tradition, the staff took the stage and entertained the students by singing many different holiday songs. “Once again, I don’t know who had more fun doing this, the students or the staff! Not only were we singing, but we were dancing as well, trying to mirror the famous Rockettes. It is all worthwhile because watching the children smile and applaud is priceless. We were so happy that so many parents stayed and joined the sing-a-long,” remarked Ms. Herrmann.

Stony Brook School Honor Roll

Grade Three

Samantha Alvenus
Andrea P. Garcia
Anthony Olivo
Denis Rojas

Layevska Corado-Delcid.
Robert Hernandez
Uriel Palacios
Brandon Urquizo

Grade Four

Ivan Mangui
Joshua Njoku
Ashley Reyes
Jenny Sanon

Tanya Molina
Kristobal Olivares
Luisa Salguero
Adair Yancha Tobar

High Honor Roll

Joel Guevara

Each honor roll student received an honor roll certificate and an honor roll pencil. Stony Brook’s PTA donated a certificate for a free sundae at Applebee’s.

Schools

NPHS

NPHS Concert Band Winter Concert: Heather Fencik, NPHS instrumental music director, makes it look easy, but every selection performed by the Jazz Band and Concert Band at the Winter Concert on December 12, 2013 was a testament to lots of disciplined practice and acute attention to detail. The evening’s repertoire was appropriate for the season, challenging and quite interesting. The students sounded confident in their playing and exhibited a remarkable professional stage presence. Soft and enchanting melodies would crescendo to climatic moments of exceptional precision and balance. Supervisor of the arts, **Tom Mazur** noted, “I could not think of a better way to usher in the spirit of the holidays” as he thanked the high school students who worked so diligently in presenting such a commendable performance.

NPHS Winter Choral Concert: Amy Six, NPHS chorus director, led five separate ensembles in a varied seasonal concert in the auditorium just before the winter break on December 20, 2013. The Show Choir, with choreography by **Bettina Bergamo**, Somerset School teacher, started the evening with an energetic arrangement of “I Will Always Love Whitney.” The Gospel Choir followed with a sensitive rendition of “Take Me to the King.” The Vocal Workshop delivered their two songs with impressive harmonies. The NPHS

Concert Choir handled the more challenging arrangements, including the interesting “Noel Fantasy” and a very charming “Mozart’s Fa La La.” The Mixed Chorus looked impressive by their sheer numbers on stage, and entertained from start with “S’vivo” to finish with Irving Berlin’s “Blue Skies,” which was made all the more entertaining by the addition of dancers from **Dawn Schultz’s** dance class. The evening concluded with a traditional performance of the “Hallelujah Chorus” that included chorus alumni and retired arts supervisor, **Frank Cognetti**.

NPMS

Holiday Concert: On December 17, the middle school music department held its annual Winter Concert under the direction of vocal music teacher **Ivan Izeppi** and instrumental music teacher **Kyle Skrivanek**. Over 130 choral students and 75 band members performed various selections to highlight the festive season. **Tom Mazur**, supervisor of the arts, stated, “The NPMS Chorus looked impressive on the risers when the curtains opened. They sounded confident on the opening selection *Madrigal for Christmas*; in addition, the harmonies were also strong and pleasantly well balanced.” He added, “I knew as soon as the brass made their entrance that we were in for a great start to the evening’s offerings. The low brass wowed me, the saxes sounded sweet, the piano and drums were just the right balance, and the band’s crescendos impressive.”

The Pact: On December 11, eighth grade students assembled in the auditorium to view the documentary “The Pact,” which follows the lives of Dr. George Jenkins, Dr. Sampson Davis, and Dr. Rameck Hunt. These three doctors are the main characters in the book *We Beat the Street*, which the students are reading in their English classes. Team Leader **Christine Colonel** reported, “After the movie, the students discussed the importance of positive peer pressure and teamwork for the doctors and how it relates to the lives of NPMS students. Each student created a pact they wanted to make with themselves. They wrote their pact on a slip of paper that will be used in a chromatography experiment in their science classes. These strips of paper will be used to create a weave to represent how the students are united and working together.” The pacts will be displayed in each classroom as a reminder of their goals.

A Penny for Your Thoughts: Science teacher **Deanne D’Armiento** recently had her students participate in a lab experiment in which students dripped droplets of water on a penny to see how much the penny would hold. The students learned that through property of cohesion, the water molecules “stick together” to adhere to the penny.

If You Build It, They Will Come: To further enhance the message of teamwork and accountability, students on Team One worked together to create the tallest standing tower that would hold a quarter for ten sections. The only materials students were given were thirty straws and a pair of scissors. While brainstorming possible solutions, students worked cooperatively and were marveled at each other’s creativity and ingenious solutions.

Salvation Army Thank You: Teacher **Erin McManus** and facilitator of the annual holiday gift donation committee, was happy to announce that over forty children were presented gifts of toys and clothes this year. Working in cooperation with the Plainfield Salvation Army, the staff at the middle school looks forward to helping bring a smile to the many children serviced by this worthy organization. Ms. McManus, in her letter to the staff, announced, “Your generous spirit was much needed and very much appreciated!”

Games of the Middle Ages: Recently, students on Team 3 participated in interdisciplinary activities that culminated their learning experiences about the Middle Ages. In social studies class, teacher **Dave Hooker** helped students research and create family crest shields. In addition, students learned about various modern games, by researching their origins from the medieval time period. Math teacher **Lauren Meyer** utilized the smart board to bring up a live computer chess game to explain the mathematical strategy employed in the game and how a chessboard reflects a coordinate plane. Teachers **Lisa Keating, Shona Wright, and Michael Nardi** helped students download a free app on their Smartphone to play chess against each other or a computer. Other students utilized the new touch screen laptops to play against their classmates. When the “games” were over, students read various informational texts about the history of games and wrote reflective pieces to share with their classmates.

Stony Brook School

Stony Brook School’s “Got Talent”: On December 19, 2013, Stony Brook School was bursting with talent as the production of the fourth annual “Talent Show” made its debut. The eighteen different performances ranged in talent with songs, dance routines, a jump rope act and this year a magic act. This year’s show was directed by **Leanne Borbely, Kelly Feeney and Andrew Taylor**. Associate producers were **Alison Mac and Tara Naturile**. The show’s hosts this year were fourth graders: **Joel Guevara, Tania Molino-Ramos, Rebecca Rodriguez, Jenny Sanon and Adair Yancha-Tobar**.

“Who’s Who in the Cast?”

Grade 3

Samantha Alvenus	Layevska Corada-Delcid,
Andrea Garcia	Shirley Gonzalez
Christopher Guevara-Flores	Derek Lopez
Hamza Malik	Anthony Manzano,
Paige Palmer	Henri Rodriguez
Dennis Rojas	Keshawn Woodberry.

Grade 4

Jamie Aguilar	Angie Barrios
Alaina Belyo	Samantha Borja
Kenny Cabrera	Elizabeth Ellis
Joseline Garcia	De-Ona Hathaway
Julisa Jara	Xiomara Lianez
Ivan Mangui	Derek Murillo
Sabryah Murkey	Celara Murray
Joshua Njoku	Kristin Palate
Bhavya Patel	Ashley Reyes
Jesus Melchor Reyes	Antony Salazar

Sophia Sánchez

“Once again, the acts were tremendous. Each performer worked long and hard to give a best performance for all to enjoy. Parents and friends of Stony Brook were there to celebrate the talent found at Stony Brook School. Special thanks to all participants for a job well done. Bravo!” exclaimed **Principal Cathy Kobylarz**.

West End School

Annual Holiday Sing: All of West End School's students, staff, and parent visitors were led in song by **choral director Jon Scott** and the fourth grade chorus members at the annual Holiday Sing. Special guest performers appeared: Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, the Elves, along with Santa and Mrs. Claus, too. "It was a great way to celebrate the holiday season," remarked **Beth Sobel, principal**. Many thanks to the following teachers for making this such an enjoyable event: **Suzanne Parmelee and Mr. Scott** for planning the event and to the staff members playing the cast of characters: **Wendy Alvarez, Michelle dos Santos, Wendy McClellan, Heather Novorro, Chris Sepesi, Nancyanne Schreck, Heather Shealy, and special guests Emma and Wally**.

Annual Holiday Visit: Thank you to **school counselor Joan Graham** for planning, arranging, and accompanying the following high school students to West End School for some holiday fun. Playing the role of Santa Claus, **Anthony Yalango**; Santa's Elf, **Eli Solis**; Rudolph the Reindeer, **Jason Baluka**; and Mrs. Clause, **Hamilex Guevara**. These students visited each kindergarten, first grade and second grade class bringing holiday spirit and candy canes to every good little boy and girl.

Diabetes Walk: Congratulations and many thanks to **school nurse Barbara Walker and physical education and health teachers Wendy Alvarez and Chris Sepesi** for organizing and running a very successful Diabetes Walk. They collected and sent \$316.00 to the American Diabetes Association and provided Diabetes Awareness information to all the students of West End School.

Student Council/Early Act Club Pajama Day: On December 19, the West End Student Council/Early Act Club sponsored Pajama Day, under the direction of fourth grade teacher **Heather Morgan** and third grade teacher **Alyson DiFiore**, the club's advisors. Students and staff came to school in their pajamas for a day full of special "bedtime stories" and classroom activities.

December BoxTops: For December, West End students collected 1,598 BoxTops, earning us \$159.00! So far this year, West Enders has collected over \$1,121.90!!! The following were the winners for December: 3rd place with 100 BoxTops was Kourtney Karl's 1st grade class; 2nd place with 110 BoxTops was Marianne Harris's 3rd grade class and 1st place with 190 BoxTops was Alyson DiFiore's third grade class. West End PTA will supply the first place class with a BoxTop Spirit Stick for each student and all three classes with ice pops.

Upcoming Events: The Winter Concert is on January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.; West End's musical production this year is *Aladdin, Jr.* on February 26 and 27, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to attend any of these performances, please call Principal Sobel for seating.

East End School

Kathleen Herrmann enjoyed spending time with **Diane Forino's** kindergarten class on Monday, December 16 as she read the *The Gingerbread Baby* by Jan Brett to the children. "I was so impressed with their excellent behavior and attentiveness to the story. Ms. Forino has fully implemented whole brain teaching strategies and it was amazing to see the young learners raising their hands to answer comprehension and prediction questions," remarked Ms. Herrmann.

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On the morning of December 17, Ms. Forino's kindergartners got together with their fourth grade learning book buddies in the community room to make holiday cards. The fourth graders helped the kindergartners plan who they wanted to make the card for, what they should say in the card and what designs to make. They then went ahead and helped the kindergartners by spelling words for them and making sure the words made sense in the cards. In addition, they worked together on designing beautiful decorations for the cards. "The final products were excellent and it was wonderful seeing the fourth graders take pride in their work with their learning book buddies. We will definitely be getting together to do more learning activities together!" remarked Ms. Forino.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for December was Accident & Injury Prevention. The safety topic for January is Slip & Fall Prevention.

Safety Topic - Transportation. All of our van drivers have now completed a Harassment & Bullying Training Session specifically created for school bus and van drivers. This training session was provided by the Union County Educational Services Commission at no cost to the district.

Related safety training is being provided via our on-line employee training system and all employees completed their assigned training as scheduled.

Additionally, a Right to Know training session for new employees was held on December 17, 2013. This training session covered a wide range of safety topics including classroom safety and district safety policies.

HEALTH & SAFETY

SAFETY COMMITTEE

A safety sub-committee meeting, to update our Crisis Management Emergency Plan, was held on December 16, 2013. We anticipate a draft copy of the updated plan to be ready for review in the coming weeks.

SECURITY

At this time, the district is reviewing a proposal to install safety film on our entrance doors beginning with the high school and middle school. This new product strengthens the glass and would significantly delay an intruder attempting to gain access to the building.

Additionally, under the direction of our **Stuart Buckman**, security specialist, the district has begun to condense its safety & security plan so that a manageable version can be distributed to all staff members.

SECURITY DRILLS

The Security Drill for the month of December was an *On Site Evacuation. All of our schools, including our Alternative High School Program at the Somerset School, completed their assigned drills. The Security Drill for the month of January is an Evacuation-Non Fire.

*Due to weather conditions, a lock down drill was held at a number of locations as an alternate to on-site evacuations. Additional on-site drills have or will be rescheduled.

FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS

UPDATE: Three grant applications for the installation of emergency back-up generating systems are currently pending. No further information is available at this time.

CCTV SYSTEMS

The district has installed CCTV Systems in all of our buses. This system includes GPS tracking and is accessible in real time. We are currently working with our system provider to address some connectivity issues.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (WINTER BREAK)

A number of small maintenance projects were completed over the winter break including plumbing, electrical and carpentry.

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

UPDATE: The system engineer is currently working on a network issue related to the operation of the kiosk. They anticipate this kiosk to be on line within thirty days.

HARRISON WINDOWS

UPDATE: The new window blinds were installed on December 28, 2013. Additionally, a final walkthrough was held on January 2, 2014. Close out documents, warranties and the final payment requests are being prepared at this time.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2013/2014)

HIGH SCHOOL GYM A/C

UPDATE: This project is now complete including the final programming of the energy management system. All close out documents and warranties have been received and a final payment request has been processed.

BUDGET

A Finance & Facilities Meeting was held on December 3, 2013. A number of topics were discussed including proposed capital and maintenance projects to be included in the 2014/15 school budget. Any and all proposed inclusions are dependent upon state funding.

ROD GRANTS

UPDATE: On December 4, 2013, the district was notified of the following ten Rod Grant Awards. It should be noted that five Rod Grant Submissions are still pending at this time.

- High & Middle School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- High & Middle School – HVAC Replacements including the Cafeteria & Auditorium.
- High & Middle School – Stairwell Door Replacements and Entrance Security.
- East End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- East End School – Stairwell Door Replacements and Entrance Security.
- West End School – Chiller Installation for the HVAC System.
- West End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- West End School – Stairwell Door Replacements and Entrance Security.
- Stony Brook School – Installation of a Complete CCTV System.
- Stony Brook School – Building Wide Window Replacements Including the Gym.
- Somerset School – Installation of an Air Conditioning System for the Gymnasium.

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Additional information regarding recently completed maintenance and capital improvement projects, as well as digital photographs and a current project register, can be viewed on our website. Please follow the link to District Operations and click on the listed tabs for more information.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools
Personnel

It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that:

WHEREAS Theodore R. Sielewicki, teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that he wishes to retire on February 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS he has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately forty years with dedication to the highest standards of education, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Mr. Sielewicki its thanks for the service he has given and best wishes for his future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on January 7, 2014, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Mr. Sielewicki.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that:

WHEREAS Patricia L. Wenk, teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on July 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS she has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately twenty-five years with dedication to the highest standards of education, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Wenk its thanks for the service she has given and best wishes for her future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on January 7, 2014, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Ms. Wenk.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that:

WHEREAS Kathleen Herrmann, elementary school principal in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on February 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS she has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately eleven years with dedication to the highest standards of education, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Herrmann its thanks for the service she has given and best wishes for her future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on January 7, 2014, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Ms. Herrmann.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that:

WHEREAS Barbara Sobel, teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on February 1, 2014, and

WHEREAS she has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately ten years with dedication to the highest standards of education, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Sobel its thanks for the service she has given and best wishes for her future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on January 7, 2014, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Ms. Sobel.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the temporary employment of Heather Shealy as a temporary replacement elementary teacher at East End School at the BA/Step 4-5(5) annual salary rate of \$55,890, to be prorated effective January 2, 2014 through May 23, 2014. (Ms. Shealy will temporarily replace Karen F. Lewis.)

David Branan – Aye
 Sandra Dodd – Aye
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve an increase in hours for the following paraprofessionals working with classified students as indicated after their names, effective January 2, 2014:

Name	School	From	To
Deysi Aldas	Stony Brook	3.00	3.25
Fred Bradford	HS/WE	3.25	4.25

David Branan – Aye
 Sandra Dodd – Aye
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Michele Hobson as a substitute paraprofessional to be called on an as-needed basis, at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective January 8, 2014.

David Branan – Aye
 Sandra Dodd – Aye
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Nicole Rivlin to serve as temporary computer facilitator at East End School, at the prorated annual stipend of \$1,000, effective January 2, 2014. (Ms. Rivlin will temporarily replace Karen F. Lewis as computer facilitator.)

David Branan – Aye
 Sandra Dodd – Aye
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the position of Christy Thomas from that of instructional paraprofessional at East End School to academic support teacher at East End School at the MA/Step 8 (8) annual salary of \$59,560, to be prorated effective February 3, 2014. (Ms. Thomas will replace Barbara Sobel.)

David Branan – Aye
 Sandra Dodd – Aye
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-35-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Educere, effective January 7, 2014.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that:

WHEREAS, the New Jersey School Boards Association has declared January 2014 to be School Board Recognition Month, a time that all residents might acknowledge the contributions made by our local school board members; and

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education is one of more than 580 local school boards in New Jersey that sets policies and oversees operations for public school districts; and

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education embraces the goal of high-quality education for all New Jersey public school students; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's local school boards help determine community goals for the education of approximately 1.4 million children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey's 4,800 local school board members, who receive no remuneration for their services, act as advocates for public school students as they work with administrators, teachers and parents for the betterment of public education; and

WHEREAS, school boards strive to provide the resources necessary to meet the needs of all students, including those with special needs; and

WHEREAS, boards of education provide accountability to the public; they communicate the needs of the school district to the public; and they convey to school administrators the public's expectations for the schools; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey can take pride in its schools, which rank among the nation's best in indicators such as high school graduation rates, class size, college entrance exam participation, and Advanced Placement offerings and test scores. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the North Plainfield Board of Education, does hereby recognize the services of local school board members throughout New Jersey as we join communities statewide in observing January 2014 as SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the North Plainfield Board of Education urges all New Jersey citizens to work with their local boards of education and public school staffs toward the improvement of our children's education.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve Advocare Ear, Nose and Throat Specialists of Morristown to perform physical examinations on an as-needed basis.

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Curriculum – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Policy Meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.
NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.
SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.
SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

New items requested to be placed on the Agenda – there were none.

Code of Ethics – Ms. Bond-Nelson discussed and reviewed with the Board the Code of Ethics for School Board members.

Mr. Sternberg provided the Board with an overview of the current status of the professional service providers.

During the review and approval of the recommendations, Dr. Birnbaum commented on the outstanding selfless and dedicated commitment the Board of Education makes for the students and staff of North Plainfield Public Schools.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Peters expressed her congratulations to the newly elected Board members.

Future Agenda Items

Per presentation calendar

January 7, 2014

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on January 22, 2014 at 7:00 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn to executive session at 7:35 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to reconvene to public session at 8:10 pm.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg