

December 4, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 4, 2013 at West End School, 447 Greenbrook Road, 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  
David Branan  
Sandra Dodd  
Thomas Kasper

Kathleen Mullen  
Nancy Szaroleta  
Linda Bond-Nelson

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 80 members of the staff and public.

#### **Introduction of New Staff**

New Staff Members and Milestone Awards will be announced during the presentation portion of the meeting.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Kasper abstaining, to accept the public session minutes of November 20, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Kasper abstaining, to accept the executive session minutes of November 20, 2013.

#### **Comments from the Public**

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

#### **Student Representative Report**

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

The Canuck Mentors are kick-starting their toy drive for Mountainside Children's hospital. This toy drive will run for the first two weeks of December and will allow students to bring in new toys for children who are unable to go home for Christmas. This is an organized cooperation between NPHS Canuck Mentors and the first aid squad of North Plainfield.

The Mentors are participating in the revival of the green dot program this year. This program is designed to raise risk awareness in the school and train students on how to act in several peer pressure related circumstances.

The mentors are participating in two Vermeule activities: Breakfast with Santa and the hanging of the lights.

December 4, 2013

The Drama Club will perform its first ever Winter Theatre Showcase on Thursday, December 5, at 7pm. We will have skits, scenes and loads of fun. December is drug and alcohol awareness month. In honor of this month the drama club has put together a short production to create awareness and openly discuss the issues involved. Come out on Friday, December 6, at 7pm to see "Addict": a drug awareness play.

National Honor Society tutors are available to assist students with extra help in their classes every day after school in the guidance office on Mondays and in the library on Tuesdays through Fridays.

The Freshman/Sophomore Parent Information Night will be held on Wednesday, December 11, at 6:30pm in the HS Cafeteria.

The HS Winter Band Concert will be held on Thursday, December 12, the MS Band and Choral Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 17, and the HS Choral Concert on Thursday, December 19. All concerts will take place at 7pm in the HS Auditorium

The middle school will hold its Holiday/Winter Dance on Friday, December 13, from 7-9pm in the HS cafeteria.

There will be a MS PTO meeting on Monday, Dec. 9, at 6pm in the MS Room 110  
The HS PTO/Project Graduation Meeting is on Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7pm in the HS cafeteria.

The Winter Sports season began on Tuesday, December 2.

### **Presentation**

Dr. Birnbaum introduced and welcomed the new staff members.

Service Milestone Awards were presented by Dr. Birnbaum.

### **Superintendent's Report**

## **RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS**

### **Students**

**Alisa Dickson, varsity field hockey co-captain**, has been invited to participate in the **All Star Senior Game** to be played this Sunday, December 8, 2013 on the Montclair State University turf. The game will be played at 1:00 pm. **Corrine Cecala**, physical education teacher and head field hockey coach, also was chosen to be one of the coaches for the game.

### **Somerset School High Honor Roll, First Marking Period**

Shahinda Bahnasy  
Daniela Carachure  
Noor Fatima Cheema  
Steven Datu  
Daniel Duncan  
Shianti Frazier

Parijot Kaur  
James McGovern  
Isaiah Xavier Medina  
Joshua Munoa  
Cecilia Lillian Munoz  
Ngocthy Nguyen

Amarelis Rios  
Jaheim Roberts  
Melanie Salazar-Alvarado  
Margaret Savoy  
Jimena Mariela Torres

## West End School Honor Roll, First Marking Period

### Third Grade Honor Roll

Sebastian Aparicio  
Molly Brennan  
Ava Brown  
Giancarlo Chuquitarco  
Carly Coslit  
Zachary Dombroski  
Catherine Dustin  
Sarah Fabian  
Rachael Given  
Angelie Herrera  
Madeline Kruscinski  
Aindan Lameira  
Ameer Lewis  
Caitlyn Liang  
Lauren Miller  
Katerine Pimentel  
Catherine Savoy  
Nikolas Thunberg  
Samantha Torres  
Devon Walker  
Raheem Williams  
Nicole Zubieta

### Fourth Grade Honor Roll

Elizabeth Dustin  
Julia Gomes  
Asia Hargrove  
Raquel Krisczynski  
Tyler Kasper  
Arzu Ali Malik  
Jason Melendez  
Zinelabidine Regragui  
Yonden Sawyers  
Andrew Scopel  
Laiba Shazad  
Lily Spanton  
Naila Twyman  
Shaughn Williams

**Character Education Assembly:** Character Education advisors **Danielle Fauci and David Hooker** proudly announced October's **middle school** recipients of the "Students of the Month" and "Awesome Acts" at the monthly Character Education assembly on November 21. The following students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance and their demonstration of October's trait of "citizenship." Each of the following students received a certificate and a well-deserved applause from their peers:

### Students of the Month:

Team 7-1: Jeiner Betancourt & Sarah Ibrahim  
Team 7-2: Alveiry Zarate & George Dombrowski  
Team 7-3: Jose Lopez & Jonathan Cheung  
Team 8-1: Erika Barbosa & Sebastian Palacios  
Team 8-2: Alyssa Pompey & Christian Echenique  
Team 8-3: Destiny Cuellar & Kelly Reyes

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Awesome Acts:

Alex Dayton  
Michael Flores  
Chanel Holston  
Carlos Meran  
Emely Ramirez  
Courtney Thomas  
Maeve Walsh

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Awesome Acts

Matthew Carranza  
Rey Fowler  
Humberto Grisales  
Jefferson Matos  
Denilson Saavedra  
Daniel Villela  
Alejandro Yumiguano

## Schools

### NPMS

**North Plainfield Middle School Makes a Difference:** *North Plainfield Middle School sprang into action once the story of the typhoon in the Philippines broke out. Reading teacher **MaryAnn Reilly** and her eighth grade class took it into their own hands to collect donations to send to the Philippines. Every day during lunch, a small red bucket would be walked through the cafeteria to collect loose change from students of the middle school. After one week and a half, the bucket collected roughly \$260! "Every cent will help the homeless, hungry, and injured in the Philippines," remarked Ms. Reilly.*

*As the students of North Plainfield Middle School realized the success the donations were bringing in, three students decided to take the extra step. **Menatallah Bahnasy, Crispreet Kaur, and Daniela Abrantes** decided to show the school's support with the creation of a display near the entrance of the school. They took the name of every student and staff member of the school and wrote them on a small slip of paper. Together, all of the slips made a picture of the Filipino flag. Along with the students' names, the names of the organizations and countries helping out the Philippines were included, as well as the saying, "Stay Strong." Assistant Principal **John Ferguson** stated, "I am so proud of our students; they saw an opportunity to help others in need, and they sprang into action." Mr. Ferguson proudly donated the funds to the Red Cross on behalf of the students. "As a small middle school from a small town, North Plainfield Middle School is proud of all that we have accomplished in the last two weeks, Mr. Ferguson continued.*

**Stand and Deliver:** On November 26, students from Team 8-2 assembled in the auditorium to view the movie *Stand and Deliver*. The award-winning movie, based on the true story of teacher Jaime Escalante, echoes the message of the novel *We Beat the Street* which is currently being read by the students in their English classes. Team Leader **Christine Colonel** commented, "Our students had a very positive reaction to the movie and felt inspired by the hard work of the teacher and students." After the viewing, students participated in class discussions and answered questions to invoke personal connections and goal setting strategies.

**Middle School Minute:** The NPMS physical education staff conducted its annual "Turkey Trot" run on Tuesday, November 26. Students and staff alike participated in the one mile run to raise additional food items for the school's holiday food drive. PE teachers **Corrine Laurie, Robyn Enderle, Greg Kilmer, and Chris Eshleman** were happy to announce that the event raised an additional 300 items. The middle school students with the help of the **National Junior Honor's Society** collected over \$60.00 in "Box Tops for Education" during the month of October. Teachers **Megan Farrell** and **Ann Rusher** helped organize this activity with over twenty students. Practical arts students are refining a newly developed jewelry organizer in woods technology class. Instructor **Robert Ferraro** states, "It represents another original design innovation by our students. Students are working eagerly with various hardwoods." The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade projects will grace the display case in our newly renovated media center in December. This month's history bulletin board theme is "Vikings." Teacher **Matt Iannucci** created a picturesque display of posters depicting the life and times of the northern warriors. This informative resource has been used by many students in their study of the Middle Ages. Mr. Iannucci also created a companion website for students to access additional information. The middle school social committee hosted its first monthly "Fun Food Friday" for staff on November 15. Organizers

**Stephanie Myers** and **Ann Rusher** were overwhelmed with excitement to see the entire staff participate in this morale building event. Teachers brought in their favorite covered dishes to share with their colleagues and trade recipes. The theme for December's luncheon is "Holiday Favorites." On November 18, students from **Paul Kraucheunas's** eighth grade class participated in the annual food advisory committee meeting with representatives from Maschio's Food Services. Students sampled new food items and took part in a food tasting survey that provided valuable feed-back. Maschio's area supervisor **Joan Marcuzzi** noted, "The students were honest, with frank answers and suggestions. These meetings will help Maschio's prepare menus the students will enjoy."

### West End School

**Third Grade Food Drive:** Recognition needs to be given to West End's third grade classes for their Thanksgiving Food Drive, which was a service learning/character education project. The food was donated to The St. Vincent de Paul Society, a non-profit, non-denominational organization dedicated to serving those in need. They operate a food pantry out of St. Joseph's Parish Center, where approximately sixty bags of food each Saturday are given to those in need. Thanks go to the following classes: **Brian Bigden's, Christine Birnbaum's, Marianne Harris', Debra Lysicatos', and Andrew Zlotnick's** third grade classes.

**Thanksgiving Sing-A-Long:** Many thanks to music teacher **Jon Scott** and special education teacher **Sue Parmelee** for planning and organizing the annual Thanksgiving sing-a-long, which includes the school's famous ***Five Fat Turkey*** performance. This year they had five TOM turkeys! Starring as the Five Fat Tom Turkeys: **Andrew Zlotnick, Ryan Johnson, Brian Bigden, Jason Lilly, and Chris Sepesi.** Many thanks, also, to instrumental music teacher **Dorian Parreott** for helping out.

### East End School

November 19 was an exciting evening for the district of North Plainfield and East End School as the community came together to support the faculty basketball game at the high school. **Principal Reginald Sainte-Rose** and coach of the North Plainfield High School's varsity basketball team planned the event as a fundraiser to support the team. Staff members **Ridhima Bajaj, Todd Vanderputten, Lynnelle Thomas, Jill Fogarty, Nicole Rivlin, Corrine Cecala, and Allison Hessemer** represented East End School and were members of the white team. The bleachers were filled with parents and staff members from East End, and throughout the game cheers echoed in the gymnasium. Students at East End created rally posters and art teacher **Joanne Wendt** provided pompoms and led the staff and parents in motivating cheers throughout the evening. **Superintendent Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum** and **Assistant Superintendent Dr. Robert H. Rich** coached their teams and called time-outs to strategize. "With all the support from the East End School community and representatives from all of the district schools, it made me realize what a close-knit community we have in North Plainfield. It was a fabulous game and all of the staff members played their hearts out. The fans cheered for everyone and it didn't matter whether the point was scored by the white or maroon team because everyone was truly a winner! Hopefully, it will be done for years to come," stated **Principal Kathleen Herrmann.**

Once again, the second grade classes studied about Native Americans and the Pilgrims and how they celebrated the First Thanksgiving. The lessons were integrated across the curriculum, and students demonstrated their knowledge on November 26 as they presented their Harvest Festival. Second grade teachers **Lisa Gabriel, Melissa Mejia, Lisa Gabriel, Deborah Lockley Thompson and Sharon Egan** worked with the students and developed a program that was presented to families and friends. The second graders told a story about Thanksgiving and how the Pilgrims and Native Americans helped each other and made friends. **Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum**, superintendent, was the special guest at the performance and everyone was thrilled to see her. Following the performance, the children and their families were able to participate in Native American activities such as picture writing making necklaces out of beads. Finally, the children and guests sat at beautifully decorated tables and enjoyed some delicious treats. Dr. Birnbaum accompanied Ms. Herrmann as they walked through the school and she chatted with staff and admired the student work that was displayed throughout the building. "Dr. Birnbaum is so busy and we were honored to have her at the Harvest Festival. Her support means so much to everyone," stated Ms. Herrmann.

Thanksgiving feasts were abundant at East End School! Ms. Herrmann visited all of the classrooms to enjoy an early taste of the familiar holiday foods. Parents filled the classrooms as they assisted staff with serving the food and making various crafts. Throughout the school, children were observed dressed as pilgrims and Native Americans as they demonstrated their understanding of why we celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States. "As I walked from classroom to classroom, I tasted stuffing, turkey, vegetables and plenty of desserts as the children learned all about the traditional foods found at a Thanksgiving feast. I continue to be thankful for the East End School community and how strong the partnership between school and home strengthens each and every day," stated Ms. Herrmann.

Fourth grade teacher **Kathy Porter** engaged the students in an author study, and her students read a wide variety of books written by Cynthia Rylant. She told the students they were having a reading party in the community room, and students joined her with picnic blankets in hand and they sat in groups reading Rylant's books. All of a sudden a loud knock is heard on the door of the community room and Ms. Porter says in her motivating voice, "Who could that be?" She sent two students to open the door and in walked relatives of the students to join them in the reading party. The students were so surprised and excited. Ms. Porter said, "The relatives came" and she reminded the students it was one of the books written by Rylant. She asked the students to name some foods that appeared in the story and then she revealed the delicious foods on the table for all to enjoy. "I was thrilled to see the amount of families who came to celebrate reading with their children. Not only did parents come, but aunts, uncles, grandparents and cousins, too. It was as if the book came alive for Ms. Porter's students," remarked Ms. Herrmann.

School nurse **Diane Olsen**, school counselor **Nicole Rivlin**, and teachers **Angela Phillips, Melissa Field and Stefanie Martin** worked diligently for weeks collecting donations and assembling baskets for families at East End School. The baskets ensured that families would have everything they needed to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings. "We are very grateful to everyone for their generous donations," stated Ms. Herrmann.

Parent teacher conferences were held from November 20 through November 26 at East End. During that time, parents arrived and met with their child's teacher where they were presented with the report card. Teachers and parents discussed expectations and goals and the conference provided a one-on-one opportunity to ask questions and share information. "Conferences continue to be beneficial for both teachers and parents and emphasize the importance of working together throughout the year," remarked Ms. Herrmann. During that time, **American Education Week** was also celebrated and parents visited the school and spent time observing in their child's classroom.

### Stony Brook School

**Mobile Dentist Visits Stony Brook School:** Special thanks to **Doreen Humiston, Stony Brook's School Nurse** for arranging "**The Smile Program with The Mobile Dentist**" to visit at Stony Brook School. This is an innovative program that is school-based and visits on-site as a dental outreach provider. Their mission is to "bring state of the art, dental care to those students in need in the most comfortable and effective way possible." Dr. Arthur Crosta and his dental hygienist Jerri Warner, visited Stony Brook School on November 19 and set up a functional "dental office" in the gym. They examined 21 students for cleanings and/ or dental referrals. The research from this organization has found that dental decay is the most common disease of childhood. Over 52 million hours of school are lost each year due to oral health issues. By treating 21 students in school, this program helped save an estimated 264.6 hours of classroom learning time. Traditionally this time would have been lost due to students leaving school and visiting the dentist's office during school hours. "Thank you, Mrs. Humiston and the Mobile Dentist Staff!" exclaimed **Cathy Kobylarz, principal**.

**First Grade's Thanksgiving Feast:** The traditions of Thanksgiving have been an area of study and celebration for the first graders at Stony Brook School. The concentrated study began a week prior to Thanksgiving as the first graders participated in a read aloud of the book *Thanksgiving – An American Holiday* by Laurie Collier Hillstrom and watched video-streaming clips of the "Voyage of the Mayflower." They participated in literature circles discussing the voyage of the Pilgrims in 1620 and the traditions of the Native Americans. They created hats to wear for the Thanksgiving celebration held in the Stony Brook multi-purpose room. The classes were divided into two groups: Pilgrims and Native Americans. A traditional feast was cooked by very generous donations from the first grade teachers, which included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn muffins, cranberries and juice. Parents helped serve and celebrate. "Thanks to all for a grand celebration and a great way to study our country's history," remarked Principal Kobylarz.

### Somerset School

As a tribute to Thanksgiving, **Taino**, the musical duo, presented ***Gracias a la Vida: Thanksgiving around the World*** to Somerset School students on November 25, 2013. Orchestrated by **Nancy Rodino, media specialist**, the assembly was made possible by a grant from Target Corporation.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

### **EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING**

**Safety Topic - Operations.** The safety topic for November was confined space awareness. 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 and 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 has been scheduled for December 17, 2013. This training session will cover a wide range of safety topics including classroom safety and district safety policies.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

#### **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

A safety sub-committee meeting to update the Crisis Management Emergency Plan has now been scheduled for December 16, 2013 at Watchung School.

#### **SECURITY**

To date, **Stuart Buckman**, security specialist, 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 the district's flipchart in preparation of the scheduled sub-committee meeting. Under the direction of Mr. Buckman, the district also has begun to condense the safety & security plan so that a manageable version can be distributed to all staff members.

#### **SECURITY DRILLS**

The security drill for November was a lock down drill. All district schools completed their assigned drills. The security drill for December is an on-site evacuation.

#### **FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS**

UPDATE: The district was recently notified that funding has been appropriated by FEMA for Mitigation Grants to be awarded in Somerset County. These grants target specific projects related to disaster preparedness. At the current time, we have three active grant submissions that include the installation of emergency back-up generating systems.

#### **CCTV SYSTEMS**

The CCTV System at Somerset School is now operational. This system, including twelve interior and four exterior cameras, is the latest addition to the district-wide surveillance program. Additionally, the district has now installed CCTV Systems in all of our buses. This system includes GPS tracking and is accessible in real time.

## **MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

A complete listing/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 solar array system at East End School is now fully operational. 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 prior to the release of this report.

### **HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**

UPDATE: The construction phase of this project is now complete and all punch list items were corrected. All close out documents have been received by the district and a final payment request has been processed.

### **HARRISON WINDOWS**

UPDATE: The installation phase of this project is complete. The only open item at this time is the installation of new window shades that are now 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 ROOFING**

UPDATE: This project is now complete and all punch list items have been corrected. The contractor will return in the spring to touch up the seams and to spread granular fill to any areas disturbed by the heating and air conditioning contractor. All close out documents and warranties have now been received by the district and a final payment request has been processed.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GYM A/C**

UPDATE: This project is now complete including the final programming of the energy management system. Upon receipt of all close out documents and warranties, a final meeting will be scheduled.

### **ROD GRANTS**

UPDATE: We were recently advised that all fifteen of our applications met the criteria for Tier 1 Submission and our chances of being awarded these grants are currently above average. Announcement of grant awards is expected within the next sixty days. Additional information regarding recently completed maintenance and capital improvement projects, as well as digital photographs and a current project register, can be viewed on the 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. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Theodore R. Sielewicki, teacher of industrial arts at NPHS, for reasons of retirement, effective February 1, 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 approve the Board member and/or staff member conference and travel expenses, as per the attached list.

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 date of employment of Arthur Leandro as a probationary night head custodian at NPHS **from** effective December 13, 2013 through March 15, 2014 **to** effective December 16, 2013 through March 15, 2014. (Mr. Leando will replace Maria Serrano.)

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 placement(s) from Kean University:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher(s)</u>
Leigh Steinberg	Art	NPMS	Tammy Mackiewicz
Sookeun Choi	Art	East End	Joanne Wendt

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 as counseling interns under the supervision of Linda Remolino:

Stephanie Barbarosh	Rutgers University
Katherine Lee	Caldwell College
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 teachers be appointed as testing facilitators at the stipend of \$250 each, replacing teachers on child care leave:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Replacing</u>
Megan Schutz	Somerset School	Chemagne Kania
Pricila Weber	NPMS	Jacquelyn Fields
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 temporary employment of the following substitute paraprofessionals as temporary paraprofessionals for classified students as indicated after their names, at the hourly rate of \$21.14:

<u>Paraprofessional</u>	<u>School/Class</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Paul Bey	NPMS/Grade 7-ICR	4.00/day	12/5/13
Alfredo Oquendo	NPMS/Grade 7-ICR	3.50/day	12/5/13
Sindy Flores	East End/Preschool Disabled	2.50/day	12/5/13

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 extend the temporary replacement position of Connie Baker, paraprofessional in the K-2 self-contained class at West End School for 3.75 hours per day, from September 9, 2013 through December 1, 2013 to September 9, 2013 through January 24, 2014. (Ms. Baker is temporarily replacing Tara Naturile.)

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 appointment of Frederick Kain III to serve as a volunteer assistant to the track coach for the winter and spring track program 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 adjust the unpaid leave of absence granted to employee PHY-1-13-14, **from** effective October 31, 2013 through January 23, 2014 **to** October 31, 2013 through November 22, 2013.

Further, that the Board of Education grant employee PHY-1-13-14 a paid leave of absence, effective November 25, 2013, pending evaluation.

Further, that the Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, direct that employee PSY-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 accept with regret the resignation of Patricia L. Wenk, mathematics teacher at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 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 approve the employment of the following individuals as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Rebecca DeGritis  
Mark Mahaga-Avala  
Jessica Pratt

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 the following non-classified students to be provided by Educere for up to ten hours a week, effective dates as indicated:

	<u>Effective</u>
HI-25-13-14	11/25/13
HI-26-13-14	12/5/13

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-27-13-14 to be provided by Somerset Medical Center for up to ten hours per week, effective date November 4, 2013, at the rate of \$45 per hour.

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

	<u>Effective</u>
HI-28-13-14	11/21/13
HI-29-13-14	11/18/13

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

PSY-13-13-14	PSY-14-13-14
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Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the use of the following two healthcare agencies to be called on an as-needed basis:

Preferred Home Health Care and Nursing Services  
Cost: \$41 per hour (LPN) \$46 per hour (RN)

Maxim Healthcare Services  
Cost: \$45 per hour (LPN) \$50 per hour (RN)

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education authorize Kathleen Porter, elementary teacher at East End School, to apply for a grant from Living Large and Seeing Small in the amount of \$500.00 to be used in support of the purchase of Zoomy hand-held digital microscopes for use at East End School.

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from:

- Letter of Retirement received from Patricia Wenk dated December 2, 2013.

December 4, 2013

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 12, 2013.

Communications – Dr. Birnbaum discussed development of Community Committee for East End School Principal search.

Curriculum – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Finance & Facilities – Mr. Branan discussed topics reviewed at the meeting on 12/3/13.

Policy Meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper discussed attending the Delegates Assembly and issues discussed.

SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – next meeting scheduled for December 5, 2013.

**Old Business**

Ms. Dodd asked about cleaning up Chestnut Street.

**New Business**

There was none.

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

**Current Events in Education**

Ms. Bond-Nelson discussed graduation rates and mentioned North Plainfield did very well.

**Comments from the Public**

Mr. Allen thanked the Mentor Group for coming to Vermeule Center to help decorate.

**Future Agenda Items**

Per presentation calendar.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on December 18, 2013 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. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg