

May 21, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on May 21, 2014 at West End School, 447 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Thomas Allen  
David Branan  
Sandra Dodd  
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 40 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 to accept the public session minutes of May 7, 2014, and May 12, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of May 7, 2014.

#### **Financial Report**

Unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated April 30, 2014, in the amount of \$5,680,607.85.

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 March 2014, 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.

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

Upon request of the chair for topics from the public, Ms. Peters comments on how helpful the ROTC was this past week.

#### **Student Representative Report**

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

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The following students were chosen to have their artwork displayed at the Somerville Court House gallery later on this month:

Destiny Lynn-Self Portrait in acrylic paint

Amy Chavez-Mixed Media

Lily Durick-Digital Photograph

Child Development class is planning to go on a free field trip to "The Growing Tree" daycare located at Somerset Street to experience and learn about child care career in future on June 9th and 13th.

We have invited guest speakers from local daycares (The Growing Tree and LTLC) to talk about the career options and preparation needed for a chosen career.

We celebrated Mother's Day and presented beautiful handprint flower bouquet frames to moms. We are looking forward to "End of the Year" celebration.

HOPE Club donated the monies raised this year, \$255.15, to the IFAW, International Fund for Animal Welfare. This non-profit organization provides global services to help endangered animals.

HOPE Club also elected next year's officers:

President: Ivy Dayton

Vice President: Arassely Chipa

Secretary: Lisa Pennington

Treasurer: Jennifer Jones

As the mentors close out their year, we are happy to announce that the launch of the full year 7 and 8 grade mentoring program was a success and will continue next year with plans for more planned activities to highlight the growth of the participants.

Mentor interviews for next year's club will commence on Monday, June 2nd. The panel of interviewers will consist of several two year senior mentor participants. As of now, 123 students have applied to the program.

The summer dates for mentor orientation day and mentor training are TBD.

The Dance Classes will be performing in their 1st Annual Dance Gala on Wednesday, June 11th at 7pm in the High School Auditorium. Come and support the arts and this fun, exciting new program that has given our students the gift of learning how to express themselves through movement.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Castro along with students provided the board with an overview and presentation of the quilt project for this school year.

Dr. Blecher discussed and presented an overview of the "For Action Initiative Project" along with members of the ROTC program, and Mr. Izeppi. The students sang the National Anthem.

Dr. Dwight Pfenning of HYA & Associates provided an overview of the Leadership Profile findings recently completed, to ascertain priorities related to the hiring of a new Superintendent based on constituent groups. Executive summary was reviewed in detail and survey results were analyzed. Dr. Pfenning took questions from the board and audience. Dr. Pfenning also discussed posting the survey and executive summary.

**Superintendent's Report****RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS****Staff**

Congratulations to **Charles Henriques, head varsity boys' track coach**, for being selected as the **Skyland Conference "Coach of the Year"** for the 2013-2014 school year. Coach Henriques was one of the four recipients honored at the annual Skyland Conference Scholar Athlete Luncheon on May 13 at Maggiano's Restaurant in Bridgewater. Coach Henriques was recognized for leading his team to its fourth straight divisional championship and sixth divisional championship over the past eight years.

**Students**

On May 6, 2014, NPHS hosted the second annual **Clearinghouse Scholarship Dinner** at Giovanni's in Plainfield. The following students were awarded scholarships:

**Clearinghouse Scholarship Recipients for 2014**

Ball-Kirch Post #265 American Legion, James Tennant Memorial Scholarship	Onjae McDuffie Nicholas Mercuri	\$1000 each
Charles Blackman "Give Back" Scholarship	Maryam Bibi Tayyba Shafgat	\$500 each
Brown Family Foundation	Sofia Angel-Bermudez, Caroleine Atusparia- Urbina, Thao Nguyen, Amy Palacios, Rachelle Zelaya	\$8000 each over 4 years
Louis A. Caruso Memorial Scholarship	Sofia Angel-Bermudez, Kaitlin Rink	\$500 each
August "Sunny" Church Memorial Scholarship	Hasani Eason	\$1500
Bernard Dreier Community Service Scholarship	Cinly Tang	\$500
Dr. Herman Estrin Memorial Scholarship	Amy Palacios	\$500
Peter G. Fagone Scholarship Fund	Kevin Monrroy	\$4000 over 4 years
Hondru-Searl-Auerbach Scholarship	Bryan Huezo-Menjivar Christian Menjivar	\$750 each
Frances Lawa Community Service	Yvonne Njoku	\$500

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Scholarship

Marjorie & Frank Mundy Memorial Scholarship	Alyssa Chandler	\$24,000 over 4 years
North Plainfield Alumni Association Scholarship	Kyle Grant Victoria Stevens	\$1000 each
North Plainfield Assoc. of Educational Administrators and Supervisors Scholarship	Angelica Lopez	\$300
N.P. Educational Philanthropic Association Scholarship	Kelsey Miller Genesis Villacis-Salcedo	\$500 each
Field Hockey Parents Booster Club Scholarship	Jasleen Sevilla	\$300
Football/Cheerleader Parents Club Scholarship	Sofia Angel-Bermudez Christian Menjivar	\$500 each
Thomas J. Frescoln Scholarship Fund	Jessica Delfino, Kaelyn Dorsey, Michelle Flores, Brigiette Garcia, Jennifer Marmolejos, Nicholas Mercuri, Kevin Monrroy, Nikalah Muse, Chigozie Ogabonne-Attubi, Adan Ramirez	\$910 each
Latin Coalition Scholarship	Amy Palacios Stephanie Veintimilla	\$500 each
Lion's Club Scholarship	Hasani Eason Kaitlin Rink	\$1000 each
Richard McKenna Memorial Scholarship	Jonathan Eugenio	\$1000
Music Parents Association Scholarship	Kevin Monrroy Yvonne Njoku Jasleen Sevilla	\$500 each
N.P. Optimist Club Scholarship	Noor Imtiaz	\$1000
PBA Scholarship	Kevin Monrroy Stephanie Veintimilla	\$400 each

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PTA/PTO Scholarship	Melena Contreras Yvonne Njoku Jasleen Sevilla	\$1200 each
Recreation Commission Scholarship	Kevin Monrroy Victoria Stevens	\$750 each
Soccer Club Scholarship	Cindy Medrano	\$300
Rotary Club of Plainfield/North Plainfield Scholarship	Kyle Grant, Rachelle Zelaya Jennifer Marmolejos Yvonne Njoku, Stephanie Veintimilla, Anna Zhu	\$400 \$400 \$750 \$750 \$750 \$750
Michael Sheehy Memorial Scholarship	Kyle Grant Jennifer Marmolejos	\$300 each
Cheryl Thompson-Veazie Memorial Scholarship	Yvonne Njoku	\$1000
Emily Thompson Memorial Scholarship	Onjae McDuffie Kelsey Miller	\$500 each
V.I.P. Honda Scholarship in Recognition of Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum's 43 Years of Service	Cinly Tang	\$1000
Michael W. Zawrotnak Memorial Scholarsh	Kyle Grant Chigozie Ogabonne- Atubi, Cinly Tang, Christian Menjivar	\$1000 each

The following students will be participating in the **North Plainfield Memorial Day Ceremony** on May 26, 2014:

East End School

Daniel Barriga/gr. 4  
Tatiana Sarmiento/gr. 4

West End School

Amna Imtiaz/gr. 4  
David Contreras/gr. 4

Stony Brook School

Elizabeth Ellis/gr. 4  
Luisa Salguero/gr. 4

Somerset School

Sahinda Bahnasy/gr. 6

NPMS

Menatallah Bohnasy/gr. 8

Isaiah Medina/gr. 6

Jordan Grundy/gr. 8

NoranZaher/gr.8

NPBS

Mark Romero/gr. 12 - Trumpet

Aaron Ervin/gr. 10 - Trumpet

Lauren Ventriglia/gr. 9 - Soloist

JrROTC Cadets

Cadet Alejandro Alvarez/gr. 10

Cadet Nancy Bahnasy/gr. 10

Cadet Robert Brown/gr. 10

Cadet/Abigail Martinez/gr. 11

**Honoring Academic Excellence & Leadership Qualities at Stony Brook School**

**Honor Roll**

**Grade Three**

Samantha Alvenus

Layevska Corado

Valeria Esquer

Andrea P. Garcia

Samaria Loaeza-DeJesus

Kevin Morales

Ricki Ocariza

Anthony Olivo-Valdez

Uriel Palacios

Dennis Rojas

Brandon Urquizo

**Grade Four**

Samantha Borja

Ivan Mangui-Velez

Tania Molina-Ramos

Derick Murillo

Kristobal Olivares

Bhavya Patel

Ashley Reyes

Rebecca Rodriguez

Luisa Salguero

Jenny Sanon

Adair Yancha Tobar

**High Honor Roll**

Joel Guevara

Joshua Njoku

In addition to academic excellence, four students at Stony Brook School were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions in the area of leadership ability. Selected by their teachers for displaying the qualities found in a leader, the following students were recognized:

**L.E.A.D. Recognition**

Sade Adedeji – Gr.3

Eileen Ayala – Gr.3

Amaya Shallo – Gr.4

Joseline Garcia – Gr.4

**SCHOOLS**

**Somerset**

Somerset School fifth graders had an amazing day of learning and made remarkable real-world connections to the classroom lessons we promote each day – work hard, help one another, set goals, believe in yourself, and never give up on your dreams when they visited **Rutgers University** on April 25, 2014. Janet Darvin, coordinator of the event, wrote the following:

*“Students arrived on campus at 9:30 a.m. and began the day at the **Math and Science Learning Center** on the Busch Campus. As we approached our destination, students were encouraged to observe buildings, the undergraduate students moving between classes, college transportation, and the overall atmosphere of the campus. The fifth graders were amazed to discover that our initial journey took us only through science department buildings; they could not believe that so many large and different buildings could encompass one academic discipline. They began imagining and expressing how vast Rutgers must be!*

*Our time spent at the **MSLC** was divided between two lectures, focusing on **Biology and Physics**. Each of the graduate student presenters taught their lessons with an incredible sense of accessibility to the fifth graders. They included fascinating demonstrations and opportunities for the students to test the theories discussed. Following the lectures, the fifth graders engaged with undergraduate and graduate students as they tested various physics models and participated in hands-on learning activities.*

*We were invited to eat our lunch at the **MSLC** before departing for the **Rutgers Athletic Center** for a tour of the indoor arena. **Ms. Randi Larson, Athletic Academic Advisor for the Men’s Basketball Team** arranged our tour, which proved to be an enormous thrill for the students. We visited the **men’s locker room** (while the players were completing their final practice before departing for a weekend road game), met the **equipment manager**, who gave us a tour of the stockroom and passed around a size 18 shoe for the students to examine. Randi showed us the **student computer lab** and explained the academic requirements and support offered to student-athletes in order to maintain their grades. We convened at center court to hear more about the student-athlete experience – the demands and rewards of building intellectual acumen and physical strength amid a climate of teamwork and personal responsibility. Our tour concluded with a visit to the weight room where the strength and conditioning coach discussed the machines used by the student-athletes and the individual regimens she designs. The fifth graders were even treated to a brief “workout” of jumping jacks and sit-ups! As we prepared to leave the **RAC**, Randi gave each student a **Rutgers sport sack and tee shirt!** “*

This year’s **Earth Day** theme emphasized the importance of caring and maintaining the Somerset School community. Part of the goal for this year’s Earth Day celebration was to focus on the former and new ESL students. “For many of these students it is a time of great struggle due to both nerves and fear of entering a new school. Not only can a new school be intimidating, but for many, it may also be experiencing a new country and culture. Our staff and students do a great job in welcoming our new students and helping them feel welcomed. And to show our appreciation to our students and staff, our Earth Day mission was to empower our students in taking pride in their community and emphasizing the importance of caring for others,” stated **Luis Jaime, assistant principal**. Earth day events involved helping students feel a sense of pride and ownership within the school by working together with staff and administrators in planting flowers and decorating Somerset School. Lesson plans implementing and reinforcing English vocabulary were used to tie in the decorating event for the ESL students. Students were involved in painting the ceramic planters in the conference room where the plants would go. To

continue in the school spirit for Earth Day and to emphasize a sense of community pride, students have become responsible for caring and watering all plants with rotating duties every week. "Overall this is a team effort that we hope will include and encourage everyone to achieve one goal, and that's taking pride in the abundant diversity of our school," continued Mr. Jaime.

Somerset Intermediate School along with **Empower Somerset** hosted "**The Gang Wise Project.**" Open to both parents and students, the presentation was lead by **Lt. Edwin Torres**, an experienced presenter on gang education. Much of what was presented targeted general warning signs of gang affiliation, why kids join gangs, brief history, markings-colors, symbols and clothing as gang identifiers, and language associated with gang life. Lt. Torres provided vital advice to parents on how to help their children avoid gangs. Due to the nature of content and graphic photos, two assemblies were organized: one for parents and another for students. The parents, however, were able to screen and preview some of the material that would be presented to students before they attended the program. "Lt. Edwin Torres did a wonderful job at correlating the information to both parents and students. He was articulate and knowledgeable in his field of expertise. He employed the use of a pre and post test survey which engaged students through using the large screen. Overall Lt. Torres provided students with his real life testimonies yet was able to lighten up the mood by inserting humor into his presentation which kept all students focused and entertained. Parents as well benefited from true commentators, visuals and real time feedback on the realities of gang and gang violence. We are very grateful for Lt. Torres bringing his expertise to enlighten our parents and students with the reality and danger gangs cause," stated Mr. Jaime.

### **Stony Brook School**

**Stony Brook School's Spring Concert:** The international celebration of song and music was once again the theme of the spring concert for the third and fourth grade students at Stony Brook School. On May 8, 2014, Stony Brook students and staff assembled in the multi-purpose room and were treated to a morning of music. Later that day, parents and friends of Stony Brook attended an evening performance. **Lucas Miller, director of Stony Brook's chorus** and **Kyle Skrivanek, director of Stony Brook's band** combined their talents and produced the show of the century. The morning and evening performances opened with the band playing three incredible and somewhat difficult songs: "Fanfare Heroica," "Ode to Joy" and "The Theme from Star Wars." The members of the Stony Brook chorus performed six international songs: "Star-Spangled Banner" (patriotic USA song); "Sarasponda" (traditional Dutch song); "Not So Boring Minuet (Bach); "En La Feria De San Juan" (traditional song from Puerto Rico); "Ezekial Saw De Wheel (international song); "The Picnic of the World (international song. "The winter and spring concerts have been such traditions at Stony Brook School. It has always been a wonderful partnership of home and school coming together to celebrate the accomplishments of a great group of students," remarked **Cathy Kobylarz, principal**. The following students participated:

#### **Band:**

##### **Flute**

Jamie Aguilar                      Christopher Gonzalez

##### **Clarinet**

Fatima Ramos                      Natalia Valverde                      Ashley Reyes

##### **Saxophone**

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Joshua Njoku      Bhavya Patel  
Anthony Salazar

**Trumpet**

Jaydon Chambers      Elizabeth Ellis  
Jenny Sanon      Amaya Shallo

**Percussion**

Adair Yancha Tobar

**Trombone**

Sebastian Mejia

**Chorus:**

Sade Adedeji	Jamie Aguilar	Shauntia Alexander
Samantha Alvenus	Angie Barrios	Alaina Belyo
Samantha Borja	Kenny Cabrera	Tania Castellon-Paz
Elizabeth Ellis	Valeria Esquer	Joseline Garcia
Julisa Jara	Aisha Malik	Celara Murray-Pineda
Joshua Njoku	Anthony Olivo	Kailyn Orozco
Uriel Palacios	Kristen Palate	Henri Rodriguez
Rebeca Rodriguez	Luisa Salguero	Sophia Sanchez
Jenny Sanon	Shirley Supe	Natalia Valverde
	Emily Zavala	

**East End School**

**Positive Character Traits Recognized:** East End School held its spring character education assembly to promote the **Six Pillars of Character Education** and recognize students who displayed positive character traits over the marking period. The assembly began with **Principal Brian Farrell** addressing the student body with positive comments about respect, citizenship and community. Mr. Farrell and the citizenship committee, led by teachers **Maria Lopez, Alexis Holbrook, Lisa Napolitano, Meagan McFadden, Francesca Petrucci-Cardona, Melissa Saul, and Gina Stripto**, collaborated to produce the assembly. "All of the teachers contributed to different parts of the program and made it a very successful event," commented Mr. Farrell. Kindergarten teacher **Melissa Saul** was the MC and welcomed all the special guests, teachers and students to the program. Before teachers presented their awards, everyone watched a student-friendly video about RESPECT and the different ways of showing it. When it was time for the presentations, each teacher came to the stage, spoke about the student's achievement and presented the award. While this went on, the student's name appeared on the big screen for acknowledgement. The assembly concluded with an anti-bullying video about respecting oneself and dealing with a bullying situation in a positive manner. "It was a wonderful event, where students were honored and recognized in front of their peers, teachers and family members. Way to go East End School!" continued Mr. Farrell.

**Writers' Fair:** Samples of students writing from all classes in grades K -4 were on display in the community room for parents, faculty and community members to read and enjoy at **East End School's Writers' Fair** on Tuesday evening, May 20, 2014. In addition, selected students from each grade level read aloud examples of their work during the evening event.

### West End School

**Family Science Night:** Over 180 people attended Family Science Night at West End School! To start off the night, the parents and students were welcomed by **Jamil Maroun**, the supervisor of science, social studies, and media services. Families then circulated through stations in the gym that demonstrated different science topics. The **Girl Scouts** made goo and the **Boy Scouts** showed off some of their science experiments. Academic Support teacher **Victoria Mendes** showed the kids how to make paper airplanes and taught them about the aerodynamics behind making it fly. Fourth grade teacher **Heather Morgan** demonstrated the importance of soil and had students planted seeds to take home. Special education teacher **Angela Roman** ran an experiment about buoyancy, and the families tested things to see if they would float or sink. Media specialist/librarian **Lindsey Gall** had a science reading center set up and special education teacher **Erica Gara** ran a constellation coloring center where kids practiced what they learned in the Starlab. Academic Support teacher **Sara Gagliano** and fourth grade teacher **Ryan Johnson** ran the **Starlab** and brought parents and children together to look at the constellations. Through the FAST committee and the North Plainfield Education Association families enjoyed pizza and salad. Additional thanks to fourth grade teacher **Alison Apisa**, ESL teacher **Erika Gambuti**, physical education and health teacher **Wendy Alvarez**, substitute teacher **Brian Steger**, school counselor **Taryn Buffolino**, student liaison **Marilyn Quinones**, head custodian **Angel Lopez** and the custodial staff, and the **PTA** for also being a big help in making the event run smoothly.

**Star Lab Week:** During the week of April 28, West End students in grades K-4 had the opportunity to visit the Starlab and learn about the night sky. Fourth graders participated in two science activities to help prepare them for the NJ ASK science exam. In one of the lessons, students learned about Earth's rotation and how it causes day and night. They were also able to observe the apparent motion of the sun across the sky to understand more about sunrise and sunset as well as the connection between Earth's seasons and the sun. The other lesson explained and demonstrated the phases of the moon. Third graders participated in a lesson about the stars. Students were shown how to use star maps to identify prominent constellations in the night sky. Second graders learned how to find the Big Dipper and were instructed on the Native American and Greek mythology regarding important constellations. Students in kindergarten and first grade received an introduction to the Native American and Greek constellations. Students also had an opportunity to share the **Starlab** experience with their parents at the Science Night event hosted by West End's FAST committee on April 30. More than 180 students and parents visited the Starlab to learn more about the spring constellations, and all participants received a star map as well. "Starlab was made possible by the **West End PTA** whose generous donation covered the rental fee. Also, the North Plainfield custodial staff was a huge help in the handling of the pickup and drop off of the Starlab as well as an additional pickup of equipment that had inadvertently not been included. Thank you to **Edward Ostroff**, director of operations, for facilitating that. Instruction and support in the Starlab was provided by the following teachers: fourth grade teachers **Alison Apisa**, **Ryan Johnson**, **Heather Morgan**, third grade teachers **Brian Bigden**, **Alyson DiFiore**, first grade teacher **Kelli Dunston**, and kindergarten teacher **Tara Scott**. Their assistance helped make this a wonderful learning experience for all students. The Starlab again this year provided West End students with a unique and engaging opportunity to learn more about astronomy. Academic Support teacher **Sara Gagliano** deserves special thanks for once again doing all the planning,

organizing, training, and implementation of our Star Lab Week,” commented **Beth Sobel, principal**.

**Winter Concert:** Bravo to the fourth grade band and third and fourth grade chorus! “Congratulations to **Jon Scott, choral director** and **Dorian Parreott II, band director** for a fabulous spring concert. Both the band and chorus sounded great. It is amazing how much they grow and improve from the winter concert to now,” remarked **Beth Sobel, principal**. The following selections were performed by the band: Beethoven’s Ninth by Ludwig Van Beethoven / arr. Paul Lavender, Let’s Rock by Michael Sweeney, Boat Song (Traditional) with a duet performed by Victoria Smagalla and Arzu Malik, Aura Lee (Traditional) with a duet performed by Elizabeth Dustin and Amber Rodriguez and Big Beat Boogie by Jerry Williams. The chorus performed the following Broadway show selections: Memory by Andrew Lloyd Webber from Cats, Chim Chim Cheree by Robert and Richard Sherman from Mary Poppins and Hard Knock Life by Charles Strouse from Annie. “Many thanks to all who helped the night of the concert, to our **Superintendent, Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum** and our **Board of Education members** who have supported and kept the arts in our schools; **Tom Mazur**, supervisor of the arts who keeps our programs strong; and our parents who keep the kids practicing and getting them to rehearsals. Thanks to **Angel Lopez** and **John Vaughan**, who always have everything ready and looking so nice for all our events and to the third and fourth grade teachers who remain flexible when lessons and rehearsals are needed,” continued Ms. Sobel

**Fourth Grade Band Members:**

**Flute**

Amancha, Adelis  
Lozado, Leslie  
Martinez, Sara  
Newsome, Vaughn  
Roberts, Jelani  
Caluna, Bridget  
Malik, Arzu  
Vilvert, Lindsey  
Smagalla, Victoria

**Percussion**

Gonzalez, Giovanni  
Melendez, Jason  
Menendez, Carlos

**Trumpet**

Cody, Diyara  
Droege, Calvin  
Josias, Jonnathan  
Kasper, Madison  
Kasper, Tyler  
Threatt, Giovanni  
Valverde, Jaimie  
Zavala, Alexssi

**Alto Saxophone**

Acosta, Axel  
Cheatham, Jordon  
Holzer, Matthew  
Jenkins, Amaris  
McGovern, Spencer  
Rassa, Sean  
Samuels, Mia  
Scopel, Andrew  
Twyman, Naila

**Clarinet**

Adil, Minayal  
Bailey, Jaydah  
Barrera, Carlos  
Cookman, Brianna  
Dey, Alicia  
Dustin, Elizabeth  
Estrella, Kevin  
Falcon-Castrillon, Joselin  
Felton, Zuri  
Hunter, Nasir  
Llewellyn, Niah  
Martinez-Santana, Melanie  
Munoa, Ruth  
Regragui, Zine  
Rodriguez, Amber

**Trombone**

Figueroa, Brian  
Jeffrey, Henriquez  
Mendez, Jhoslin  
Mooney, Courtney  
Smagalla, Scott

**Baritone Horn**

Cook, Nicholas  
Williams, Shaughn  
  
Salgado, Mya  
Spanton, Lily  
Veliz, Sandy

**Chorus Members**

**Fourth Grade**

Caluna, Bridget  
Cookman, Brianna Marie  
Dey, Alicia  
Dustin, Elizabeth  
Estrella, Kevin  
Gomes, Julia  
Green, Brian  
Hargrove, Asia  
Jenkins, Amaris  
Kasper, Madison  
Kasper, Tyler  
Kruszczynski, Raquel  
Melendez, Jason  
Mendez, Jhoselin  
Mooney, Courtney  
Smagalla, Victoria Hope  
Twyman, Naila  
Llewellyn, Niah

**Third Grade**

Brown, Ava  
Canavan, Bryan  
Chuquitarco, Giancarlo  
Coslit, Carly  
Given, Rachael  
Kruszczynski, Madeline  
Lacon, Avery B.  
Mejias, Jianna  
Munoz, Lourdes  
Rink, Emma  
Salinas, Matthew  
Santana, Jason  
Scott, Chelsea  
Thunberg, Nikolas  
Walker, Damien  
Walker, Devon  
Sewell, Jahmer

**NPMS**

**Welcome To Your School:** On Monday, May 12, NPMS held its annual **Sixth Grade Parent Orientation**. In attendance were approximately 60 parents from Somerset School. The purpose of this orientation was to give parents an overview of the middle school setting and answer any questions that the parents might have about their child's transition to the middle school. During his presentation, assistant principal **John Ferguson** outlined the school's instructional programs, activities, and on-going initiatives for the upcoming 2014-2015 school year. A student orientation is scheduled to take place on Thursday, August 21 at 9:00 a.m. in the middle school gym.

**Teacher Appreciation Luncheon:** On Friday, May 9, the entire middle school staff was provided with a sumptuous luncheon, compliments of the Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization (MS PTO) to celebrate *Teachers Appreciation Week*. MS PTO members **Anne Fellin, Yvette Ford, Filomina Lima, Avita Lindsey, Yesenia Rodriguez, Kristine Joback, Justine Demeola, Christy Thomas, Giovana Velasques, and Monique Womack** prepared an abundant amount of delicious food for the staff. Said MS PTO president **Jessica Pratt**, "We just wanted the teachers to know that we appreciate all they do for our children."

**Back to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century:** In an effort to provide students with experiences that cannot be duplicated in the classroom and to enable teachers to expand student learning beyond the classroom walls, the middle school traveled back to the time of knighthood and heraldry, with a class trip to **Medieval Times**. On Friday, May 2, the entire eighth grade class embarked on a fun-filled experience to learn all about the medieval time period. Students and staff alike were awed, not only by the horsemanship of the battling knights, but also the precision of the falcon masters. Between acts, students learned and were quizzed on

their knowledge of medieval history and feudalism. To help the students prepare for their experience, social studies teachers **Megan Farrell, David Hooker, and Kimberly Annette** designed an interdisciplinary unit with reading teachers **Pat Bailey, Maryann Reilly, and Shona Wright-Hodge**. After conducting on-line research, students wrote journals and prepared personal narratives to enhance the field trip experience.

**Congratulations it's a baby....Hydrogen molecule?** Science teacher **Deanne D'Armiento** created a fun, hands-on learning activity for her students to learn all about the different elements on the periodical chart. Students had to choose a family of elements and create a "birth announcement" explaining the element's "parents" or discoverer, "birth weight" or atomic mass, and its "birth height" or atomic number, to name a few. After assembling the information, students created the decorative announcements and shared the story of their "bundle of joy" with their peers. **Paul Kraucheunas** had his students utilize the interactive science program, *Jefferson Lab*, to learn the skill of balancing chemical equations to understand the creation of compounds. Students started exploring the simple properties of water and moved on to complex glucose structures. Learning all about the principles of adaptation and genetic diversity, students in **Elio Mayo's** seventh grade science class researched the traits of various animals and how these characteristics assist in their survival. After reading informational texts on the life and contributions of famed scientist Charles Darwin, the students created posters explaining particular adaptations in such animals as the golden retrievers, ducks, whales, chameleons, and pandas.

**Dollars for Dogs:** NPMS students were gracious hosts to members of the county's K-9 squad on May 16, 2014. Students learned about the purpose of the squad and how the dogs are handled and cared for. This character education assembly kicks off the Dollars for Dogs project at NPHS led by **Kate Friedman**, English teacher. "This is Ms. Friedman's fourth such project and based on past results, this one will be successful, too," noted **Dr. Hope Blecher**, supervisor of language arts literacy. Proceeds will be donated to the K9 unit in honor of the sacrifices made by units in post 9/11 communities.

## NPHS

**Somerset County Teen Arts Festival:** Students in the performing and fine arts departments at NPHS/MS took part in the annual "**Arts in Education**" program at Raritan Valley College on Wednesday, May 14, 2014. Twenty schools participated in the adjudicated festival. Supervisor of the arts, **Tom Mazur** stated without predisposition or partiality: "North Plainfield wowed, charmed, impressed, and captivated all in the audience. Here is just a sampling of some of the comments from the judges: 'Beautiful; passionate' (Dance Ensemble); 'A joy, brilliant and creative' (Drama Club); 'Such wonderful energy, especially from the horns and percussion. Outstanding all the way' (Jazz Band)." Three works of fine art were chosen to remain and hang in the county office: "Retro Ivy," digital photography by **Lily Durick** (grade 11), "Ganesha," mixed media by **Amy Chavez** (grade 12) and "Punk Me," acrylic by **Destiny Lynn** (grade 11). A special thank you to **Tammy Mackiewicz** (art) who coordinated the event for NPHS/MS. And thank you teachers **Kim Nydick** (art), **Leeanne Chiamonte** (drama), **Heather Fencik** (Music), **Amy Six** (music) and **Dawn Schultz** (dance) for guiding our students to higher expectations, which certainly was seen and heard resonating at the county level.

**Senior Awards Ceremony**, non-scholarship will be held prior to the seniors leaving for their senior picnic on June 2. The ceremony starts at 10:08 a.m. The underclassmen awards

ceremony will be held on May 27, during periods 1-3. “Usually this event is held in the afternoon but parental input indicated that parental attendance may increase if parents can go to work late instead of leaving work early. This is the first year we will try the early morning ceremony,” noted **Jerard Stephenson**, NPHS principal.

The Senior Day of Community Service is scheduled for Thursday, May 22, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Shane Repmann, a counseling intern**, introduced a new program to NPHS students: **Youth Transition to Work Program**. This program comes from the New Jersey State Building and Construction Trades Council. Students will be mentored and be able to do an internship in a particular trade. While they are interning, they will receive free education in that trade. In addition, they will be paid and receive paid benefits. This will lead to full time employment in a trade after high school.

The **ForAction Fellows** will be decorating the NPHS showcase in honor of Memorial Day and Flag Day. The displays will include memorabilia from staff members as well as historical artifacts. The community is invited to the 7:00 a.m. flag ceremonies on Friday, May 23 and Thursday, June 12.

The **New Jersey Financial Scholars** comprised of NPHS economics students who have successfully completed the **EverFi- financial literacy online course** will be recognized at a certification ceremony on May 30 at 8:38 a.m. in the NPHS auditorium. EverFi, a new-media learning platform using the latest technologies to bring complex financial concepts to life for today's digital generation, covers a wide range of topics including credit scores, insurance, credit cards, taxes, investing, savings, 401ks, and mortgages. The education learning platform is provided through a grant from Peapack-Gladstone Bank.

Approximately forty North Plainfield teachers, students, administrators, and family members participated in the “**5K Race to Wellness Schools Contest**” on March 29 at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ. The race was sponsored by the Somerset County Wellness Committee in partnership with Empower Somerset. The goal of the contest was to promote healthy lifestyles for all Somerset County residents. **Stefanie Myers**, who coaches the varsity cross country and MS track teams, was responsible for organizing the event for the NPHS/MS community. As a result of her efforts, the North Plainfield team was declared the winner of the event due to the overwhelming number of participants. They were recognized at the event by four-time Olympic champion, **Joetta Clark Diggs**, and received a plaque to be displayed at the high school.

**Johnson & Johnson TAP Program Banquet: Barnali Dasgupta's NPHS Chemistry Honors** class has been hard at work on their business case studies with their Johnson & Johnson mentors. Their hard work was recognized as they presented their best ideas and solutions to real-life problems of the business world at a banquet at the **Johnson & Johnson** facility in Raritan on Tuesday evening, May 20, 2014. The **students, their parents, Ms. Dasgupta, Anthony Della Rosa, and Patty Marseglia, supervisor of mathematics along with invited guests Linda Bond-Nelson and Tom Kasper, Board members; Marilyn Birnbaum, superintendent; Jerard Stephenson, NPHS principal; Jamil Maroun, supervisor of science, social studies, and library/media services; and Ron Fisher, director of technology** shared dinner prior to the students' presentations. During dinner, Ms. Dasgupta presented a slide show of images of the students as they worked together throughout the semester with their mentors from J&J.

In the weeks following the presentations, Patty Marseglia, Mr. Della Rosa and Ms. Dasgupta will meet with J&J representatives to discuss the first full year of our participation in the TAP program. Plans for next year's students will get underway with consideration of productive, engaging activities and the best times of year for our involvement in this exciting career readiness program.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

### **EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING**

**Safety Topic - Operations.** The safety topic for May is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

**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. As of May 9, 2014, 99% of our employees have now completed their assigned training.

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**

Crisis Management Emergency Plan Update – The updated plan has now been reviewed and approved. We anticipate going to print this month and currently project distribution to take place in September with the opening of school.

### **AED'S**

On March 31, 2014, a representative from Cardiac Science completed a district wide survey of our AED'S (Automatic External Defibrillators). This survey was conducted to ensure the district complies with the regulations of the new Janet's Law. UPDATE: We are currently reviewing additional proposals and anticipate having all new units in place prior to September 1, 2014. For additional information regarding this new law, please visit the following website.

[www.njleg.state.nj.us/20122013/A2000/1608\\_I1.HTM](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/20122013/A2000/1608_I1.HTM)

### **SECURITY**

Door Magnets – The district has now completed its distribution of door magnets for emergency lock downs. As discovered during distribution, there are a number of doors throughout the district that must be retrofitted to accept these magnets. UPDATE: A preliminary list of door modifications has now been prepared. This work will be scheduled for completion over the upcoming summer months.

### **SECURITY DRILLS**

The security drill for May is a Lock Down Drill. All schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

### **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 service provider has now completed the update of our software, and all systems are operational.

### **GRADUATION 2014**

A final list of maintenance work associated with this year's graduation ceremony has now been prepared. Additionally, all rental items, including the stage and seating, have been reserved and scheduled for delivery.

### **2013/14 CAPITAL PROJECTS (Other)**

#### **DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM**

This project includes replacing outdated interior and exterior lighting fixtures at Somerset School and NPHS/MS. This project is now 90% complete at both schools; we anticipate reaching substantial completion before the end of the month.

### **2014/15 CAPITAL BUDGET**

Bids for the following capital improvement projects were publicly opened on April 24, 2014.

UPDATE: The following projects were awarded at the May 7, 2014 Board Meeting.

- 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.

The following capital improvement project is currently being considered for completion this coming year. If approved, this project will also be partially funded by a Rod Grant.

- Stony Brook School – Building-Wide Window Replacements including the Gym.

### **2014/15 MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (Approved)**

The following maintenance projects have now been approved for completion over the upcoming summer months.

- Stony Brook School – Installation of a building-wide surveillance system.
- Stony Brook School – Rear courtyard improvements and shed roofing.
- Stony Brook School – Kitchen modifications to include a serving line.
- West End School – Faculty room improvements.
- High School – Wrestling room improvements.
- High School – Upper vestibule, refreshment area improvements.
- High School – Overflow room improvements to include flooring.

**2014/15 SUMMER MAINTENANCE**

A memo was issued on April 1, 2014 to all building principals requesting they submit their lists of required and/or requested summer upgrades or repairs. Once this information has been received, a final listing of all summer work will be generated. The completion of any and all maintenance projects or improvements is dependent upon budgetary restrictions. Any safety and security related improvements or upgrades will be a priority.

**SAFE ROUTES MINI-GRANT**

The district was awarded a Safe Routes to Schools Mini-Grant. This grant will provide additional playground equipment for the Stony Brook School. UPDATE: The funds have now been received by the district and the equipment has been ordered.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- QSAC District Improvement Plan
- 2014-2015 School Calendar
- Superintendent's Monthly Report
- Four Days of Honor and Valor at Gettysburg Program*
- NPHS Spring Concert Program - May 20, 2014
- Newspaper Articles

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 for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the additional teachers indicated on the attached list as mentors for first year teachers, to be paid \$550 at the conclusion of the 30-week program or pro-rated accordingly.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allen – Aye     | 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, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education approve the following fall student teacher and/or internship placement(s) from Kean University:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Peter Jacovinich	Health/Physical Educ/Stony Brook		Andrew Taylor

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allen – Aye     | 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, that The Board of Education rescind the recommendation approving Arielle Realle as a substitute teacher.

Thomas Allen – Aye	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, that the Board of Education rescind the previously approved recommendation to employ Kevin Goetz as an industrial arts teacher at NPHS, which was effective May 19, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye	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, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as substitute custodian(s) in the district, to be called on an as-needed basis, at the rate of \$18.29 per hour:

James Morgan

Thomas Allen – Aye	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, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following teachers as presenters at the June Parent Academy Program, "The Kindergarten Experience," for five hours each at the rate of \$35 per hour:

Nancy Lubreski	Marilyn Quinones (Pinto)
Alison Mac	Ines Simoes

Thomas Allen – Aye	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, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education adjust the previously approved recommendation to grant Chelsea Bryan-Howson, teacher of English at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence **from** December 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015 **to** effective December 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015, for child care purposes.

(Previous to this leave, Ms. Bryan-Howson will be on a twelve-week unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act from September 8, 2014 through November 30, 2014, which the Board approved in March.)

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that for the summer of the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education approve the individuals indicated on the attached list to work as mentor trainers and/or induction trainers in the summer mentoring program at the hourly rate of \$49.74, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Evin H. Aksay, elementary teacher at Somerset School, effective July 1, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve the certificated staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken between February and April 2014.

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

Elsy E. Castillo  
Rolando Santana

Kerry L. Yorkanis  
John A. Giardina

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Thomas A. Kavanagh, industrial arts instructor at NPHS, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that for the summer of 2014, the Board of Education approve the following staff members be employed to work in the Raritan Valley Community College Summer Enrichment Program at Somerset School, from June 23 through July 31, 2014 for three hours per day, Monday through Thursday, at the rate of \$40 per hour, to be funded through a RVCC grant:

Teresa Thompson

Therese Boulanger

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Jody Rhee as a reading teacher at NPMS, at the MA/Step 6-7(6) annual salary rate of \$59,090, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Ms. Rhee will replace Mary Ann Reilly).

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Matthew Mergen as a teacher of French at NPMS/NPHS, at the MA/Step 11 (12-14/14) annual salary rate of \$63,360, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Mr. Mergen will replace Jacquelyn Delatour.)

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the attached NJQSAC District Improvement Plan (DIP).

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve the following classified students undergo psychiatric evaluations to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$850 each.

PSY-28-13-14

PSY-29-13-14

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve classified student TRANS-04-13-14 be provided a translator for evaluation purposes to be provided by Ambassador Translating at the cost of \$112 per hour for up to three hours, plus \$45 for transportation (1.5 hours maximum).

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-56-13-14 to be provided by Educere for up to ten hours per week, effective April 28, 2014 through June 19, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-53-13-14 to be provided by Education Inc., for up to ten hours per week at the cost of \$45.50 per hour, effective May 14, 2014.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated March 31, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated May 21, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that for the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the alternate method of compliance in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:26-6.3 (h) 4ii and iii by providing toilet rooms adjacent to or outside the classroom in lieu of individual toilet rooms in Stony Brook School, classroom # 8 and East End School, classroom # 9.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education approve of and support the Borough of North Plainfield in their application to the SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL Project submitted to the New Jersey Department of Transportation by Ridewise of Somerset County, resolution number 5-12-14-03d, Infrastructure Improvements Throughout the Borough, providing safer and improved walkways for our District's students.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education authorize the disposal of out-of-date and irreparable audio visual equipment located in NPMS/NPHS as follows:

Toshiba	BAB360054007	none
Emerson	EWT1931	V17154198
Magnavox	DV226MG9A	V19162164

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, 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>
NPHS M.Dasgupta	5/20/14	J&J TAP Program	Johnson & Johnson Raritan, NJ	\$0.00	District (2 buses)
Harrison Bridge Joan Graham	6/21/14	View Exhibits	Liberty Science Cntr	\$0.00	District (1 bus)
Harrison Bridge John Burke	5/31/14	Socialization/ Consumer Math	AMC Lowes Theater Mountainside, NJ	\$0.00	Parent Provided

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that 2014-2015 School Year Inter Local Transportation Services Agreement Resolution For Participation In Coordinated Transportation

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield School District desires to transport special education, non-public, public and vocational school students to specific destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Union County Educational Services Commission, hereinafter referred to as the UCESC, offers coordinated transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the UCESC will organize, provide and schedule routes to achieve the maximum cost effectiveness;

NOW THEREFORE, it is agreed that in consideration of pro-rated contract costs, plus an administration fee of 4%, as presented to the North Plainfield School District as calculated by the billing formula adopted by the UCESC's Board of Education. Said formula shall be based on a route cost divided by home-to-school mileage of students allocated to each participating district. The total amount to be charged to district will be adjusted based on actual costs. Payments will be due within 30 days of receipt by the district and deemed late after 60 days with an additional 1% fee for late payments. At the discretion of the Commission Superintendent, late fee charges may be waived for extenuating circumstances.

- I. The UCESC will provide the following services:
  - a) Routes coordinated with other districts to achieve a maximum cost reduction while maintaining a realistic capacity and travel time;
  - b) Monthly billing and invoices;
  - c) Computer print-outs of student lists for all routes coordinated by UCESC;

- d) All necessary interaction and communication between the sending district, receiving school, and the respective transportation contractors;
- e) Constant review and revision of routes;

It is further agreed that the North Plainfield School District will provide the UCESC with the following:

- f) Requests for any additional transportation on approved forms to be provided by the UCESC, completed in full and signed by previously authorized district personnel;
- g) Withdrawal for any transportation must be provided in writing and signed by authorized district personnel; no billing adjustments will be made without this completed form and will become effective on the date the form is received;

II. Additional Cost - All additional costs generated by unique requests such as mid-day runs or early dismissals will be borne by the district. All such costs must first be approved by the North Plainfield School District

III. Whereas, the UCESC also provides coordinated regional bus maintenance services, safety training, coordinated purchasing, professional development and other related transportation services for an additional fee as a shared services program, the North Plainfield Board of Education may participate at any time.

IV. Length of Agreement - this agreement and obligations and requirements therein shall be in effect between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015 in writing over authorized signature.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
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, that the Board of Education authorize the transfer from capital reserve to capital projects, in an amount equal to the required local share totaling \$226,562.00, for the purpose of completing the Stony Brook Window Replacement Project, DOE project number 3670-090-14-1009, SDA Grant number G5-5818.

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

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

**Correspondence**

Letters were received from the following:  
Thank You Note from Martha Barrett  
Invitation to Participate in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Curriculum – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Policy Meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
NJSBA – Mr. Kasper discussed repeat issues at Board meeting.  
SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
ADHOC- Next meeting scheduled for June 2, 2014

**Old Business**

There was none.

**New Business**

Wednesday, August 27, 2014-Board of Education Meeting added.

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

**Current Events in Education**

There were none.

**Comments from the Public**

Ms. Havrilla expressed concerns regarding restrictions on students in the morning at Somerset School.

Ms. Peters commented on how wonderful students and presentations were.

Mr. Kasper and Ms. Bond-Nelson discussed the TAP Program and how wonderful the students were at the meeting Tuesday night.

**Future Agenda Items**

Tuesday, June 3, 2014-Teacher Recognition Program, West End School

**Adjournment**

Resolved that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at West End School 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 that be it resolved that the Board of Education will adjourn to Executive Session 7:00 P.M. for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

May 21, 2014

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to reconvene to public session at 7:30 P.M.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg