

December 18, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 18, 2013 at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson 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, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Thomas Allen	Kathleen Mullen
David Branan	Nancy Szaroleta
Sandra Dodd	Linda Bond-Nelson
Thomas Kasper	

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, as well as, Amaree Gardner, Student Representative and approximately 14 members of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

There were none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, to accept the public session minutes of December 4, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, to accept the executive session minutes of December 4, 2013.

Financial Report

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated November 30, 2013 in the amount of \$5,140,251.96.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote that that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Funds, for the month of October 2013 and further recommends in compliance with NJAC 6:23-2.11(B), that the Board of Education certify that to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Comments from the Public

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

December 18, 2013

Student Representative Report

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

The American Red Cross Blood Drive sent a thank you note to the NPHS Interact Club for sponsoring the blood drive that took place on November 1st, 2013. The club also received a thank you note from the North Plainfield Food Pantry, thanking them for all the food they collected in the month of November. With collected items, Interact helped serve 412 families in November just in time for Thanksgiving.

Our second Rutgers Basketball game took place on Sunday, December 8th from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The students helped out in several booths, working the cash registers as well as making food. Twenty five Interact students attended. We were the only group there, due to the weather. There was a large crowd at the game, causing half-time to be very busy, but the students handled it in the proper manner and managed to get their jobs done.

Upcoming Events:

On January 8th, four students from Interact will be chosen as Interact Students of the Month. There will be one for each month of September, October, November, and December.

We are holding bake sales every week in order to raise money for our Interact shirts. We will have them all in the month of January.

This month the students in the Child Development class made a Gingerbread house with their HS "Teachers". Yum! The Christmas tree is up and all decorated. We did projects like Angel handprint, Reindeer, Gingerbread ornaments, fruit-loop candy canes, Handprint wreath, and many more. These projects are proudly displayed throughout the class to boost students' self-esteem and confidence. The Holiday party is on Dec.19th, Thursday for little ones. The preschoolers are listening and singing holiday music in the class.

On December 19th, the Dance Studio Period 5 dancers will be performing a dance in the winter choral concert to her mixed chorus singing "Blue Skies". On December 20th, the dancers who performed at the December 4th Board Meeting will be dancing at the winter pep rally showcasing their "Let it Grow" dance.

The NJ Science League's first competition will be on Jan. 9, 2014 at Scotch Plains Fanwood HS.

The Canuck Mentors participated in the Breakfast with Santa at Vermuele

The Toy Drive is ongoing for the Mountainside Children's Hospital. Toys collected will be dropped off by NP rescue squad.

In freshmen class council, we have been able to raise nearly \$200.00 for the class so far by doing bake sales after school. We have two more bake sales planned for January.

In March, we also plan to sell "Lucky Charms," candy with personal messages attached which students can purchase for friends during the week before St. Patrick's Day. We plan to pass them out during homerooms on the 17th. We are also considering working with Village Fundraisers to sell either candy or drink mixes (coffees, teas, smoothies).

We have over twenty members who consistently come to the meetings, so we are lucky to have such an enthusiastic and committed group this year.

Canuckling members continue to vote on submissions for this year's issue, most of which has been poetry. The theme on which we have voted is "Wired." We are also finalizing our club T-shirt design and hope to use it to promote this year's issue. We are still waiting to hear the

December 18, 2013

results from American Scholastic Press about last year's issue. They have informed us that results will be in sometime in December.

The middle school jazz band will perform Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the middle school winter concert. They will perform Leap Frog, a standard by the Les Brown band. This will showcase what they've learned in swing style music.

Presentation

Mr. Wayne Miller, Suplee, Clooney & Co., provided the Board with an overview of the findings from the 2012-1013 annual financial audit. The audit was unqualified and did not include any recommendations.

Ms. Lynnelle Thomas discussed with the Board, the Girls on the Run program currently being offered at East End, West End, and Stony Brook schools. The program provides girls with positive reinforcement and discussion forums to resolve and overcome problems and to build self-esteem.

Mr. Thomas Mazur provided an overview of the Gettysburg Film project in which students participated in a trip to Gettysburg, PA and the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Schools

NPHS

*Students TAP Away at J&J: On Friday, December 13, 2013, the first group of North Plainfield High School students to participate in the **Technology Awareness Program (TAP)** at Johnson & Johnson showcased their newly learned skills before an audience of J&J employees, their parents, and district administrators. The culminating event included a dinner for all in attendance followed by each of six teams of students presenting their business case studies.*

The TAP included study in business ethics, experiences in the inner workings of computers, and special presentations by J&J employees, and a guest speaker from Google. The eight sessions were held at both the J&J headquarters in Raritan and the NPHS library. Each team of students was given a problem that might typically be encountered at J&J or any corporation. One team explored ways to use social media to promote their product; another presented solutions to office overcrowding. The students learned how to present using Power Point or Prezi to its fullest advantage without actually reading it to their audience. These polished presentations included links, animations, and graphics.

*"Most impressive, perhaps, was the manner in which each team shared the responsibility of presenting their business solution in a way that demonstrated it was truly a team effort. If one member lost their way momentarily, another stepped in to support them. A mix-up of slides was barely noticeable because a team member fluidly passed off the microphone to a teammate. They greeted their audience and invited their participation. With humor, visual aids, and sophistication beyond their years, they held the attention of their listeners. After each presentation, and without knowing that this would happen, audience members were invited to ask questions. The students were able to speak extemporaneously about their ideas just as well as they had in their prepared speeches. All signs of their earlier jitters were gone!" remarked **Patty***

December 18, 2013

***Marseglia, supervisor of mathematics.** Each student received a certificate of participation and, as an added bonus, received a letter of recommendation from Johnson & Johnson that students can use when they apply to a college or seek employment. "It was a delight to see the surprise and appreciation on students' faces at this announcement, Ms. Marseglia continued.*

***Anthony Della Rosa, NPHS computer science teacher,** was the energy behind these students. He has brought classes to the J&J Digital Camp for several years and upgraded NPHS students' opportunity this year to TAP. With the help of Pete Ward and Tony Tran from J&J, students were exposed to life and work in the corporate atmosphere. Mr. Della Rosa made sure that all students completed any work they missed by staying in touch with their teachers.*

*"The parents at the banquet were truly impressed and thanked him for the opportunity he afforded their children. Their pride could be seen as they snapped pictures of their sons and daughters behind the J&J lectern. In their business-appropriate attire, their presentations and their maintenance of their grades in their daily classes, these students certainly represented themselves and North Plainfield High School very well. We are very proud of them," Ms. Marseglia exclaimed. A second group of students from **Barnali Dasgupta's** chemistry honors class will begin the TAP in January.*

Engineering Career Day: On December 6, 2013, a group of 20 juniors attended Engineering Career Day at NJIT with **Teresa Thompson, NPHS math teacher,** and **Christine Cascione, NPHS guidance counselor.** Students were able to explore several types of engineering fields, including biomedical, civil, environmental, industrial, chemical, biological, pharmaceutical, electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering as career possibilities. They also had a chance to see the campus including lab spaces. The students rated the trip highly in a survey conducted by NJIT. Student comments included "It was one of the best field trips I've had in a while" and "It gave me a good feeling about being in a college class." **Patty Marseglia, supervisor of mathematics** noted, "In the past, students have decided to apply to NJIT as a result of this trip. We are hoping for similar results this year."

Melvin Edwards addresses Art Students at NPHS: Melvin Edwards, one of America's foremost sculptors, visited NPHS on December 2 and gave a presentation to art students in the auditorium. Mr. Edwards related his path as a young man from segregated schools in Texas to his art studies and football days at UCLA. He ended his presentation with a 15 minute film that showed him working in his foundry in Plainfield, welding steel that eventually took shape as a 15 foot high steel composition. Mr. Edwards' sculptures are in permanent collections around the world, including The Metropolitan Museum, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum in NYC. "Mr. Edwards is one of the best American sculptors," wrote Michael Brenson in the *New York Times* (1988). **NPHS Drama Club Presents "Addict":** **Leeanne Chiaramonte, drama teacher/coach,** directed the **NPHS Drama Club** in the one act play "Addict," which was presented in the auditorium the evening of December 6 and in two assembly programs for NPHS students the morning of December 10. Written by Jerome McDonough, the play was presented in conjunction with **Drug and Alcohol Awareness Month.** "The performances were very well received by our student body. Both the audience and drama club members must be commended on a first rate theatrical experience on a subject usually disseminated in lectures, particularly after a tragedy. Here high school students presented the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse to their peers in soaring dramatic fashion. The 'magic' of theater that touches hearts and minds was evident during every performance. Commendations to Director Chiaramonte, as well as the student crew members behind the scenes, for a top-notch production on a very serious issue."

NPMS

The Great Debate: On December 4, **Suzanne Sapega's** seventh grade reading class, along with **Assistant Principal John Ferguson**, visited Joyce Kilmer Middle School in Milltown, NJ for a formal debate on the topic of "Bullying in Schools." As a result of the **RIISA Middle Grades Network** conferences held monthly at **Rutgers University**, a connection was made with a Milltown teacher who had the same educational goals and objectives, and a debate was scheduled between the students. This activity began in connection with the For Action Initiative as a remembrance to the victims and their families and segued into issues that came as a result of 9/11. Students began researching topics, such as, "The Patriot Act" and "Racial Profiling," and moved into argument writing on the topic of bullying. All the students researched the topic using primary and secondary resources.

The groups had worked daily, combing through informational text and assessing the validity and importance of evidence. Both schools prepared their rebuttals and identified what they believed the oppositional viewpoints would be. Monthly progress reports and updates were exchanged between the teachers and students. In a letter to William Veit, principal of Joyce Kilmer, Mr. Ferguson, wrote, "I wanted to thank you and your staff for inviting our students to come to your school for the debate. The day could not have gone any better. The debate was a complete success and our students enjoyed making new friends. Thank you for hosting such a delightful day." North Plainfield Middle School is looking forward to meeting again with the students of Joyce Kilmer in the spring.

Science through Poetry: Students of science teacher **Elio Mayo** and reading teacher **Nicole DiTrani** recently completed an interdisciplinary activity involving poetry and the water cycle. The classes created a cinquain to expand their knowledge of a drop of water. A cinquain is a form of poetry that is very popular because of its simplicity. Though they are just five lines long, cinquains tell a small story using descriptive words that invoke an action. Looking for an effective way to improve student writing and understanding the complexity of the natural cycle of water, Ms. DiTrani and Mr. Mayo combined their content knowledge to create an authentic learning experience.

Keeping in Touch: Recently, five students in **William Saccardi's** grade eight English class took time to revise poems that they had written for class to send to former NPMS graduate **Ryan Shepard**, who is a senior at Choate Rosemary Hall, and current president of the Choate Slam Poetry Club. Students from Choate Rosemary Hall sent a video greeting to NPMS students and invited them to participate in an exchange of poetry. The first poem exchange took place in early December, and students are looking forward to continuing their correspondence in verse throughout the school year. An article from the school's newspaper, *The News*, can be viewed at <http://thenews.choate.edu/article/poetic-justice-pleases-provokes>.

Middle School Minute: Science teacher **John Thompson** announced that his seventh grade science classes have been creating PowerPoint slideshows demonstrating Newton's Three Laws of Motion. Students prepared detailed explanations of Newton's Laws, with pictures and written text and shared their presentations with their classmates. As part of the "Great Body Shop Health" curriculum, students in **Greg Kilmer's** PE classes created "**The New Life Inc.**" Groups of students worked collaboratively to create fictional corporations that depicted applications of family, community, and personal development that, if created, would improve upon today's society. Reading teacher **Patricia Bailey** reports that her students have read over 275 books since the beginning of the school year. In addition, her classes are preparing to write persuasive essays on the topic of responsible dog breeding, after reading an article about purebred dogs.

December 18, 2013

Stefanie Myers, ELL teacher and track coach, recently attended the M-F Athletic Track & Field conference held at Atlantic City, NJ. "This conference yielded some great ideas that I can use for the upcoming middle school track season," she announced.

West End School

Student Council/Early Act Club: Third and fourth grade Student Council/Early Act members, under the advisement of teachers **Heather Morgan** and **Alyson DiFiore**, have been very busy providing community service and fun events for West End students. October was their month for organization and planning. They discussed and agreed upon the expectations and requirements for membership in the club. They set a calendar for meeting dates and planned special fun days for the student body the first being **Sport Day**. Everyone was encouraged to wear something representing their favorite sport team. The first service project was planned and carried out. The members of the club donated their extra Halloween candy to **Operation Shoebox's "Trick or Treat for Troops"** program which sends the candy overseas to deployed service men and women. They collected approximately forty pounds of candy for this service learning project. Their next community service project was a **Winter Coat/Clothing Drive**. A very large box of winter coats, scarves, hats, sweaters, gloves and mittens were donated to the **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul**, which is a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to serving those in need based here in North Plainfield. Upcoming service projects for this club will be making **holiday cards for Operation Shoebox** and ornaments for a local Senior Citizen home. The next fun event sponsored by the club is **Movie Day**. PTA is joining in by providing popcorn for all the classes.

Holiday Giving: This year West End's second grade classes organized a **Toy Drive** for their service learning project. New and gently used toys were collected and donated to the **Society of Saint Vincent de Paul** to be given to local children this holiday season. "Many thanks to our second grade classes, families, and teachers, **Lisa Cirillo, Erica Gara, Jason Lilly, Veronica Quick, and Patricia Russell**, for their wonderful generosity towards this project," stated **Beth Sobel** principal.

The Mitten Tree - A West End Tradition: Once again this year our staff and West End families have participated in West End's traditional Mitten Tree Project. "We are providing 101 gifts to West End children and their siblings this holiday season due to so many giving people demonstrating the true spirit of the season. A special thank you goes to **school counselor, Taryn Buffolino** for organizing this project for West End School. Thanks also go to **Heather Shealy**, and retired teachers **Marilou Barrett** and **Marilyn LaMarca** for assisting Mrs. Buffolino," commented Principal Sobel.

November BoxTops: For November, West End students collected 2,653 BoxTops, earning us \$265.00! So far this year, West Enders has collected over \$960!!! The following were the winners for November: 3rd place with 250 BoxTops was **Brian Bigden's 3rd grade class**; 2nd place with 300 BoxTops was **Tara Scott's kindergarten class**; and 1st place with 510 BoxTops was **Marianne Harris's 3rd grade class**. West End PTA will supply the first place class with BoxTop Spirit Stick for each student and all three classes with ice pops.

Upcoming Events:

The Annual Holiday Sing will take place on Friday, December 20, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. If you would like to join in for some holiday song and fun, please feel welcomed to join.

December 18, 2013

The **Winter Concert** is on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. If you would like to attend, Principal Sobel will be pleased to reserve for you special seating.

East End School

On December 6, **Maschio's Food Services** hosted a food tasting advisory session for ten students and ten adults, which included parents and staff. Everyone gathered in the community room and enjoyed tasting different foods, as well as complete an opinion survey. Managers **Joan Marcuzzi** and **Derek Schnappauf** facilitated the event. Students learned about nutrition and a balanced diet and sharing their opinions about their favorite foods and foods they disliked. "Maschio's Food Services does an outstanding job for our students. The food is delicious and appealing to the eye and the employees who work at East End School couldn't be better. They bend over backwards to ensure that the students are taken care each and every day. Because of the fresh fruits and vegetables offered on a daily basis, the children have realized how delicious and nutritious these selections are and I am so pleased to see the students eating foods that are good for them," said Kathleen Herrmann, principal.

On Friday evening, December 13, the **PTO** hosted the **Holiday Gift Shop** and **Potluck Dinner**, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vendors participated in this event as the PTO provided an opportunity to bring the school community together. Students had the opportunity to purchase items throughout the week and returned Friday evening with their families to enjoy a holiday dinner and purchase additional items. "I enjoyed Friday evening as did my grandchildren, Emma and Sara, who also purchased some holiday items for family members, including a gift for me! The PTO worked very hard throughout the week and I can't thank them enough for their dedication to the students and staff of East End School," stated Ms. Herrmann.

Computer Club facilitator **Alexis Holbrook** is creating letters of the alphabet and corresponding pictures that will be displayed throughout the community room and on the walls of the school. The idea came from third grade teachers **Jill Fogarty**, **Ridhima Bajaj**, **Danielle O'Donnell** and **Gina Stripto** who have been busy labeling the upstairs hallway with rules and huge visuals about area, perimeter, multiplication facts and so much more. "Mrs. Holbrook and I were upstairs admiring the labeling and came up with the idea to do the same with letters, pictures, and sight words. She has been busy working on this project with members of her Computer Club. We are confident that the continued exposure will enhance student learning. Now, learning is taking place everywhere in the school," remarked Ms. Herrmann.

School nurse **Diane Olsen**, school counselor **Nicole Rivlin**, and teachers **Angela Phillips**, **Melissa Field** and **Stefanie Martin** created wish list items for boys and girls and displayed them prominently on a bulletin board. Adults have been taking down the requests and purchasing items that students are hoping to receive for the holidays. The items arrive at school wrapped and ready to be delivered. The committee is also assembling baskets for families to ensure they have everything they need for a delicious holiday dinner. "East End is truly a school with a heart and we take great joy in sharing with families who are in need. You always get a wonderful feeling inside when you share with others" said Ms. Herrmann.

Students and staff at East End School are looking forward to the holiday sing-a-long which will be held in the community room on Friday, December 20 at 10:30 a.m. Music teacher **Diana Van Hise** will once again project the words of holiday songs onto the big screen so everyone can sing aloud together. Each year, the staff forms a chorus on the stage and sings different holiday and winter songs for the students. "I look forward to this every year and it is a joy to see the children smile as they listen to us sing and entertain them. We are actually pretty good and we include some dance moves as well" stated Ms. Herrmann.

Somerset School

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Women of the Revolution: On December 12, six grade five social studies classes experienced a virtual field trip through live-streaming of a television broadcast in the Somerset School media center. Students were transported back to the Revolutionary War days, where they learned that women, though not usually participating in the fighting, had to undertake enormous responsibilities, both at the actual battlefields, or at home, where they and their children were left to fend for themselves. With no medical training, those who followed their husbands to the war, tended to every conceivable need of the soldiers, including medical attention, preparing food, and offering comfort. Women left at home faced running farms or businesses along with keeping their homes and children in order. Sometimes they were forced to allow friendly or enemy forces to occupy their houses and confiscate their belongings, crops, or livestock. Students were able to call questions into the live broadcast and two were chosen to read their questions on the television show on NJTV. Many others enjoyed chatting with the historical experts from the Colonial Williamsburg group, who, answering their questions, providing them with a deeper understanding of these unstable years in our country's history. "Somerset School's staff and students are grateful to the various philanthropists who support the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and who have given our children a third scholarship and another year full of educational fun and excitement!" exclaimed Nancy Rodino, Somerset School media specialist and organizer of this special event.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for December is Accident & Injury Prevention.

Safety Topic - Transportation. All of our van drivers have now been scheduled to attend a harassment & bullying training session specifically created for school bus and van drivers. This training session is being 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, yesterday, December 17, 2013. This training session included a wide range of safety topics, such as classroom safety and district safety policies.

HEALTH & SAFETY SAFETY COMMITTEE

On December 16, 2013, **Stuart Buckman, safety and security specialist**, held a safety sub-committee meeting to update our crisis management emergency flipchart.

SECURITY

To date, Mr. Buckman has toured all of our facilities and is in the process of evaluating a number of safety-related issues. Additionally, he has begun to evaluate all of the recommended changes and updates to our flipchart in preparation for the sub-committee meetings.

Under the direction of our 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 December is an *on site evacuation. All of our schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

*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 CCTV System at Somerset School is fully operational, and system users have been given access.

Additionally, the district has installed CCTV Systems in all of its busses. This system includes GPS tracking and is accessible in real time. We are currently working with the system provider to address some connectivity issues.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

A complete listing and status update of all current maintenance projects has been provided with this report under separate cover.

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 only open item at this time is the installation of new window shades that are scheduled for installation on or about December 12, 2013. Once these are installed, a close out meeting will be scheduled.

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.

14/15 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 14/15 school budget. Any and all proposed inclusions are dependent upon state funding.

ROD GRANTS

On December 4, 2013, the district was notified of the following eleven ROD grant awards (Regular Operating District (ROD) school facilities projects). The state's share for these grants will be approximately 63% (\$2,166,335) and the local share for the district will be approximately 37% \$1,425,665). It should be noted that four 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.

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. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education grant Rita DaFonseca, teacher of English at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective May 15, 2014 through June 30, 2014, for child care purposes. (Ms. DaFonseca will begin a disability period effective February 18, 2014 through May 14, 2014 using accrued sick days.)

Thomas Allen – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the Board member and/or staff member conference and travel expenses, as per the attached list.

Thomas Allen – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education appoint the staff members indicated on the attached list to teach after-school professional development courses at the rate of \$30 per hour to be funded as indicated and paid at the conclusion of each course.

Thomas Allen – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education appoint the following staff members to teach in extended-day mentoring programs at a rate of \$48 per hour, to be funded with NCLB Title I FY'14 monies as indicated:

<u>East End</u>		<u>Stony Brook</u>			
	<u>Hrs</u>		<u>Hrs</u>	<u>Hrs</u>	
Rhima Bajaj	65	Kelly Feeney	16	Leanne Borbely	25
Melissa Mejia	65	Marina Heller	16	Jennifer Ferraino	31
Stefanie Martin	65	Alison Mac	16	Susan Garatino	31
Jill Fogarty	65	Robert Meringolo	16	Marilyn LaMarca	31
Kitty Jedra	65	Patricia Klatt	19	Michelle Motichka	31
		Sharon Switek	31	Amanda Retenberg	31
				Eram Tun	21
Thomas Allen – Abstain		Kathleen Mullen – Aye			
David Branan – Aye		Nancy Szaroleta – Aye			
Sandra Dodd – Aye		Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye			
Thomas Kasper – Aye					

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

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following spring student teacher and/or internship placements from Kean University:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>School/Subject</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Kevin Cisk	NPMS/Mathematics	Lauren Meyer
Paulina Espinoza	NPMS/Spanish	Isabel Roca
Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye	
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye	
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye	
Thomas Kasper – Aye		

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following individuals be employed in the co-curricular positions and at the stipends indicated:

Thomas Dougherty	Percussion Arranger	\$2713
Adam Schreiber	Asst. Wrestling Coach	\$6689
Hanna Zucker	Co-Assistant Marching Band	\$2319
Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye	
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye	
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye	
Thomas Kasper – Aye		

December 18, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve that employee SU-2-13-14 suffer a one-day deduction in pay.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve the following Somerset School teachers as Seton Hall University administrative interns for a total of 50 hours each at Somerset School, from January 6, 2014 through December 15, 2014, with Ronald Fisher and Reginald Sainte-Rose serving as on-site supervisors.

Megan Schutz	James McCloskey
Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, direct that employee PHY-3-13-14 submit to a physical examination and any such examination as the examining physicians deem appropriate, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2.

Further, that the Board of Education grant employee PHY-3-13-14 an unpaid leave of absence, effective December 12, 2013 through February 5, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the temporary employment of Meredith Reedy, temporary school social worker, from October 7, 2013 through December 20, 2013 to October 7, 2013 through February 5, 2014. (Ms. Reedy is temporarily replacing Lizet Zuniga.)

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

December 18, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individual(s) as district K-12 substitute teacher(s):

Lindsey Capone

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve David R. Miller as a volunteer assistant to the wrestling coach at NPHS.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education suspend employee PHY-1-13-14 without pay, effective December 2, 2013, through December 8, 2013.

Further, that the Board of Education grant employee PHY-1-13-14 a paid leave of absence, effective December 9, 2013, pending evaluation.

Further, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, direct that employee PHY-1-13-14 submit to a physical examination, psychiatric examination, and any such examination as the examining physicians deem appropriate in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:16-2.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve the certificated staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken between September and December 2013.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education appoint the following staff members to assist at athletic/school events at the rate of \$28.35 per hour:

Heather Fencik
Amy Six

Dawn Schultz
Kristyn Rosen

Thomas Allen – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-30-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care Center in Piscataway, effective December 6, 2013, at the rate of \$46.09 per hour.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-31-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Educere, effective December 17, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for the following classified students for up to ten hours per week each, to be provided by district staff, at the effective dates indicated:

HI-32-13-14	December 3, 2013
HI-33-13-14	December 9, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-34-13-14 for up to ten hours per week, to be provided by Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care staff at the rate of \$46.09 per hour, effective December 4, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the following classified students to undergo psychiatric evaluations to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$850 each:

PSY-15-13-14	PSY-16-13-14
--------------	--------------

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student NEU-04-13-14 undergo a neurological evaluation to be provided by Dr. Kavita Sinha at the cost of \$325.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student GGGGGG-13-14 to attend Arc Kohler for half days at the cost of \$155.27 per half day, effective January 6, 2014. Transportation will be required.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated October 31, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated December 18, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education acknowledge the results of the annual school election held on November 5, 2013 as outlined on the Certificate of Election, provided by the Board of County Canvassers of Somerset County.

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve Morristown Otolaryngology at Summit Medical Group to perform physical examinations on an as-needed basis.

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 – Dr. Rich mentioned Program of Studies being completed and will be online.
Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Policy Meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.
NJSBA – Mr. Kasper discussed recent proposed legislation.
SCSBA – next meeting scheduled for January 2014.
SCESC – Ms. Mullen updated the Board on new programs being implemented.

December 18, 2013

Old Business

There was none

New Business

There was none.

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

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Future Agenda Items

Per Presentation Calendar

Ms. Bond-Nelson thanked Ms. Szaroleta for her years of service and dedication to North Plainfield.

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on Tuesday, January 7, 2014 at 7:30 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. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg