

October 2, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on October 2, 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 5 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 September 18, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, to accept the executive session minutes of September 18, 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:

October 7-11 is the Week of Respect. Wednesday, October 9 is Stop Bullying Day for grades 7-12.

MAP Assessment testing took place in the MS on Tuesday, October 1, for grade 7 students, and will take place on Friday, October 4, for grade 8 students. Grades 10 and 12 MAP Assessment testing will take place on Monday, October 7th and for grades 9 and 11 on Tuesday, October 8. Students that are being tested will report to school at their regular time. Students that are not being tested will report to school at 10am. and go directly to the auditorium or high school gymnasium for a special presentation. Once testing is over the students will follow a modified schedule for the remainder of the day.

HSPA testing is taking place on October 1-3, and make up October 8-10.

The middle school will have a pizza night on October 3 at 5:30pm followed by MS Back-To-School night at 6:30pm

The second round of Somerset County Tournament games will take place on October 4. The NPHS Boys' Soccer team will play Montgomery at 3pm Away.

The district Red, White and Blue day is October 11.

The HS Pep week is Tuesday, October 15-Friday, October 18. Tuesday is Hat Day, Wednesday is Pajama Day, Thursday is Jersey Day and after school the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grades will decorate their hallway. Friday is School Spirit Day. In the morning the hallways will be judged and the 1st and 2nd place winners will be announced. In the evening there will be a Homecoming Dance from 8-11pm in the HS cafeteria.

Presentation

Ms. Weber, Ms. Bruno, and Mr. Stephenson provided an overview of the Bridge to Employment program that is currently being run at the high school.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Staff

On Saturday, September 21, 2013, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., West End School **hosted the Whole Brain Teaching New Jersey Conference**. Educators and administrators of all grade levels (pre-K to high school) attended the program. Many of the attendees were from out of state commuting from as far north as Massachusetts and as far south as Virginia. The Whole Brain Teaching presenters, **Kate Bowski and Jasselle Cruz**, engaged the audience with their enthusiasm and knowledge of the program. **Cathy Kobylarz, Stony Brook principal and Kathleen Herrmann, East End principal**, along with **Maria Araneo, special education supervisor** sat in the front row and began to "follow directions quickly" as Ms. Bowski and Ms. Cruz, engaged the audience with their enthusiasm and knowledge of the program. Ms. Bowski and Ms. Cruz instructed the audience to teach each other various skills and concepts. Ms. Bowski, a third grade teacher and Ms. Cruz, a sixth grade teacher, demonstrated techniques of Whole Brain Teaching that directly correlated to classroom management and immediate implementation of the program, as well as the relation to the common core standards. Over 300 educators and administrators attended the New Jersey Conference at West End School.

The Whole Brain Teaching program was first introduced to the district in the 2012-2013 school year at Stony Brook School. They are in their second year of the program and the success of the first year sparked interest in West End School, whose new building objective is to use Whole Brain Teaching for the 2013-2014 school year. This conference was intended to educate the staff on WBT, its delivery, the main concepts, and its impact on student development and knowledge growth. Whole Brain Teaching is a highly interactive form of instruction that delivers information to the students in short "chunks." Kids then teach what they have just learned to their partners, using hand-gestures to help remember specific vocabulary. While students teach each other, the teacher walks around the room to

discover who understands the lesson and who needs more instruction. Research shows that children retain more information when they have an opportunity to put it into their own words and use gestures to emphasize key instructional units.

There are unlimited resources, including but not limited to, instructional videos, classroom materials, and eBooks on the Whole Brain Teaching website: wholebrainteaching.com. There are also weekly seminars with the founder, Chris Biffle. During each seminar, the representatives from each state are available to answer any questions. Ms. Bowski and Ms. Cruz are the New Jersey representatives. The conference gave the audience a much better and clearer understanding of WBT and how it can be successfully used in the classroom at any grade level. It also provided a boost in confidence to those just starting to implement the program in their classrooms. Several of the North Plainfield administrators and educators have expressed their desire to have both presenters, Ms. Bowski and Ms. Cruz, come back for Part 2 of the Whole Brain Teaching Conference. The success of the conference is demonstrated every day in the classroom as teachers educate their students using the Whole Brain Teaching method. The following teachers should be recognized for their participation in bringing this conference to North Plainfield: **West End teachers Theresa Knauer and Andrew Zlotnick and Stony Brook teachers Gretchen Jacot and Sharon Switek.**

Students

The **NPHS Marching Canucks** started the competition season as the “band to beat” on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Performing at Scotch Plains/ Fanwood High School, the band took **first place in Group IIIA** (out of five bands in this group) and earned **Best Music** and **Best Overall Effect**.

Congratulations to **Somerset School, Stony Brook School, and West End School for earning Silver-Level Recognition for their NJ Safe Routes to School Program.** **James Simpson, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation** recognized 58 programs in New Jersey with **Safe Routes to School Recognition Awards** for promoting healthy walking lifestyles and encouraging children to walk and bicycle to school. “Student safety, promoting healthy lifestyles and caring for the environment through traffic reduction are initiatives at the core of this program. We are proud to help our families and the community in any way we can,” stated **Cathy Kobylarz, Stony Brook School principal.** Stony Brook, West End, East End and Somerset Schools are beginning their fourth year in the program. With the assistance of **James Crane, the Somerset County Safe Routes to School Regional Coordinator as well as the North Plainfield Police Department and the mayor’s office,** Ms. Kobylarz, will continue to coordinate the program as it establishes safe walking and biking routes to each of the schools. The program also offers workshops in safety education and distributes educational materials to emphasize the critical role walking plays in child development. Families have been encouraged to walk together to school as a healthy way to start the day. The first Wednesday of every month has been designated as “**Walking Wednesday.**” **Michael Giordano, Mayor; Don Sternberg, Business Administrator/Board Secretary; and Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools** will be visiting each of the schools to participate in the Wednesday Walks.

Schools

West End School

Summer Reading Celebration: The West End Wildcats Summer Reading Celebration took place on Wednesday, September 18 at 1:30 PM in the West End School Community Room. Eighty-two students completed their summer goal of reading fifteen or more books. These students and their parents were invited to the celebration to recognize their reading efforts. The event started with a general recognition of all students' efforts. Each student's name was announced, and he or she was given a prize packet which included a small journal, stickers, "Read" wrist bands, bookmarks, and a small paperback book. The students who had read the "mystery book" were announced and given an additional prize. **Jessica Trujillo, North Plainfield public librarian,** presented **third grader Emma Rink** with a trophy and additional prize for the most minutes read over the summer. West End School was also awarded a trophy for recording the most minutes district-wide over the summer. Snacks provided by the West End P.T.A. were handed out and the children then received bookmarks featuring a "Magic Reading Rock" poem. Each child was given a reading rock to decorate with markers, glitter, crayons and stickers. A special note of thanks goes to **Lindsey Gall, Library/Media Specialist,** for organizing the summer reading program and celebration.

Back to School Night—A Family Event! Traditionally Back to School Night is for parents only. However, at West End School, children are welcome to attend. Parents went to their child's classroom to hear about the expectations and wonderful happenings that will be taking place in their child's classroom. It is West End's belief that it takes a partnership between school and home to provide the best support system for children and that is the message West End is sending out to families by making Back to School Night an open event. The evening began with an Open House experience in the community room. The specialists set up a display about their area of expertise such as art, music, counseling services, academic support, health services, physical education and health instruction. Parents were able to meet and speak to the specialists and hear about their role in their child's educational experience. The new Costco, local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and PTA also were there distributing information. Specific times were arranged for classroom visits during the evening in which the classroom teachers gave their own presentations.

East End School

Back to School Night was held on September 19. Teachers in grades PreK – 2 provided an overview of what students will be learning, as well as expectations for the year. At 7:00 p.m., **Principal Kathleen Herrmann** invited everyone to join her in the community room for an overview of the curriculum and district programs and an opportunity to mingle with specialized teachers at various stations around the perimeter of the room. Ms. Herrmann addressed the entire school community using a PowerPoint presentation in both English and Spanish. The **PTO** executive board was introduced and **Anne Fellin, president** addressed the audience and encouraged everyone to become active members. Student liaison coordinator, **Lynelle Thomas,** also addressed the audience to familiarize families with her role as liaison. At 7:45, parents of third and fourth graders were invited to visit their child's classrooms. Specialized teachers remained to share information until 8:15 p.m. "What a wonderful evening at East End School. Every chair was filled and people stood in the back to hear my address and visit the specialized stations. I stressed the

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importance of their involvement and how reading every day makes a difference. Parents were encouraged to remain actively involved in their child's education throughout the year. We are all anticipating a year filled with academic rigor, respect and a partnership that fosters a strong school community," remarked Ms. Herrmann. On Friday morning Ms. Herrmann hosted a breakfast in the faculty lounge to thank the staff for a wonderful evening.

School pictures were taken on Tuesday, September 24. Students and staff dressed in their finest apparel -- ready to smile for the camera. The entire staff gathered at 8:00 a.m. on the front steps of the school for their traditional group picture. Throughout the day, classes visited the gym and parent volunteers helped children comb their hair, straighten a tie and encouraged them to smile. "We appreciate the parent volunteers and thank them for the time they give to our school community," stated Ms. Herrmann. When the students receive their picture packet, every child is also issued a student ID card that is used when purchasing lunch.

Student Council facilitators Lisa Gabriel and Nicole Rivlin have been busy talking to third and fourth grade students. Ms. Rivlin went into each third and fourth grade classroom to speak about the role of student council members and some projects they will be working on this year. They received over 70 permission slips from students who are interested in being a part of East End's Student Council this year. The first meeting was scheduled for September 26. In addition, many fourth grade students expressed interest in becoming safety patrol members. An additional meeting will be held so that students can hear all about the new requirements and the application process. Earlier this month, parents received a letter about **box top collections**, as well as a collection sheet so that students can glue the box tops onto the sheet. This will make it much easier to manage the hundreds of box tops that are collected each month. Additional sheets will be sent home throughout the year. Proceeds from the box tops are used to purchase supplies for East End School.

Everyone is looking forward to Saturday, October 4 at East End. The **PTO** is hosting a **Harvest Festival** for families to come out and enjoy an afternoon of fun, games and food. The event will be held on the school grounds from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. "It will be a great way for old friends to reunite, as well as provide an opportunity for new members of the school to make new friends," commented Ms. Herrmann.

Meagan McFadden, newly hired fourth grade teacher, is inviting parents to come in every Friday afternoon at the end of the day as a "mystery guest reader." "Ms. McFadden is doing an outstanding job involving parents in the school community and she shared that the students are very excited about this initiative," said Ms. Herrmann. Some students shared that their parents do not speak English, but Ms. McFadden encouraged them to read in their native language because the students can follow the story using pictures as clues and other students can translate. Students are very excited and look forward to Fridays when the "mystery guest reader" will be revealed.

Stony Brook School

Summer Reading Celebration: Stony Brook students love to "READ! READ! READ!" and during the summer of 2013 the amount of reading was "un-be-READ-able"!! On September 13, 2013, **Marilyn LaMarca, substitute librarian** and **Jessica Trujillo, librarian from the North Plainfield Public Library** hosted the third annual Stony

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Brook School Summer Reading Celebration. The summer program was launched during an all-school assembly held in June 2013. Every student was invited to participate. As an incentive and with the generosity of Ms. LaMarca and her various charity organizations, every child received two books and a stuffed animal reading buddy. The directions were clear: Read fifteen books, fill out the reading log and turn it in at the beginning of school. The entry ticket to the celebration was a reading log that contained at least fifteen books read over the summer. As Ms. LaMarca tallied the reading logs, she was shocked to realize the final results. Seventy-five students in grades one-four read a combined total of 1,779 books! Ms. Trujillo announced their reading results. “**Aron Gonzalez** read 7,485 minutes of reading and **Elizabeth Ellis** read 6,280 minutes, which is incredible. Special thanks to our hostesses and congratulations to all of our Summer Readers,” exclaimed **Principal Cathy Kobylarz**.

Somerset School

Flier for MALES Program:

Mentoring and Learning Equal Success

The **M.A.L.E.S (Mentoring and Leadership Equals Success) Program** made its debut at North Plainfield Public school on October 25, 2007. The group consists of approximately 65 boys’ grades 6-12 who have demonstrated signs of leadership and academic success. The primary aim of the program is to promote intellectual and leadership skills amongst young men. The program is a subsidiary of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. Theta Psi Lambda Chapter, National “Go to High School Go to College” initiative. The program is conducted via many volunteers from the community. The volunteer mentors of the program include undergraduates to retirees. The academic and career diversity includes attorneys, medical doctors, educators, and financial analysts, to name a few.

During the last several years, the students have participated in a variety of different academic and leadership programs that included: Leadership Development Institute at Saint John’s University, Student for a day at Ramapo College, W.E. B. Dubois Institute at Princeton University, Regional Development Leadership Institute at Rutgers University, to name a few. In addition, during the various workshops that are conducted, students are constantly exposed to guest speakers from various professional experiences.

We are proud and excited to announce that the **M.A.L.E.S** program will continue for our young men in the North Plainfield Schools. Please join us as we provide this great opportunity for young men to participate in this prestigious program. Our **Kick off Meeting** will be held at Somerset Intermediate School, commencing at **5:45 pm October 4, 2013 at Somerset School Community Room**. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to attend.

Vaughn L. McKoy, JD, MBA will be the keynote speaker at the opening session. The following is an excerpt from his bio: “An inner-city youth from Paterson “P-town” New Jersey, Vaughn L. McKoy is the youngest of six siblings and an impoverished single mom. Unlike his siblings and friends, he becomes convinced life has more to offer than drugs, gangs, and prison. Throughout grade school and high school, despite the lure of the streets and the shock and responsibility of becoming a teenage dad, he strives for athletic excellence, encouraged by baseball, basketball, and football coaches whose teachings are never solely about the game.

After being awarded a football scholarship to Rutgers University, Vaughn meets former alumnus, attorney, and business mogul Arthur Goldberg while lifting weights. Goldberg is featured not only in Nelson Johnson's *Boardwalk Empire*, but more recently in *The War at the Shore: Donald Trump, Steve Wynn, and the Epic War to Save Atlantic City* by Richard D. Bronson. For the next ten years, "Mr. G." weekly mentors Vaughn to pursue academic and professional success, through teachings of his own.

Under the mentorship of Mr. G., Vaughn continues his rise to professional achievement as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey and as an executive and lawyer representing his company as one of the sponsors for the upcoming 2014 Super Bowl."

Family Fun Night: *"After months of preparations, our Family Fun Night was finally upon us. With great collaboration and planning with **families, teachers, PTO, and non-profit organizations**, it is safe to say that our event was a great success. We take pride in this event's ability to help create and foster a positive and welcoming environment for our families and friends to share," exclaimed **Luis Jaime, assistant principal**. Family Fun Night's goal is to build upon each event to create a tradition of community amongst students, families and staff. This year's event had close to 150 parents and students join in on the festivities which included food, carnival entertainment, and valuable resources for the families. "We all worked cohesively, putting every effort into making Family Fun night a memorable one. We are grateful to our **PTO** for providing refreshments, snacks, and pizza. Their continued efforts and positive support of our school is a partnership we are truly proud of," continued Mr. Jaime.*

Amongst the other partnerships for the night, were **Somerset Resource Center** and **Somerset Medical Center** providing valuable information regarding family targeted workshops and county information. **NJCEED** was on hand disseminating brochures and resource literature on Breast and Prostate Cancer screening education and most importantly answering any questions. The **Women's Counseling Center** and **Family Support Organization** also provided information on family strengthening programs and resources. In addition, **Health1st** offered families information and assistance on free to low cost health insurance. Lastly, the school welcomed **Empower Somerset** whose organization provides ESL courses, family learning and outreach resources along with so much more. Empower Somerset also provided all the carnival games, entertainment and prizes for our families to enjoy.

*"Overall, Somerset School would like to warmly thank everyone's collaborative efforts for the night's success and for assisting us in meeting the goal of offering a hub for our families, staff, and students to come together and enjoy. We thank all the organizations for volunteering their time and valuable resources with us and hope to see them again next year. We will continue at this momentum to provide quality events for our students, families and staff," stated **Reginald Sainte-Rose, principal**.*

NPMS

"The Girls' Circle": As part of this year's middle school initiative to bolster the advisory and mentorship of students, co-advisors **Jacqueline Fields** and **Corrine Laurie** created "The Girls' Circle." This club is designed to assist young girls in becoming productive, caring and responsible citizens. The objective is to encourage healthy attitudes and

lifestyles that will enable adolescent girls to develop their full potential. It seeks to assist them in coping with their family and personal problems and learning valuable life skills. The “Girls Circle” is open to all seventh and eighth grade girls and will meet after school and during lunch periods. Topics such as forming positive friendships and relationships, building self-esteem, and dealing with conflict will be discussed.

NPMS Canuck Pride T-Shirt Fundraiser: Once again, the NPMS student council is holding its annual T-shirt fundraiser. This event is a student favorite because the students look forward to wearing their colorful shirts on special occasions. Student council advisor **Lindsey Mulry** gathered a group of students to help design this year’s style and color and looks forward to revealing the “new look.”

“Talking Teamwork”: To enhance the effectiveness of teaming in the middle school and to provide an opportunity for all the students to meet their teachers, the seventh and eighth grade teams met individually in the auditorium with their core teachers. Through use of PowerPoints, songs, and handouts, teachers previewed the curriculum and activities that the students would experience throughout the upcoming year.

“Dream, Dare, Do!” On September 20, all middle school students attended a three-screen, multi-media assembly by *Camfel Productions* entitled “Dream, Dare, Do!” This motivational program challenged students to overcome their fears and to make their lives the best it can be. It encouraged students to resolve conflicts, clarify dreams, and through hard work and determination, turn their dreams into a reality. Assistant Principal **John Ferguson**, in his introduction and welcoming of Student Assistance Counselor **Frank DaSilva**, stated to the students, “We all have dreams for our lives, but it takes courage and determination to move toward our goals.” At the conclusion of the assembly, Mr. DaSilva reminded the students, “Those who succeed in life are the ones who are willing to put the time and energy needed into achieving their dreams.”

District

In our efforts to assess the academic status and needs of our students, the district began testing all students, K-12 using the *Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)*. This computer-assisted, formative assessment will be given three times during the school year, allowing us to measure student progress in math, reading and language arts. The test is being administered to approximately 500 students per day over a seven-day period. Prior to MAP, the district used *Learnia* and *Vantage* assessments in grades 1-8. MAP differs from the former in that it is computer-adaptive, adjusting the level of questioning to students' responses, thereby identifying the appropriate level of instruction for each student.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for September was equipment safety and operation. The safety topic for October is electrical safety and lock out/tag out.

Safety Topic - Transportation. The safety topic for September was wheel chair securement and transportation. No additional training is 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.

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

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Our Five Year Hazard Mitigation Plan has been accepted by the Somerset County Office of Emergency Management and will be included in the updated All County Mitigation Plan. UPDATE: We have now received a copy of the final plan.

FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS

As requested by the New Jersey State Police, the North Plainfield Board of Education has applied for, and been granted access to, the newly created Hazard Mitigation Grant Submittal Porthole. All future grant applications must be submitted using this new site.

FEMA 4046-DR-NJ

The district recently received a partial reimbursement for expenses related to Hurricane Sandy. UPDATE: Additional reimbursements are pending at this time.

SECURITY DRILLS

The Security Drill for September was an Active Shooter Drill. All of our schools, including our Alternative High School Program at Somerset, completed their assigned drills. The Security Drill for the month of October is an Off Site Evacuation.

Additionally, an Annual Security Drill Schedule has been prepared and submitted to all agencies as required by code.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The next meeting, to update our Crisis Management Emergency Plan, will be scheduled after Stuart Buckman, our new Security Specialist begins after October 16. This new position will be an integral part of our overall safety program and any future safety initiatives.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS/SUMMER PROJECTS

A number of in-house and contracted summer projects were completed or are in the process of being completed at this time. A complete listing and status update of these projects has been provided with this report under separate cover. Additionally, the Operations Department website has been updated to accurately reflect the current status of summer projects.

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

The solar systems at Somerset School, NPHS, and West End School are now fully operational. The solar system at East End School is awaiting an approved PTO (Permission to Operate) from the utility authority.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

This project is now complete and all punch list items have been corrected. A final payment request is currently being reviewed by our architect.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2012/2013)

HARRISON WINDOWS

The replacement windows are currently being manufactured and will be scheduled for installation upon shipping confirmation. We have set a tentative installation schedule for the second week of November.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2013/2014)

HIGH SCHOOL ROOFING

This project is currently being completed. To date, three of the four sections scheduled for replacement have been completed with only minor coping work remaining at this time. The fourth section of roofing is currently scheduled for completion. This section will be replaced in conjunction with the gymnasium HVAC replacement project.

HIGH SCHOOL GYM A/C

The unit curbs are scheduled for installation during the week of September 22, 2013. The new equipment is currently in production and is now scheduled for delivery during the second week in October. This project should reach substantial completion in late October.

ROD GRANTS

A total of fifteen Rod Grant Applications have now been submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education. These applications include a number of capital improvement projects throughout the district. We have recently been advised that all of our applications meet the criteria for Tier 1 submission and our chance of being awarded these grants is above average. Announcement of grant awards is expected within the next few months. It should be noted that the New Jersey Department of Education received some twenty-three hundred Rod Grant Applications, and our applications were some of the first to be reviewed and receive preliminary approval.

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 that the Board of Education approve the certificated staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken between May and August 2013.

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

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote 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 – Aye
David Branán – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

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

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

Thomas Allen – Aye
David Branán – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education grant Donna Tackach-Gasser, ESL teacher at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective September 24, 2013 through October 1, 2013.

Further, that the Board of Education grant Ms. Tackach-Gasser an unpaid leave of absence effective October 2, 2013 through November 30, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
David Branán – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Susan Megaloudis as a substitute paraprofessional in the district on an as-needed basis, effective October 3, 2013, at the hourly rate of \$21.14.

Thomas Allen – Aye
David Branán – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Kevin Mills as a teacher of Italian at NPHS at the BA/Step 10 (10-11/10) annual salary rate of \$58,760, to be prorated effective October 7, 2013. (Mr. Mills will replace John Mattei.)

Thomas Allen – Aye
David Branán – 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 that the Board of Education adjust the date of release of John Mattei's teaching position **from** October 21, 2013 **to** October 8, 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 for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education grant Lizet Zuniga, school social worker, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act effective September 24, 2013 through October 15, 2013.

Further, that the Board of Education grant Ms. Zuniga an unpaid leave of absence effective October 16, 2013 through October 28, 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 for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve that employee SU-1-13-14 be suspended without pay for three days, September 20, 23, and 24, 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 for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the hours of the following paraprofessionals working with classified students as indicated:

<u>Paraprofessional</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Eman Mobarak	4.25	3.25	Stony Brook School	9/24/13
Jenna Dzurilla	3.50	4.50	Somerset School	10/3/13

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 for the 2013-2014 school year, the board of Education approve the employment of Vivianette Rivera as a paraprofessional in the resource (OCR) math and language arts class at Stony Brook School for 3.50 hours per day at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective September 23, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Jacqueline Delatour as a teacher of French at NPHS at the MA/Step 6-7 (6-7/6) annual salary rate of \$59,090, to be prorated effective October 7, 2013. (Ms. Delatour will replace Matthew Mergen.)

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education adjust the date of release of Matthew Mergen's teaching position **from** October 23, 2013 **to** October 8, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following applicants as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Christina Lynn Cruz
Cherrelle McGlone

Brian Steger

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education grant Wanda Blue, school van driver, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective October 31, 2013 through January 23, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education appoint the following teachers as student council co-advisors at West End School at the stipend of \$741.10 each:

Alison Apisa

Heather Morgan

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education rescind the recommendation to appoint Deborah Lockley-Thompson as co-advisor of the young orators club at East End School.

Further, that the Board of Education appoint Ridhima Bajaj as co-advisor of the young orators club for the 2013-2014 school year at the stipend of \$741. (Ms. Bajaj will replace Ms. Lockley-Thompson.)

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the guide and salary of Wendy Alvarez, physical education teacher at West End School, from the BA Guide to the Master's Guide at the MA/Step 13 (17-18/18) rate of \$67,275 plus \$375 longevity for a total annual salary rate of \$67,650 to reflect her attainment of a Master's degree, effective September 1, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the guide and salary of Kyle Skrivanek, teacher of music at NPMS, from the MA Guide to the 6 YR Guide at the 6YR/Step 12 (15-16/16) annual salary rate of \$68,160, to reflect his attainment of a Master's degree plus 30 credits, effective September 1, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Meredith Reedy as a temporary school social worker in the Department of Pupil Services at the annual MA/Step 1 salary rate of \$58,490, to be prorated effective October 7, 2013 through November 15, 2013. (Ms. Reedy will temporarily replace Lizet Zuniga.)

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the adoption of the curriculum for the high school elective: Dance I (9-12)

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education approve home instruction for the following non-classified students to be provided by Educere, Inc. for up to ten hours per week, effective September 24, 2013:

HI-5-13-14

HI-6-13-14

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-7-13-14 to be provided by Education, Inc. for up to ten hours per week at the rate of \$45.50 per hour, effective September 18, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education approve home instruction for the following classified students to be provided by district staff for up to ten hours per week, at the effective dates indicated:

HI-08-13-14	September 12, 2013	HI-11-13-14	September 16, 2013
HI-09-13-14	September 20, 2013	HI-12-13-14	September 16, 2013
HI-10-13-14	September 23, 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 home instruction for classified student HI-13-13-14 to be provided by Educere at the cost of \$464.00 (\$116 per month per course), effective September 9, 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 classified student PSY-05-13-14 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Nancy Dulay at the cost of \$850.

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 classified student ATE-01-13-14 receive an assistive technology evaluation to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$835.

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 for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student AAAAAA-13-14 at Somerset Secondary Academy in Bridgewater at the cost of \$43,145 per year, to be prorated. The effective date is pending transportation arrangements.

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 home instruction for non-classified student HI-14-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Rutgers Behavioral Health Center Inc. at the rate of \$52.24 per hour, effective October 1, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-15-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective October 2, 2013.

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

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

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education reaffirm the attached Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials, 2011 Revisions, approved by the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety and the New Jersey Department of Education and between the North Plainfield Public School District and the North Plainfield Police Department.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education approve and accept a donation of office supplies from Colleen Currier to include a file cabinet, hanging folders, binder clips, and a folding chair for the purpose of supplementing general supply needs at the high school.

Thomas Allen – Aye
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 that the Board of Education approve of the disposal of the following listed out-of-date textbooks which can no longer be used for instructional purposes pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:34-4. All books will be offered to students for personal use in the home.

Scott Foresman	Science Grade 1, Copyright date 2000
Scott Foresman	Science Grade 2, Copyright date 2000

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 accept the donation of 200 backpacks from Costco Wholesale Company, to be given to students in East End, West End, Stony Brook and Somerset Schools.

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 the disposal of the following audio visual equipment whose useful value has expired and/or is irreparable:

NPHS/MS	Quaser VCR #VHQ740	Serial #1198
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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 – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Finance & Facilities – next meeting scheduled for November 18, 2013.

Policy Meeting – Mr. Branan reviewed and discussed policies as listed for approval.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – Mr. Kasper mentioned the next meeting will be held on October 3, 2013.

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the following revised policies:

3327	Relations with Vendors
4112.2	Certification
4131/4131.1	Staff Development; In Service Ed./Visitations/Conferences
6142.10	Internet Safety and Technology
5127	Commencement Activities

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

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

2014-2015 – School Budget Calendar – Mr. Sternberg mentioned there are no changes or updates at this time.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Future Agenda Items

There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on October 16, 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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg