

March 18, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on March 18, 2014 at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Thomas Allen
David Branan
Sandra Dodd
John Fellin, Jr.

Thomas Kasper
Kathleen Mullen
Linda Bond-Nelson

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Amaree Gardner, Student Representative and approximately 3 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 March 5, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of March 5, 2014.

Financial Report

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated February 28, 2014 in the amount of \$5,368,704.16.

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 January 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.

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

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

Comments from the Public

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

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Student Representative Report

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

The Step Team ended the Basketball season on a high note. We have had a wonderful year teaming up with the Cheerleaders to present to North Plainfield Canucks an exciting half time performance during the season. We were able to take that performance outside of the school and present it to disabled adults at Sarah Care on Route 22 on February 26, 2014. We had a wonderful time and made emotional connections with several of the patrons. The girls were deeply moved and the patrons enjoyed themselves tremendously. We have already been invited back. It was a memorable occasion

Congratulations, North Plainfield Team! North Plainfield students, teachers, administrators, and family have won the EmPOWER Somerset Contest associated with the 5k Race to Wellness on Saturday, March 29, 2014 by having the largest number of participants. Well done.

Time remains to join the team!! Contact Stefanie Myers in the middle school for more information...

Due to MAP testing the Interact Blood Drive scheduled for March 21st has been cancelled and rescheduled for May 2nd

The following senior football players were elected to play in the 2nd Annual Basilone Bowl, a Somerset county all-star football game:

Glenn Benson
Hasani Eason
Kyle Grant
Stefaun Harris
Chris McDowell

The game will be played at Bridgewater-Raritan High School on Thursday, June 26 at 7:00 PM.

The Gourmet cooking class helped the Pathways students harvest the green tomatoes they have been growing. The Gourmet cooking students then prepared recipes using the tomatoes and invited the Pathway students over to try the recipes. The Gourmet cooking students have also started an indoor herb garden and hope to share those as well.

This month HS student teachers in the Child Development Classes celebrated "Read Across America" by reading lots of Dr. Seuss books to the preschoolers.

Mrs. Diana Shefchik and Mr. Tom Mazur were our guest readers. They read "Are You My Mother?" and "Wacky Wednesday" to the kids respectively.

We also covered Forest animals, Pets, Zoo animals, St. Patrick's Day and Healthy foods with the preschoolers.

MS students from Mr. Kilmer's gym class performing a puppet show for the preschoolers.

HS students created and designed a book for a local daycare on "Taking Care Of An Infant" theme. We will be donating these books to them.

The students also created "Shape and Color" books for each preschooler to help them reinforce the skills taught at school.

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The middle school jazz band is busy preparing for our May concert. We will be performing this month at the Middle School pep rally, the first time this band has done that. They are progressing very well. May should be an excellent concert!

HOPE Club is currently on two investigations for the Rutgers Ocean Day Program on April 11th. The theme of the 2014 Ocean Days is the Acidification and Temperature Change Effects on the Antarctic. Participating schools conduct research related to the theme and present their findings as miniposters. The two investigations under study are 1) the synergistic effects of salinity and pH on brine shrimp hatching and 2) the effect of liquid carbon dioxide on the development of brine shrimp. The club has worked on the experimental designs of these studies and will be performing their experiments in the next few weeks.

This weekend, North Plainfield High School competed in the North Jersey Regional Science Fair. The fair this year underwent a change to reduce the number of competing projects, which resulted in about 175 excellent projects in competition. Please congratulate the winning projects from our school. For their project, entitled "The Effects of UV Radiation on Benthic Communities in an Urban Stream", please congratulate Carmen Pravia and Nancy Bahnasy for winning the special award in Meteorology. For their project, entitled "The Effects of Invasive Japanese Knotweed on an Urban Stream", please congratulate Anne Tang and Mateo Gilsilvetti for winning the special award in Field Research. For their project, "Body Image and Self Esteem in Older Adults", please congratulate Maola Bannavti and Johanna Canales for Honorable Mention in their category of Behavioral Science.

National Honor Society tutors are available to assist all NPHS students if they would like extra help in their classes. Tutors are available every day after school in the counseling office on Mondays and in the library on Tuesdays through Fridays. HS students that are interested in meeting with a tutor should stop by the above locations by 2:50pm.

The Canuckling Club has continued to work hard reviewing submissions, discussing the layout of this year's issue, and developing a schedule to meet our May 2014 publication date. Recently, we received our new club T-shirts for this year's theme: #Wired. The shirt is black and white with the names of the club members in an iPod on the back. We have already had one very successful bake sale to raise funds for the cost of the shirt. We are planning another bake sale soon. The club looks forward to repeating our success in winning the Gold awards and First Place awards that we won for the last two years' issues. The club members are hard at work and look forward to another productive and rewarding year.

Presentation

Dr. Blecher provided the Board with an overview of the State testing program, PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) and included the District's current status in implementing the new tests.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students

The following students were inducted into the World Languages Honor Society at a special ceremony on March 12, 2014 in NPHS cafeteria:

Spanish

Caroleine Atusparia-Urbina	Zoe Ledesma	Ana Rodriguez
Zainer Bashir	Vincent T. Mastrobattista	Cesar Rojas-Caleno
Alexa Briggs	Jacqueline Melgar	Erick Sevilla
Angelo Cartagena	Reina Melgar	Ashley Tirado
Estuardo Gonzalez	Claudia Molina	Jessica Tirado
Kelvin Gonzalez	Andrea Montesdeoca	Noor Ul Ain Imtiaz
Joselyn Gutierrez	Olivia Muhando	Yvette Way
Marisol Hernandez	Brenda Okereke	Valerie Weyand
Katherine Huaqui	Daniel Paredes	Joel Vincent Zabala
Jennifer Jones	Anthony Pena	
Desiree Lopez	Carmen Previa	

American Sign Language

Katrina Bavosa	Ivy Dayton	Amina Elsaïs
Kaitlyn Carreras	Ka-Ron Dock	Melody Njoku

French

Nancy Bahnasy	Melody Chen	Kelly Llumiquinga
Amelia Baijnath	Natasha Forbes	Genesis Ramirez
Nicole Bedoya	Jason Le	Jeovani Riv Panomeno
Jasmine Chavez	Dannia Ledezma	Ying St. Cerny

Italian

Molly Appezzato	Samantha Hanlein	Claudia Orozco
Stephen Barna	John Hatala	Helen Pazmino-Nunez
Danielle Caruso	Michele Hernandez	Kimberly Perez
Kayla Celleri	Samuel Hernandez	Sabrina Perez
Francesca Cherasaro	Jhabril Jaurequi	Shawn Wallace
Chad Covin	Angelo Juarez	Lena Zhu
Kyle Funelas	Maria Lopez	
Caitlin Gugliotta	Dayanna Mendoza	

Middle School Honor Roll (Second Marking Period) (*) = All A's

Grade 7

Adams, Kierra	Guanatagsi, Paco	Muhando, Jasmine
Amancha, Laura (*)	Havrilla, Danielle (*)	Muhando, Sydney
Andrews, Alyssa	Hernandez, Jennifer	Ndegwa, Bernice
Arguello, Kayla	Holston, Chanel	Nguyen, Tien

Bailey, Joseph	Hosny, Rana	Nunez, Xiomara
Barron, Kayla	Imtiaz, Hassan	Orozco, Diana
Benson, Brian Jr.	Jackson, Teri	Osegueda, Andy
Betancourt, Jeiner (*)	Jeffries, Stacy	Peregrina, Elisa (*)
Butler, Darryl Jr.	Jones, Janiyyah	Pineros, Laura
Carmona, Steven	Josias, Joshua	Pucciarelli, Nico (*)
Carranza, Sarah (*)	King, Noah	Rehmatullah, Zamaleena
Cobo, Joseph (*)	Lacon, Taylor	Restrepo, Elijah
Datu, Adon'Rich-Ter	Lindsay, Amanda	Rivera, Donaven
Dayton, Alexander	Llewellyn, Mason	Sandoval, Katherine
Dombroski, George	Maliza-Luisa, Josselyn	Smith, Ryan
Elalfy, Hala	Marin, Catherine	Stacey, Jamie
Elsheikh, Dania	Marquez, Samantha	Thomas, Courtney (*)
Enwerekowe, Soluchi	Melgar, Jhonatan	Urmaza, Audrey
Falowo, Mobolaji	Mendoza-Yanez, Jennifer	Vargas, Marilyn
Flores, Brigitte	Monegro-Martinez, Jordy	Vega-Diaz, Veronica
Ford, Troi	Monrroy, Abraham	Walsh, Maeve
Gardiner, Ny'Asia	Monrroy, Christopher (*)	Womack, Amaya
Gonzalez, Mariateresa (*)	Motta-Romero, Katherine	Yanez, Steven
Gordon-Gaibor, Kristen (*)	Muhando, Ashley (*)	Zafar, Sabriya
		Zarate, Alveiry

Grade 8

Abrantes, Daniela	Elsais, Ayah (*)	Morales, Justin
Adams, Kayla	Evans, Lance	Nunez, Sheila
Andrade, Joselyn	Funelas, Abigail	O'Neal, Shaniyah
Appezato, Reilly	Gamez, Allison (*)	Pacheco, Julia
Athar, Dlavar	Giron, Estefany	Patel, Radha (*)
Atubi, Ashley (*)	Godwin, Tony Jr.	Perez, Kimberly
Aurelien, Kiora	Grisales, Humberto	Recinos, Flabia (*)
Bahnasy, Menatallah (*)	Grundy, Jordan	Reyes, Kelly
Barbosa, Erika	Guevara, Jenna	Rodriguez, Tyler
Barrett, Kalin (*)	Hosny, Mohamed (*)	Romero, Arelis
Belle, Darian	Hussein, Nadia	Sanon, Naica
Castaneda, Edgar (*)	Joback, Benjamin	Scopel, Jaclyn (*)
Cerdena, Jessica (*)	Joseph, Anne (*)	Sloan, Seneca
Chen, Fiona (*)	Kaur, Crispreet (*)	Smith, Brandon
Conroy, Zachary (*)	Lesaca, Jared	Turcios, Selena (*)
Crowther, Jane (*)	Lozada, Teresita (*)	Urquizo, Jimmy
Dardignac, Jessica	Mady-Abraham, Salma	Weyand, Bruce
Del Rosario, Rikka	Martinez, Stephanie	
Schools		

NPHS

Johnson & Johnson Technology Awareness Program (TAP) – Round 2: The second group of students enrolled in the Johnson & Johnson TAP program traveled with their teachers, **Barnali Dasgupta** and **Anthony Della Rosa**, to the J&J facility in Raritan on March 13, 2014. These students, from the NPHS **Chemistry Honors** class, toured the Command Center and heard two presentations, one on global IT security and the other on the responsibilities of the critical response team. Karen Greenstein from J&J met with those

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students who are also enrolled in the NPHS ROTC program. She is making plans for them to meet with Marene Allison, Vice President, Worldwide Information Security and Chief Information Security Officer at J&J who also serves as a military recruiter for the North Plainfield area. Ms. Allison was among the first female graduates of the USMA at West Point. The full group of NPHS students also met with their Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to begin reviewing their case studies. At the next meeting which will take place in the NPHS library, students will hear a presentation on the changes that have taken place in technology over time. They will also begin learning how to deliver effective presentations. **Patty Marseglia, supervisor of mathematics**, will invite other NPHS staff members to the library to hear this part of the program so they can more fully understand the value of the program, consider how they might turnkey students' newly developed skills in their own classrooms and perhaps learn a valuable teaching tip or two.

Marching Canucks WOW Gathering at St. Patrick's Day Parade: The NPHS **Marching Band** participated in the **Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade** on March 14, 2014. **Karen Gordon**, an employee of St. Barnabas Hospital, who marched in the parade, telephoned **Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts**, to extend kudos to the NPHS Marching Band. "Ms. Gordon expressed her opinion, including those marching with her, that the Marching Canucks were the best band in the parade. Ms. Gordon made special note of the percussion section, who she reported kept people dancing whenever and wherever the band passed by. I was at the parade and agree 100% with Ms. Gordon. Thank you Director **Heather Fencik** and all of the students in the band who continue to represent NPHS with such a favorable pattern of decorum and excellence that extend beyond our own community," commented Mr. Mazur.

NPMS

Leading by Example: On March 11, **social studies teacher and National Junior Honor Society advisor Megan Farrell** took 20 middle school students to the **Middle School Leadership Conference** at **Kean University**. Students from the 7th and 8th grade were recommended by their team of teachers. The opening ceremony had a presentation by Ms. Crowther, mother of Welles Crowther who lost his life on 9/11. Welles was an up stander, and on the day of the attack, saved 16 people by setting up a triage center in the South Tower. Students from around New Jersey were divided into groups and had the opportunity to work with their peers on how to respond to different scenarios at their schools. During a "working lunch" students identified problems and issues facing middle schools and how they could help to resolve them. Students **Radha Patel** and **Nico Pucciarelli** presented the idea of stereotyping or "labeling" of students to the entire convention of behalf of the North Plainfield group. Nico was even commended by the conference organizer for his emphasis in obtaining student involvement through social media, like Twitter and Instagram. Students are extremely enthusiastic about putting their learning into action by leading a character education assembly later this year that focuses on getting rid of labels among the student body. The following students participated in the conference were: Grade 7, **George Dembroski, Jasmine Muhando, Courtney Thomas, Abraham Monroy, Audrey Urmaza, Joseph Leon, Mobolaji Falowo, Troj Ford, Christopher Monroy, Nico Pucciarelli**. Grade 8: **Kelly Reyes, Quinn Gilmore, Selena Turcios Reyes, Radha Patel, Ramy Hosney, Zach Conroy, Kalya Adams, Shainyah O'Neal, Sebastian Palacios, Jimmy Urquizo**.

Middle School Minute: Students **Andre Eason** and **Walter Jackson** were recently named the winners of the North Plainfield Education Foundation new logo contest by supervisor **Tom Mazur**. Their winning design will now grace all future documents and correspondence from the organization. Math teachers **Aimee Pandya** and **Lauren Meyer** are spearheading the school's activities for celebration of National Pi Day. This special day provides an educational and fun-filled way for students to understand the significance of pi in understanding the ratio of a circle's diameter to its circumference. After being surveyed about their favorite "pie," students will create charts to display their calculations using proportions and measurements to show their results. **Stefanie Myers, track coach, reports** that the junior Canucks are gearing up for a successful season with over seventy-five middle schoolers participating this year. In celebration of "Middle Level Education Month" assistant principal **John Ferguson** recently shared his thoughts with parents regarding this special time of the year with a letter that read in part, "Throughout the month of March, we will host a various activities that promote middle level education throughout our school. We encourage you to get involved and help us celebrate student success by supporting our efforts at home. This can be done by setting aside time each day for reading, writing, or talking about what is happening in each class. Whatever you do, remember to celebrate your child's efforts and successes." The middle school will soon be gearing up for "School Spirit Week."

Somerset School

Family Bingo Night: After months of preparations and collaboration with families, teachers, and PTO members, Somerset School held a very successful Family Bingo Night on February 21, 2014. The event helps create and foster a positive and welcoming environment for families and friends to share. This year's event had close to 125 parents and students join in on the festivities which included food, bingo, and a basket raffle. "All worked cohesively, putting every effort into making Family Bingo Night a memorable one. We are grateful for our PTO for providing refreshments, snacks, and pizza. Plus they assisted with the collection and wrapping of the baskets. Their continued efforts and positive support towards our school is a partnership we are truly proud of. 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 local business for their contributions and time given to our event. We will continue on this momentum to provide quality events for our students, families and staff," remarked **Luis Jaime, assistant principal and event organizer**.

Elementary Schools

Third Graders Visit Museum in NYC: The students attending third grade in the North Plainfield school district have many things in common. Following their class trip on March 14, 2014, they can all say they visited the **American Museum of Natural History** in New York and experienced a great day to remember. Opening in 1869, the American Museum of Natural History is one of the largest natural history museums in the world. The museum consists of 27 interconnected buildings housing 45 exhibition halls in addition to a planetarium, an IMAX theater and a research facility. The museum houses an incredible collection of artifacts, displays and exhibits. There are currently over 32 million specimens of plants, humans, animals, fossils, minerals, rocks, meteorites and human cultural artifacts all designed to reveal secrets of our natural world. The museum visit included the Hall of African Mammals, the Hall of Meteorites, the Hall of Human Origins, the Hall of

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Gems and Minerals and the Hall of Ocean Life where a 94 foot long Blue Whale was dramatically suspended from the ceiling. “The absolute favorite room was the Fossil Hall where the collections of mammalian and dinosaur fossils were displayed. The students were able to see the fossil remains of a tyrannosaurus rex, a woolly mammoth and a brontosaurus to name just a few,” stated **Cathy Kobylarz, Stony Brook principal and event organizer**. There were six tourist busses rented for the day to transport the group of over 300 third grade students, teachers, and parent chaperones. The group left at 8:15am and the last bus returned to North Plainfield by 4:00 p.m. A few of the busses had the video “A Night at the Museum,” which was filmed at the museum, playing on the trip in and back home again. “It truly was a day to remember. Special thanks to all our teachers and parent chaperones,” continued Principal Kobylarz.

West End School

Read Across America Celebration: West End Read Across America Day on March 4 started with an assembly that included a group of students, lead by special education teachers **Christina Moscatello and Suzanne Parmalee**, who presented a choral poem about reading: *You Read to Me, I'll Read to You* by Mary Ann Hoberman. Staff members that made this production possible included: **Wendy Alvarez and Lindsey Gall**.

Students performing were: **Bryan Bonilla, Isaiah Hobson, Joseph Santos, Kyle Sequeira, Jahmere Sewell, Devyn Ciriaco, Makari Dankins, Richard Herrera Ortiz, Jaimie Valverde, Nichole Montengro, Luis Hernandez, Jason Agyemang, Alexssi Zavala, David Contreras, Nathalie Montengro, Elisha Glass, Abigail Flores-Rondan, and Job Ferrel**. Media Specialist **Lindsey Gall** followed with a reading of *Do Pirates Go to West End* written by Daryl Cobb, which was projected onto the screen and reminded the students that the author of this book would be visiting West End School at the end of the month. To end the assembly, teachers **Lindsey Gall, Dr. Hope Blecher, Ryan Johnson, Heather Morgan, Andrew Zlotnick, Regina Silverii, Lisa Cirillo, Jon Scott, and Tara Venturino Scott** performed a dance to the song, *The Other Day I Read a Book*. During the day every class was scheduled for a reader in the classroom, Dr. Seuss activities in the gym, and a short movie in the community room. The activities included Dr. Seuss Bingo where the students had to match the Dr. Seuss characters or the rhyming words, a game called "Ring the Gack" from the book *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* in which the teams had to answer questions in order to throw the rings at the Gack, and a third game called "Ten Apples Up On Top" where teams raced to add up apples. The movie was a short cartoon of *Gerald McBoing Boing*. Ms. Gall had shared and discussed the *Gerald McBoing Boing* book the previous week. Every student also received a Dr. Seuss bookmark to celebrate the day. Guest readers included: **Mayor Michael Giordano, former Mayor Janice Allen, Councilwoman Mary Forbes, Borough Clerk Richard Phoenix, Director of Public Works Jim Rodino, Detective Eric Fowler, Detective Alex Kuga, Firefighter Abbruzzese, Firefighter Kennedy, Supervisor of Social Studies and Science Jamil Maroun, and retired West End teachers Carol Irvine, Marilou Barrett, Russ Royer, Jan Sanderson, Marilyn La Marca, and Dot Carro**.

Upcoming Events:

West End PTA's Basket-Palooza – Saturday, March 22, 2014 - West End School Community Room. Prizes include: gift cards to local places, Somerset Patriots tickets, Trenton Thunder tickets, sports memorabilia, classroom baskets, theater & museum tickets, American Girl doll: Rebecca, karate classes, a 7” Kindle Fire HDX w/ case, 32” LED Samsung TV and more! There will also be a 50/50 and local vendors on display.

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Children's Book Author Daryl Cobb to Visit West End School on Thursday, March 27, 2014. He will be presenting two assemblies, enjoying lunch with selected children, offering a book sale and if time permits class Q&A sessions.

Third Grade Golden Guest Day – Friday, April 4, 2014 This day is set aside for grandparents and other important figures in the lives of third grade students to come to school and participate in special activities. The event will be held in the community room from 8:45 – 11:15 a.m.

Smile Train Show – Heard It on the Radio! West End School will hold its annual Smile Train Show on Thursday, April 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the NPHS auditorium.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for March is vehicle safety.

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

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

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

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

HEALTH & SAFETY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Crisis Management Emergency Plan Update – A draft copy of the updated plan is currently being completed.

Safety Committee Meeting – A meeting of the committee will be scheduled in the near future to discuss the updated flip chart, epi-pens and AED's (Automatic External Defibrillator).

SECURITY

Uniforms – The district is in the process of outfitting our security personnel with uniforms so they can be immediately identified.

Door Magnets – The district is nearing completion of the distribution of door magnets for emergency lockdowns. These magnets allow classroom doors to be freely opened while in a locked position and are instantly removed in the event of an emergency.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for March is a lockdown drill. All of our schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS

UPDATE: Three grant applications for the installation of emergency back-up generating systems are currently pending. No further information is available at this time.

CCTV SYSTEMS

The district has installed CCTV Systems in all of our busses. This system includes GPS tracking and is accessible in real time. UPDATE: Our service provider replaced all system components on March 1 and 2 and is currently being scheduled to update our software.

EAST END PAVING

Due to the deteriorating condition of paving at East End School, emergent resurfacing will take place over the upcoming spring break.

2014-2015 CAPITAL PROJECTS (Other)

DIRECT INSTALL PROGRAM

The district was recently approved to participate in the latest round of Energy Reduction Grants sponsored by P.S.E. & G. This project will include replacing outdated interior and exterior lighting fixtures at Somerset School and North Plainfield High/Middle School. We anticipate a start-up of this project on or about June 23, 2014.

2014-2015 CAPITAL BUDGET (Approved)

The following capital improvement projects, partially funded by Rod Grants, have been approved for inclusion in next year's budget.

- High & Middle School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- East End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- West End School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- Stony Brook School – Fire & Intrusion Alarm System Replacement.
- Stony Brook School – *Building Wide Window Replacements including the Gym.
*This project is still under review for available and/or anticipated funding.

2014-2015 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.

2014-2015 SUMMER MAINTENANCE

A preliminary listing of all requested summer maintenance, improvements and repairs is currently being prepared.

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

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools

Personnel

It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process.

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

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the 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 – Abstain
David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as district substitute paraprofessionals at the hourly rate of \$21.14, effective March 19, 2014.

Mery Solis

Giorgi Tchubabria

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Rolando Santana-Ortiz as a paraprofessional at the NPHS Bridge Program for 4.0 hours per week, at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective March 17, 2014. (Mr. Santa-Ortiz will replace Anthony Fields.)

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the fall of the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education approve the following-student teacher placement(s) from Fairleigh Dickinson University:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Class/Grade</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Arielle Reale	Elem/Grade 3	East End School	Gina Stripto

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Fellin abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve Aaron Palmer as a volunteer to assist the NPHS winter guard coach.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education grant Chelsea Bryan-Howsen an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act effective September 8, 2014 through November 30, 2014, for child care purposes. (Ms. Bryan-Howsen will begin her disability period on September 1, 2014 using accrued sick days.)

Further, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education grant Ms. Bryan-Howsen an unpaid leave of absence effective December 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015 for child care purposes.

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

March 18, 2014

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve Luis Rincon, teacher of mathematics at NPHS, continue to serve as a Kean University administrative intern at NPHS with Jerard Stephenson serving as his on-site supervisor, effective May 1, 2014 through August 31, 2014.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education rescind the recommendation to employ Delia Perez as a paraprofessional in the district, effective March 17, 2014.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of John Burke as a special education teacher at NPHS, at the BA/Step 8 annual salary rate of \$56,560, to be prorated effective March 24, 2014. (Mr. Burke will replace Shireen Ali.)

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the employment of Jameelah Surgeon as Executive Secretary/Assistant to the Business Administrator, effective May 17, 2014, or at an earlier date, if available, at the annual salary of \$58,500, to be pro-rated for the contract year ending June 30, 2014. (Ms. Surgeon will replace Brenda Fleisher.)

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, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education adjust the date of resignation for Christopher Argento, special education teacher at NPHS from April 1, 2014 to March 22, 2014.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve the employment of Christopher Werner as a special education teacher at NPHS at the BA/Step 1 annual salary rate of \$55,490, to be prorated effective March 25, 2014. (Mr. Werner will replace Mr. Argento).

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education appoint the following teacher(s) to work on curriculum projects or school-based planning activities at the school/department as indicated at the hourly rate of \$49.74, to be funded with local funds as follows:

Middle School School-Based Planning

David Hooker	\$249
Danielle Fauci	\$249

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following staff to the co-curricular positions as indicated:

Leanne Borbely	Stony Brook	Spring After-School Sports	\$2603
David Hooker	NPMS	Central Detention	\$25/session

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Kevin Goetz as a teacher of industrial arts at NPHS at the BA/Step 17 (24) salary of \$76,395, to be prorated effective May 19, 2014. (Mr. Goetz will replace Ted Sielewicki.)

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

March 18, 2014

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the temporary employment of Gina Viola as a temporary special education teacher at West End School at the BA/Step 1 annual salary rate of \$55,490, to be prorated effective March 19, 2014 through May 4, 2014. (Ms. Viola will temporarily replace Wendy McClellan.)

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the following recommendation be tabled:

That the Board of Education enter into a personnel agreement, #PERS 1-13-14, effective March 17, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Rachel Rehfeld, special education teacher at Stony Brook School, effective July 1, 2014.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the **2014-2015** school year, the Board of Education grant Mindy Durkin, elementary teacher at West End School, an unpaid leave of absence for child care purposes, effective September 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Morgan Mescal as a special education teacher at West End School at the BA/Step 1 annual salary rate of \$55,490, to be prorated effective March 24, 2014.

Thomas Allen – Abstain
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 that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student OOOOOO-13-14 at Green Brook Academy at the rate of \$62,914 per year, to be prorated effective March 24, 2014 through June 20, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-47-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective March 7, 2014 through March 20, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student ATE-01-13-14 receive assistive technology training to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$828 for three sessions (six hours total) plus \$150 travel expense.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-21-13-14 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$850.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student NEU-09-13-14 undergo a neurological evaluation to be provided by Dr. Kavita Sinha at the cost of \$325.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the following textbook(s) and/or trade book(s) for use in the schools:

Title:	<i>Big Ideas Math</i>
Author:	Larson, Boswell
Publisher:	Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
Copyright:	2014
Course/Levels:	Mathematics Grades 7 & 8

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated March 18, 2014.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and approved by a roll call vote of 5 to 2 that the North Plainfield Board of Education adopt the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education of the Borough of North Plainfield hereby adopt the following preliminary school district budget for the 2014-2015 school year:

General Fund	\$ 56,290,215.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 2,221,643.00
Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>1,289,731.00</u>
Total Base Budget	\$ 59,801,589.00

Be it further resolved, that the following amounts be raised from taxes:

General Fund	\$28,490,467.00
Debt Service	\$ 1,289,731.00

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent and Board Secretary to complete all required forms and submit this budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval for advertising as required by law, and

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Education hereby establish May 7, 2014 as the date for the public hearing on this preliminary budget and authorize the Superintendent and Board Secretary, upon approval from the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, to advertise this budget on or about May 1, 2014.

Be it further resolved, that the Board of Education now adopt this budget as presented and that this resolution take effect immediately.

Thomas Allen – No
David Branan – No
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 and approve the disposal of outdated non-utilized textbooks in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A-34-4 as follows:

Street Law: A Course in Practical Law 1999

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:

A RESOLUTION OF THE North Plainfield Board of Education of North Plainfield Borough, authorizing the adoption of the 2013 Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update

Whereas, all of Somerset County has exposure to natural hazards that increase the risk to life, property, environment and the County's economy; and

Whereas, pro-active mitigation of known hazards before a disaster event can reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property; and

Whereas, The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-390) established new requirements for pre and post disaster hazard mitigation programs; and

Whereas, a coalition of Somerset County jurisdictions and its school district with like planning objectives has been formed to pool resources and create consistent mitigation strategies within Somerset County; and

Whereas, the coalition has completed a planning process that engages the public, assesses the risk and vulnerability to the impacts of natural hazards, develops a mitigation strategy consistent with a set of uniform goals and objectives, and creates a plan for implementing, evaluating and revising this strategy;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the North Plainfield Board of Education:

- 1) Adopt in its entirety, the 2013 Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan Update (the “Plan”) as the jurisdiction’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan, and resolves to execute the actions identified in the Plan that pertain to this jurisdiction.
- 2) Will use the adopted and approved portions of the Plan to guide pre- and post-disaster mitigation of the hazards identified.
- 3) Will coordinate the strategies identified in the Plan with other planning programs and mechanisms under its jurisdictional authority
- 4) Will continue its support of the Mitigation Planning Committee as described within the Plan.
- 5) Will help to promote and support the mitigation successes of all participants in this Plan.
- 6) Will incorporate mitigation planning as an integral component of government and partner operations
- 7) Will provide an update of the Plan in conjunction with the County no less than every five years.

Be it further resolved, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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, with Mr. Fellin abstaining, that the Board of Education approve and accept the donation from the NPHS PTO of four new 60” LED flat screen TV’s with factory warranties and mounting brackets, valued in total at approximately \$5,200.00, to be installed in the high school/middle school cafeteria.

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

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

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – Dr. Rich provided overview of discussion topic reviewed at meeting.

Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – new and revised policies will be voted on.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper provided update on discussion topics and attended weekend conference on leadership training. Mr. Fellin provided and overview of new BOE member training.

SCSBA – Mr. Kasper discussed legal meeting.

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

Mr. Sternberg discussed the 2014-2015 budget.

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 for first reading of the following policy:

2130 Principal Evaluation

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 policies as revised:

2131 Superintendent
4116 Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members

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

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

Mr. Kasper requested specific Board email addresses.

Ms. Bond-Nelson asked about Administrator Board Retreat. Dates are needed and it was suggested it be scheduled for some time after May.

Dr. Birnbaum suggested adding a BOE meeting for April 23, 2014.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Future Agenda Items

Per presentation calendar

E-mail

Board Retreat – Board Self Evaluation – Administrators attend

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that be it resolved that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, April 9, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. at Watchung 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 at 9:20 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 reconvene to public session at 10:20 pm.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg