

February 19, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on February 19, 2014 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
David Branan
Sandra Dodd
John Fellin, Jr.

Thomas Kasper
Kathleen Mullen
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 6 members of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, to accept the public session minutes of February 12, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, to accept the executive session minutes of February 12, 2014.

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 January 31, 2014 in the amount of \$5,027,719.24.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote 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 December 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
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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:

Congratulations to senior football player Hasani Eason on being selected as the week's News 12 New Jersey Scholar-Athlete. A feature on Hasani will run tonight during the 10 PM – 11PM time slot on News 12.

The Dance classes held a fund raiser today which will continue through Thursday and Friday after school to help raise money for costumes for their end of the year dance performance. They are selling Home Cooked Foods and Tasty Treats in front of the cafeteria.

There are various new clubs that will be introduced to North Plainfield this season. The first organizational meeting of the North Plainfield History Club will be held on February 25th in the library. All students, grades 7 to 12 are invited to join.

There will be an organizational meeting for the North Plainfield Science Club on March 5th at 2:45 in the library.

During the winter basketball season, at home games, canned food donations for people in our community are being collected. They will also be accepting cans of dog and cat food and sealed containers of cat litter.

This week the February issue of the Tunlaw was released which featured with various Valentine's Day articles and messages as well covers of recent North Plainfield high school events.

Presentation

There was none.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Staff

John Tarnofsky, NPHS assistant principal and [Kim Shurig, Regional Director, K12 Inc.](#) presented a session on blended learning entitled "Meeting Mandates and More: How Blended Learning Can Help You Address Growing District and Student Needs " at the **NJASA Techspo Conference**, January 30-31, 2014. Mr. Tarnofsky discussed North Plainfield's use of on-line/blended learning as an option for many students in NPHS. The conference brochure summary included the following:

Every year, school districts are faced with many new challenges – yet with fewer resources. Blended learning, the fastest growing online learning model in the United States, is a cost-effective way to meet these challenges. In this session you will learn about:

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- *The various blended learning models and best practices including New Jersey Online Learning Services which is a new program offering from NJASA that provides online learning options to New Jersey schools and students*
- *How to expand your catalog, including meeting state mandates for financial literacy courses*
- *Providing your students access to more compelling content, without additional textbook expense*
- *Offering scheduling flexibility for students who deal with full academic schedules, work commitments, and family responsibilities*

Bill Saccardi, teacher of English and reading, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation on February 11, 2014. Mr. Saccardi will be graduating this spring from Widener University with his Ed.D. in Reading/Language Arts instruction. Congratulations Dr. Saccardi!

Students

Congratulations to senior football player **Hasani Eason** on being selected as this week's **News 12 New Jersey Scholar-Athlete**. A feature on Hasani will run this Wednesday evening during the 10:00 –11:00 p.m. time slot on News 12.

Youth Art Month: Joselyne Gutierrez, grade 12; **Jessica Tirado**, grade 12; and **Ryan Valencia**, grade 11, art students with **Kim Nydick** have entered their work in the **Youth Art Month Show**, sponsored by The Center for Contemporary Art, 2020 Burnt Mills Road, Bedminster, NJ 07921. The reception will be held on Sunday, March 9, 2014 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. with the awards presentation at 2:30 p.m.

Somerset School, Second Marking Period High Honor Roll

Daniela Guevara Carachure	Aaliyah Nicole Jennings	Brandon Murillo-Cordon
Daniela Carpio	Parijot Kaur	Ngothy Nguyen
Noor Fatima Cheema	Janybeth Leiva	Jaheim Roberts
Branner L. Cordon	Isaiah Xavier Medina	Rachel Demi Soto
Theodore S. Crowther	Vanessa Morales	Jimena Mariela Torres
Marta Hernandez-Mejia	Cecilia Lillian Munoz	

West End School, Second Marking Period Honors

Third Grade Honor Roll

High Honor Roll

Sebastian Aparico

Honor Roll

Sa'id Belfield

Molly Brennan

Ava Brown

Giancarlo Chuquitarco

Carly Coslit

Zachary Dombroski

Catherine Dustin

Fourth Grade Honor Roll

Honor Roll

Jordan Cheatham

Brianna Cookman

Alicia Dey

Elizabeth Dustin

Bryant Fiallos

Julia Gomes

Keiahn Grenald

Amna Imtiaz

Madison Kasper

Tyler Kasper

Sarah Fabian
Madeline Kruszczyński
Corey Jones
Adian Lameira
Ameer Lewis
Caitlyn Liang
Lauren Miller
Katerine Pimentel
Catherine Savoy
Nikolas Thunberg
Samantha Torres
Damien Walker
Devon Walker
Raheem Williams

Raquel Kruszczyński
Jason Melendez
Carlos Menendez
Ruth Munoa
Sean Rassa
Gerardo Rodriguez
Mya Salgado
Naila Twyman
Yonden Sawyers
Andrew Scopel
Victoria Smagalla
Lily Spanton
Adam Stevens
Shaughn Williams

Science/Math Expo: How does the respiratory system work? Can you charge a phone with an apple? What fossils can be found right here in North Plainfield? On January 30, the North Plainfield Middle School held its third annual "Science/Math Expo," sponsored by the NPMS National Junior Honor Society. Science teachers **Mike Nardi** and **John Thompson**, along with math teacher **Aimee Pandya**, facilitated this educational and fun-filled evening event, which showcased 20 experiments and displays. The students were on hand to explain their projects to over 40 parents and guests. **John Ferguson, assistant principal; Patricia Marseglia, math supervisor; and Jamil Maroun, science supervisor** voiced their thanks and appreciation to the junior scientists and explained the district's innovative science and math programs.

Student Presentations:

Amphibians and Reptiles
Bubble Snakes
Computers With Vocabulary
Elephant Toothpaste

Exoskeletons
Fossils of NJ
Graphs, Graphs, Graphs
Growing Crystals
How Pi Works
Fruit Phone
How to Make Silly Putty
Integumentary System
Jersey Shore Carnival
Mauna Loa, The Volcano
Polymers
Respiratory System
Soda Rockets V
Solar System

George Dombroski
Jessica Cerdena, Jenna Guevara & Jacy Silva
Stephen Clancy, Mason Llewellyn
Danisha Tiban, Lelie Collao, Joseph Leon, &
Samantha Gurerrero
Jackson Droege, Nico Pucciarelli
Ben Joback, Hazar Marangoz & Ethan Proffit
Rana Hosny, Ramy Hosny
Jordan Grundy
Jodi Bryan Santana
Cedric Thomas
Nathaly Barrera, Savannah Coop
Sarah Ibrahim, Jamie Stacey
Ms. Sapega's 7th Grade Reading Class
Daniela Gonzalez, Stacy Granizo & Jenifer Hidalgo
Radha Patel, Tyler Rodriguez & Nabil Twyman
Hala Elalfy
Victor Gomez, Carlos Meran
Lelony Baloco

Schools

NPHS

NPHS PTO Talent Show: February 6-7: The NPHS PTO-sponsored **Talent Show** was unique in several ways: The **40 acts**, which included singers, dancers, poets, rappers, piano players, rock bands and a magician, had to be divided again this year over two separate nights of 20 acts that showcased incredibly talented high school students. The other unique quality that presents a clear example of the honorable quality of the student body at NPHS is how supportive the audience members were for each student that performed on the stage both nights. The PTO was pleased additionally by the success of the event which raised over \$2,300. **Supervisor Tom Mazur**, who supervised the process from auditions to wrapping up microphone cables, was assisted by NPHS teacher, **Theresa Zimmerman** who kept the flow of performances going smoothly and designed the programs for each night. "Thank you **PTO parents** who chaperoned backstage, decorated the stage and made flyers," remarked Mr. Mazur.

NPMS

Random Acts of Kindness Week: NPMS once again participated in this national program to promote kindness and respect among students. In celebration of this week, members of the middle school student council created colorful posters with inspirational quotes to hang throughout the school. In addition, daily reminders and examples of "kindness" were broadcast over the PA system during homeroom. Further, the student council conducted a "coin drop" in the lunchroom for students to donate loose change to raise money to purchase ingredients to make lunches for donation to a local homeless shelter.

Onward and Upward: North Plainfield Middle School was recently recognized by the organization *JerseyCan* in their *Report Cards Ranking Results for 2013*. The middle school was listed as the eighteenth school (out of over 480 middle schools in New Jersey) in their performance gain rankings at the middle school level. The results, based on the 2012-13 NJ ASK scores, showed that the middle school improved their scores by a margin of 18.5%. Said **Assistant Principal John Ferguson** in his note to teachers, "To be listed in the top twenty middle schools in New Jersey to show improvement on the NJASK is really an accomplishment that teachers, students, and, parents, should be proud of."

Black History Month: February is the month when the middle school celebrates the achievements of African-Americans. Around the building, various quotes from significant African-American authors, scholars, poets, civil rights leaders, scientists, athletes, and, politicians were posted. The middle school showcase was adorned with portraits of African-Americans who made substantial contributions to our society.

Success on the Hard Court: Both the middle school boys' and girls' basketball teams continued their winning ways this year, as the boys' team defeated a tough Middlesex team to win the 2014 March of Dimes championship, while the girls' team placed second in the tournament. "The young athletes were proud to display their newly won trophies and medals to show their peers that teamwork and dedication proves to be a winning formula. Congratulations to both teams and coaches **Kathy Daley** and **Dave Hooker** for a fantastic season," remarked **Assistant Principal Ferguson**.

Middle School Minute: Social studies teachers **Kristen Didyong** and **Danielle Fauci** found an interesting way to incorporate students' interest in social media and history by having students create a fictitious *Twitter* account for a historical figure. After conducting research, students had to "post" historical accurate "tweets" to their "followers" explaining their life and contributions to society. In one "tweet" Siddhartha Gautama, "The Buddha," announced to his followers, "Just finished meditating. So much realized." Reading teacher **Pat Bailey** had her students complete a "Middle School Survival Plan" on PowerPoint to present to students at Somerset School during the spring orientation visit. Students created this guide to help new students transition from the intermediate setting to the middle school level. **Julie Kelman**, ESL teacher, recently had her sons come to the school and perform traditional Celtic, Scottish, and Latin music for her classes. Her students just completed a unit on cultural traditions.

Somerset School

Science Webinar Live from Antarctica, Sponsored by "Time For Kids" Magazine: On January 12, several fifth grade classes experienced a science webinar, broadcast live from Antarctica, in which two scientists, with the aid of a superb slide show, described the type of work they do each day on the only continent set aside for scientific research.

TAKE P.R.I.D.E!! (Promoting Respect, Responsibility, Independence, Determination and Empathy): On January 31, 2014, Somerset School's fifth and sixth graders were treated to an exciting show full of **magic and illusions**, performed by **Robert (Magic Bob) McEntee**. In addition to a wonderful itinerary of magical feats, Mr. McEntee's show included valuable lessons about having faith in your ability to succeed and the importance of making good choices. Magic Bob kept up a wonderful running mono/dialogue about many character-building and pride-in-yourself topics. Some of these were centered on the importance of choosing the right kinds of friends, knowing when you are laughing "with" and not "at" another student, and always believing that you can accomplish your dreams. Many lucky audience members, including our **Principal Reginald Sainte-Rose**, were called to the stage to assist with various sleights-of-hand. Two students, to the complete amazement of their classmates, were made to float in the air, while the principal-after losing a trivia quiz-suffered the ultimate penalty of being sawed in half! Several students, who handed in essays about why they would like to meet a magician, enjoyed a lovely luncheon with Magic Bob, during which time they got to see a few additional tricks and were privy to a few "magician's secrets," such as how a human subject appears quickly, on different parts of the stage! "Students and staff appear to have given Mr. McEntee's production an A+, as the feedback was fast and very positive. We will look forward to having him back to Somerset School in the future!" remarked **Nancy Rodino, media specialist at Somerset School and organizer of this special program.**

Electronic Field Trip (Colonial Williamsburg Foundation Scholarship): The Amazing Trade Shop Math Race: Several fifth grade social studies classes took part in an interactive learning session with NJTV's live broadcast of The Amazing Trade Shop Math Race. As they watched a live-action film, produced by the Colonial Williamsburg Educational Outreach Center, students were able to call in questions and chat with expert historians, and several lucky students were asked to read their questions on the live television show. Students learned of the importance of math in colonial days. For instance, craftsmen may have had to determine, without calculators, the amounts of raw materials they would need to fulfill large orders of goods for the Continental Army. Apprentices

would need to be taught basic arithmetic in order to determine prices, add coins, and even weigh the coins to determine their worth. Tailors had to be able to cut cloth, avoiding waste, as materials were precious and hard to come by. Since patterns and measuring instruments were not readily available, much of the work of the tradesmen was based on experience, making templates from previously wrought goods, and, sometimes without specific measurements, such as in recipes: enough flour to make dough. The lesson included information about certain colonial jobs, such as those of surveyors, who parceled out the land. These workers required a bit more mathematical training, including skills in geometry and trigonometry, as well as arithmetic. “**Ms. Rodino** has done a remarkable job of applying for and obtaining grants and scholarships so that we can offer special activities, assemblies, and experiences for all of Somerset’s students. These three events were just a sample of the wonderful experiences she brings to our students,” stated **Principal Sainte-Rose**.

Stony Brook School

***Star Lab:** What better place to ‘wish upon a star’ and study the constellations than our very own Stony Brook Star Lab? During the week of January 27, thanks to the efforts of **Michele Motichka, Gretchen Jacot** and their team of starry-eyed volunteers, the seventh annual Star Lab was possible. The Stony Brook gym was magically transformed into a virtual star center, with the Star Lab at the center of activity. The students and families of Stony Brook School were treated to a visit to the Star Lab during the school week, with a repeat visit with parents for an evening under the stars in the Star Lab on January 28, 2014. Available through Raritan Valley Community College, the Star Lab is a portable planetarium when inflated by a medium sized fan, holds up to thirty visitors. Images of constellations and the evening skies were projected on the inside walls of this dome structure by a small projection canister.*

*Over 90 families visited the lab on January 28, 2014, and while they waited, they were invited to an array of star treats. That night the Stony Brook Theatre featured video streaming clips of the constellations for family viewing. A small “Stellar Library” was set up filled with books on stars and the night sky for families to share together. A third station allowed families to decorate their own constellations for a take home treat. Ms. Motichka and Ms. Jacot lead guided tours of the night sky for all to study. Stony Brook’s VIP for the evening was **Jamil Maroun, science supervisor**. “Thanks to all for a starry, starry night,” exclaimed **Principal Cathy Kobylarz**.*

An Olympic Jump Rope for Heart: On February 11, 2014, Stony Brook students joined thousands of other students across the country in Stony Brook's seventh annual "Jump Rope for Heart" educational fundraising day. This year the Sochi Olympics helped to motivate the students as they participated in jumping for a gold, silver or bronze medal. The physical education and health programs in North Plainfield have been teaching the students that a healthy lifestyle, which includes eating healthy and being physically active, can help prevent heart disease and stroke. The Jump Rope for Heart program promoted the value of physical activity to elementary school students, while showing them that they can help battle the problem of heart disease. Organized by **Andrew Taylor and Ryan Shapiro, physical education and health teachers**, this year’s program added a very important component of parent involvement. The multi-purpose room was set up into various “jumping” centers designed to get that heart beating. Parents were invited to spend some great time taking pictures and jumping with their children. “We encourage our families to join us to work together to promote heart healthy living,” stated Principal

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Kobylarz. "The families, students and staff have worked hard to raise money to support this worthy cause. We are proud to donate all proceeds to the American Heart Association."

West End School

Go Red for Women – West End School: West End School collected \$132.00 selling to staff members Go Red dress pins for five dollars each for our Go Red Day. This will be donated to the American Heart Association. There was also a Red and Healthy Food Tasting to support heart health awareness. The **school nurse, Barbara Walker**, organized this event. Ms. Walker stated, "Thanks to everyone who supported our efforts to raise awareness about Women's Heart Health." On Thursday, February 20, our students will be participating in **Jump Rope for Heart**. This has been organized by **physical education/health teachers, Wendy Alvarez and Chris Sepesi**. Their goal is to have enough pledges for the students to meet a \$3,000 fundraising challenge. This is also going to the American Heart Association.

January BoxTops: For January, West End students collected 2,622 BoxTops, earning West End \$262.00! So far this year, West Enders has collected over \$1,384.10!!! The following were the winners for January: 3rd place with 240 BoxTops was Regina Siverii's K-2 class; 2nd place with 265 BoxTops was Theresa Knauer's first grade class and 1st place with 455 BoxTops was Kathleen Dolan's first 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.

Reminder: West End School will be presenting **Disney's Aladdin, Jr.** on Wednesday, February 26 and Thursday, February 27, 2014. The play will be performed at West End School in the community room at 7:00pm. Please contact Principal Beth Sobel if you will be attending.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for February is Proper Lifting Techniques and Back Safety.

Safety Topic - Transportation. No courses are assigned at this time.

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

RTU Training – All Staff Members. Due to recent changes to the Federal Right to Know Act, all staff members are required to receive updated training for the implementation of the new Right to Understand Program. This training is mandatory for all employees and the training is being provided through our Safe Schools Program.

Stair Chair Training – In the event of an emergency evacuation, assigned staff members must be trained in the proper use of a stair chair. A training notice has been posted to "District Announcements" and a hands-on session will be held in the near future.

HEALTH & SAFETY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Members of the safety sub-committee met on January 28, 2014. This meeting was held to review the current progress of our Crisis Management Emergency Plan update. We are on target to have a draft copy ready for final review by the end of February.

SECURITY

Our service provider has now installed safety film at a number of locations at the high school/ middle school. These locations include our main entrance doors, faculty and student entrance and the cafeteria. This new product strengthens the glass and would significantly delay an intruder attempting to gain access to the building.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for February is an Active Shooter Drill. All of our schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

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. UPDATE: Our system provider is currently attempting to eliminate consistent connectivity issues.

HEATING ISSUES

At this time, one new unit coil has been received and will be scheduled for installation within the next two weeks. Additionally, two fan motors have been replaced and we are currently reviewing all of our systems for proper operation.

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

UPDATE: The solar generating system at East End School is now complete including the activation of the user interface and kiosk.

HARRISON WINDOWS

UPDATE: This project has now been closed out.

HIGH SCHOOL GYM A/C

UPDATE: This project has now been closed out.

2014/2015 CAPITAL BUDGET (Proposed)

The following capital improvement projects, partially funded by Rod Grants, have been proposed for inclusion in next year's budget. The current proposed budget is preliminary and subject to change based on additional needs and/or state funding.

- High & Middle School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- East End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- West End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.

- Stony Brook School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- Stony Brook School – Building Wide Window Replacements Including the Gym.
- Somerset School – Installation of an Air Conditioning System for the Gymnasium.

ROD GRANTS

ADDITIONAL GRANTS

The following approved Rod Grants, in addition to the ones proposed for next year's budget, can be held in abeyance for up to eighteen months before they expire:

- High & Middle School – HVAC Replacements including the Cafeteria & Auditorium.
- East End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- West End School – Chiller Installation for the HVAC System.
- Stony Brook School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- Stony Brook School – Installation of a Complete CCTV System.

SAFE ROUTES MINI-GRANT

The district was recently notified that we have been awarded a Safe Routes to Schools Mini-Grant. This grant will provide additional playground equipment for Stony Brook School. It should be noted that this grant was applied for over three years ago. Up to date proposals have now been received and the equipment and installation will be scheduled as soon as the district receives the funds.

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. 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 August and December 2013.

Thomas Allen – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 employment of Christina Cruz to tutor students before and/or after school for up to 1.5 hours per day and Saturday mornings for up to 3.0 hours in the P.A.S.S./Extended Day program at the rate of \$40 per hour.

Thomas Allen – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 Marisa Eberstadt as a volunteer for the GEM (Girls Empowered through Mentorship) program in grades 7-9.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Thomas Kasper – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – 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 guide and salary of John Vogel, physical education teacher at Somerset School, from the BA Guide to the MA Guide/Step 8 (8/8) at the annual salary rate of \$59,560, to be prorated effective February 1, 2014, to reflect his attainment of a Master's degree.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Thomas Kasper – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – 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 appointment of Miriam West, school nurse, to work during spring central registration at the rate of \$49.74 per hour for up to 150 hours.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Thomas Kasper – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – 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 the resignation of Danielle O'Donnell, elementary teacher at East End School, effective March 8, 2014.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education grant Annemarie Alexander, teacher of mathematics at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective September 1, 2014 through November 21, 2014. (Ms. Alexander will be on disability leave using accrued sick days from May 12, 2014 through June 30, 2014, for child care purposes.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education grant Heather Fencik, instrumental music teacher at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective September 8, 2014 through November 30, 2014, for child care purposes. (Ms. Fencik will be on disability leave using accrued sick days from September 1 through September 7, 2014.)

Further that the Board of Education grant Ms. Fencik an unpaid leave of absence effective December 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015, for child care purposes.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Thomas Kasper – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – 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 a temporary increase in hours for the following two paraprofessionals for up to one week, February 17, 2014 - February 21, 2014 to accompany two new classified students placed in Bedminster's Preschool Autistic program:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Wendy Gaetan	3.60	6.00
Pamela Strickland	4.25	6.00

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Fellin, abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following individuals as volunteers to the following NPHS activities:

Daniel Matos	winter guard
Ryan Dunham	wrestling

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

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 district K-12 substitute teachers:

Sharevba Andrews	Ghada Bassiouny
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Thomas Allen – Abstain	Thomas Kasper – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – 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 conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

Thomas Allen – Abstain	Thomas Kasper – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – 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 Eric Ruiz as an elementary teacher at East End School at the BA/Step 1 annual salary rate of \$55,490, to be prorated effective March 3, 2014. (Mr. Ruiz will replace Danielle O'Donnell.)

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen and Mr. Fellin abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Brian Farrell as the principal of East End School at the annual salary rate of \$129,000 to be prorated effective April 21, 2014, or sooner should he be released from his current employment.

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

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 paraprofessionals for an identified student at West End School at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective February 20, 2014 and continuing pending the results of a child study team evaluation:

Kayley Barge	3.50 hours
Yaneth Gaitan	3.50 hours

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

February 19, 2014

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

WHEREAS, Dr. Marilyn E. Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on July 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS she has served with distinction the district, students, and community of North Plainfield for 43 years; and

WHEREAS she has progressed through the positions of substitute teacher, teacher, coach, mentor, supervisor, assistant superintendent, and, since 1995, has been an exemplary educational leader and chief school administrator; and

WHEREAS she has displayed unflinching dedication to education and the academic achievement of all North Plainfield students, and has developed long-term personal relationships with administrators, staff, students, and families, serving them all with compassion and empathy; and

WHEREAS she has endured multiple referenda and altered schedules to improve the physical environment for the education of all North Plainfield students, having guided the district and community through the difficulties of meeting the needs of a growing and changing population while every day - during sunshine, tornados, super storms, blizzards or construction – considering the best interests and safety of all North Plainfield staff and students; and

WHEREAS she has promoted the North Plainfield School District continually and vigorously through her organizational memberships, professional affiliations, numerous published articles, and the Rutgers University School of Graduate Education, bringing recognition and positive regard for both the district and community; and

WHEREAS she has worked in concert with the Board of Education and recommended Personnel, Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services; and Finance, Purchasing and Agreements which always have been for the betterment of the district and student achievement; and

WHEREAS she has proven to be a true role model of “character” through her integrity, loyalty, and devotion and has been the steady, guiding hand for the “family” she nurtured in the North Plainfield School District; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education extend to Dr. Birnbaum its deeply felt gratitude and appreciation for all the years of service and demonstrated love she has given the community and especially the North Plainfield School District; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be placed in the official minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on February 19, 2014; and

NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, with a very heavy heart and wishes for all the best that life has to offer in her future endeavors, I ask that we have a MOTION that the Board of Education approves the Superintendent’s request to retire from the North Plainfield School District.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for the following non-classified students for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Educere, effective date as indicated:

HI-42-13-14 February 10, 2014

Mr. Branam 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 the following classified students at Bedminster Township School at the cost of \$13,275 each, effective February 17, 2014. Transportation will be required.

JJJJJJ-13-14

KKKKKK-13-14

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve classified student AUD-01-13-14 undergo an audiological evaluation to be provided by Summit Speech School at the cost of \$685.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-33-13-14 to be provided by Educere for up to ten hours per week, effective December 10, 2013.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-43-13-14 to be provided by Educere for up to ten hours per week, effective January 30, 2014.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-44-13-14 to be provided by Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children for up to ten hours per week at the cost of \$46 per hour, effective December 4, 2013 through December 19, 2013.

Mr. Branam 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 HHHHHH-13-14 at Celebrate the Children at the cost of \$60,714, to be prorated effective February 20, 2014. Transportation is required.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated December 31, 2014.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated February 19, 2014.

February 19, 2014

Mr. Branen moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the following field trips:

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
HS Hawker-Daniel	2/26/14	Community Service	Sarah Care Watchung, NJ	\$0.00	District (2 buses)
HS P. Weber	3/14/2014	Participate in lectures offered by the science department and tour the science labs	RVCC North Branch, NJ	\$0.00	Contracted

Mr. Branen moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve reimbursement to the following administrator for vacation days earned and/or carried over based on her retirement as per the negotiated Agreement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kathleen Herrmann	30	2/1/14	\$16,487.70 (earned/carryover)
Kathleen Herrmann	11.5	2/1/14	\$ 6,320.29 (accumulated)

Mr. Branen moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve reimbursement to the following administrator for unused sick days based on her retirement as per the negotiated Agreement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Kathleen Herrmann	27.75	2/1/14	\$15,000.00

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 sent out the Program of Studies for review

Finance & Facilities – next meeting scheduled for February 25, 2014 at 5:00 pm.

Policy Meeting – meeting to be scheduled for the week of March 10, 2014.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper will be attending a technology workshop on Friday, February 21, 2014.

SCSBA – next meeting will be held on Saturday, February 21, 2014 from 9 – 12

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

There was none.

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

February 19, 2014

Current Events in Education

Ms. Bond-Nelson mentioned articles in the newspaper regarding the development of a 6 year high school program, in some schools.

Comments from the Public

Michele Robertson expressed her objection to Dr. Birnbaum's retirement but thanked her for her outstanding leadership.

Mary Forbes thanked Dr. Birnbaum for her years of services in both the school and community.

Tracey Peters offered congratulations and expressed thanks and said enjoy retirement.

Future Agenda Items

Per presentation Calendar

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on March 5, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg