

October 16, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on October 16, 2013 at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Thomas Allen	Kathleen Mullen
David Branan	Nancy Szaroleta
Sandra Dodd	Linda Bond-Nelson
Thomas Kasper	

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Amaree Gardner, Student Representative and approximately 1 member 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 October 2, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of October 2, 2013.

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 September 30, 2013 dated in the amount of \$5,755,838.58.

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 August 2013 and further recommends in compliance with NJAC 6:23-2.11(B), that the Board of Education certify that to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Comments from the Public

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

Student Representative Report

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

The Freshman Class Council has a dedicated group of about thirty wonderful students this year. They decided on a date for their first fundraiser, which will be held on Friday, October 25th. They plan to have a Halloween themed bake sale to raise money for the class.

They have also discussed and voted on the theme for spirit week hallway decorations. This year's theme will be Candy Land. They will begin assembling decorations this week.

In addition, they held elections for class officer positions. The following students were elected:

President: Amina Elsas
Vice Pres: Emily McGrath
Secretary: Jonnelle Steward
Treasurer: Antonie Izaguirre

It was an extremely close race, and we congratulated all of the candidates who ran.

The first official meeting of the Forensics Club took place on Wednesday, October 2, 2013. At this meeting, members debated on whether adolescents/young children should be tried as adults. An upcoming field trip to Millburn High School is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2013. At the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th, members will present a personal interpretation piece.

Forensic Club Officers:

President: Shelby Watters
Vice Pres: Amy Palacios
Secretary: Jonnelle Steward
Treasurer: Antonie Izaguirre

Drama Club executives:

President: Jasmine Andrews
Vice Pres: Mikaelah Villacruz
Treasurer: Adrian Guerrero

The drama club has also held auditions and begun rehearsals for the December Drug and Alcohol Awareness production entitled "Addict". A serious play that deals with the serious nature of drug and alcohol abuse.

The Drama Club is also putting together a Homeroom presentation for the week of Oct. 15-19th for the Anti-Bullying Month (October), in coordination with Mr. DaSilva. Finally, the drama club has chosen this year's Drama T-Shirts and is also preparing to vote on their first philanthropic endeavor of the year.

The Boys' and Girls' HS Cross Country team is midseason and happy to be back in the Group 2 Central Jersey class. The boys co-captains are Cristian Cabrera and Bryan Huezo.

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The girls' captain is Vanessa Hernandez. The scholar-athletes train six days a week with competitions on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We are looking forward to the Counties, Championships and Sectionals in the coming weeks.

The Junior-Senior Homecoming Dance is Friday, October 18, 2013 at 7 PM in the HS Cafe.

The Senior Class Meets every other Thursday in room 126 and all seniors are welcome at any time.

The Senior Class is currently selling Eco Candles. They are soy candles that come in a variety of different scents and can be purchased for \$10. Funds go toward Senior Class Activities.

The High School Music Department is currently selling Holiday Pies/ Cheesecakes. The sale is through October 21st and orders will be delivered in time for the Thanksgiving Holidays. Funds raised go toward individual student costs for a Hershey Park Music in the Parks Performance and Trip in May 2014.

The North Plainfield Choral Music Department will be holding its first Men's Night of Singing on Wednesday, October 30th at 7 PM in the HS Auditorium and will feature performances by the Men's Ensembles from East End, West End, Stony Brook, Somerset, NPMS and NPHS. Please join us for a fun night of singing and celebration of the Men in our district's choral ensembles.

The New Jersey Science League begins their competitions in Jan., 2014,

From mid-September through today the Middle School Student Council held their annual t-shirt sale. On October 3rd, the student council had the Back-To -School night pizza party with over 50 people in attendance. On October the Student Council "Partnership" food drive started.. The student council made posters and put them up in the hallways. The week of October 7-11 is Student Council Election Week. Students running in the election made campaign posters and hung them throughout the school. On Thursday October 10th, the presidential candidates gave speeches to the student body. The election was held on Friday October 11th.

On Friday October 25th the student council will have a Halloween Dance in the cafeteria

In November we will hold our annual student/staff kickball game to help raise food items for the food drive.

The Canuckling Club has decided on this year's theme, which will be "Wired." Our subcategories (as of now will) be #hashtag, #zoomingin, #pluggedin, and #unplugged. We have also voted for club editors, which include Kaitlin Rink and Milena Contreras as editors-in-chief, Jason Le and Brian Ngobidi as literary editors, and Brenda Okereke and Caitlin Samayoa as art editors.

We also got great news that last year's Canuckling, "Justapositions" was awarded the GOLD medal by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. We are still waiting to hear from American Scholastic Press.

The National Junior Honor Society is having a Bake Sales to raise money for Holocaust field trip, is Heading "Box Tops for Education" initiative for the middle school along with the homeroom breakfast rewards for the most box tops.

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NJHS Students have signed up to tutor, have volunteered to usher at different school events, and several students have participated in essay contests

The French Honor Society met and elected officers for the 2013-2014 year as follows:

President: Kevin Monrroy
Vice Pres: Michelle Flores
Secretary: Alyssa Chandler
Treasurer: Jonathan Lima

A French t-shirt sale and crepe sales were discussed at the first meeting of the school year.

We are beginning to organize the Spanish Dance Club. Our club has come to agreements with our new president and officers. There have been several meetings met every Thursday after school. The Club is working hard on our new dance which is being composed to its perfection. The Spanish Dance Club is coming together to continue working on its organization and mastering our dances. Although it is early in our Club, there are several choices and decisions that we still need to keep discussing on and coming to agreements with.

The Canuck varsity cheer team has formed an alliance with the SJNCC to raise funds for, and awareness of, Breast Cancer. A representative from the program will be preparing a statement to be read at the Pink out games (October 11th and October 28th). We were also featured in the PRIDE publication concerning this venture.

Both the Varsity and JV will be erecting a "Wall of Hope" outside of the cafeteria. This wall will be decorated with letters and offerings of hope to breast cancer survivors and will highlight several family members as honored North Plainfield heroes in the fight against cancer. Several classes and the mentor program will help facilitate the collecting of messages of hope. This project will go up the last week of October, after the hallway decorating contest is complete.

This Sunday, the athletes will be attending their second safe stunting clinic where they learn new and safe stunting techniques while working to progress their competitive skills.

Presentation

Dr. Rich provided the Board with a comprehensive review of the annual Violence and Vandalism report, as well as the HIB report.

Comments from the public were requested, there were none.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

District

The Rutgers Reading Clinic at North Plainfield

Reprinted from the Rutgers University Graduate School of Education (GSE) website, October 03, 2013

The Rutgers Reading Clinic, an after-school one-on-one tutoring program for struggling elementary school students, was more successful than anyone had imagined. The program not only improved the students' reading and writing capabilities, but also enabled students to build a strong sense of self-esteem and love for learning. The program was designed by [Dr. Susan Dougherty](#), Assistant Professor and [Dr. Lesley Morrow](#), Distinguished Professor at the Graduate School of Education (GSE) and Co-Director of the Center for Literacy Development.

Traditionally, university sponsored reading clinics are housed on-campus, but the Rutgers Reading Clinic, was housed right on site at an elementary school in North Plainfield. Traditional on-campus reading clinics suffer from problems related to access for the children and families who need them most. The North Plainfield program took place at the school that the students attended and it did not charge a fee. This enabled students to work in a familiar setting without the worry of transportation and loss of time. The first year of the program was funded through the GSE's GAP grant program.

During the spring 2013 semester, ten students from a North Plainfield elementary school who were below grade level in reading or writing were paired with a certified teacher who they met with after school for one hour twice a week. The teachers were recruited from the district, were retired teachers, or currently taught outside of the school district. Teachers participated in a professional development session led by the researchers prior to the start of the program and were equipped with a tool kit, which included testing and teaching materials. The teachers were provided with a basic format for tutoring and materials tailored for their students.

Throughout the course of the tutoring, teachers used instructional methods that were evidenced-based and known to promote student learning, engagement, and motivation. The results were impressive. In an analysis of the data of literacy scores from the beginning to the end of the program significant increases were shown in their reading abilities as measured with a variety of assessments. The students not only diligently completed their work, but became eager to learn while forming tight partnerships with their teachers and each other. The program saw an improvement in reading level, fluency, and comprehension for all participating students and received high praise from the children's classroom teachers, parents, and the district administration. Outside of the program, students' overall attitudes toward school showed great improvement with an increase in participation, homework completion, and even improvements in regular attendance.

The students spread word of how much they enjoyed the program, referred to their teachers as "the best in the world" and said that they felt like the teachers were part of their families. Close friendships among the children were also formed during the course of the program as students socialized during the snack time before each session. News of the Rutgers Reading "Club" (coined by many students) continued to spread, leading students outside of the program asking to join.

Following the completion of the program, teachers, students, and their families gathered to celebrate and recognize the students' achievements. The highlight of the event featured the students selecting and reading aloud a story demonstrating their progress over the 12-week program. The students, even those who were extremely shy at the beginning of the program, read with confidence and impressed their peers, teachers, and families. Both students and teachers were awarded certificates from Rutgers to commend them on their hard work and

accomplishments. In addition, the principal reported that all of the Rutgers Reading Clinic students received some recognition for improvement in reading and writing at the school's end-of-the-year awards ceremony, Dr. Morrow and Dr. Dougherty are thrilled with the success of the program and its very positive reception in North Plainfield. They believe that it demonstrates the power of developing positive social partnerships between students and teachers who are working one-on-one to remediate learning challenges. The program's success is further evidenced by the decision of the North Plainfield school district to continue the program this year without the help of Rutgers.

The Rutgers Reading Clinic strengthened participating students' reading and writing skills and helped build self-esteem and a positive attitude toward learning. For teachers, the program was a rewarding experience that shed light on the importance of one-on-one attention and innovative teaching practices. Finally for the community, the program exceeded all expectations and led to a wave of positive support from parents and administration as well as a rising interest from other students. The Rutgers Reading Clinic, which began as a way to assist struggling students in reading and writing, evolved into an inspiring program that paved the way toward strong relationships between teachers and students, improved student self-esteem, and promoted a love for learning.

Dr. Morrow and Dr. Dougherty would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the participating teachers: Marilyn T. LaMarca, Stefanie Martin, Melissa Mejia, Suzanne Parmelee, Kristina Servidio, Joan Smith, and Michelle Tafuri. They would also like to thank Principal Cathy Kobylarz of Stony Brook Elementary School and Superintendent Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum (GSE Ed.M. '84, Ed.D.'90) for their involvement in the program.

North Plainfield's Gifted & Talented Program 2013: October is Gifted & Talented month in North Plainfield as the G&T Program, once again, opens its **"Doors of Thinking"** for another year. Under the direction of **Cynthia Crawford**, teacher and **Cathy Kobylarz**, supervisor, the G&T Program operates under a tiered design of two components: **Inspiration** and **Enrichment**. Enrichment focuses on kindergarten and first grade students district-wide, while the Inspiration program serves approximately 80 students in grades 2-6.

The Inspiration program challenges academically gifted students who possess or demonstrate high levels of ability, in one or more content areas, when compared to their chronological peers and require modification of their education program in order to achieve in accordance with their capabilities (New Jersey Department of Education Gifted and Talented). Inspiration is a pull-out program in which gifted students meet weekly along with their intellectual peers for instruction. The design of the program encourages student independence, self-awareness, risk-taking, curiosity, and intellectual integrity. Scope of instruction differentiates from the regular education classroom with regard to content, pacing, and depth. Learning is predominately student driven and fosters constructive peer interactions which allow students to initiate and reflect upon their learning and cognitive processes. Each year a "Thinking Theme" is selected for an in-depth study. This year all Inspiration students will be learning about the *16 Habits of Mind* developed by Arthur L. Costa and Bena Kallick. They are skills that all good problem solvers employ in today's global society. The skills include persisting, managing impulsivity, listening with understanding and empathy, thinking flexibly, thinking about your thinking, striving for accuracy, questioning and problem posing, applying past knowledge to new situations, thinking and communicating with clarity and precision, gathering data through all senses, creating, imagining, and innovating, responding with wonderment and awe, taking

responsible risks, finding humor, thinking interdependently, and remaining open to continuous learning. Life long thinking is the goal!

Staff

Edison Torres, NPHS assistant principal, has been selected as an **Outstanding Hispanic American Educator** by the **Hispanic State Parade of New Jersey, Inc.** Mr. Torres was recommended to the parade committee by a former student and was selected as an outstanding role model for our children. An awards gala was held Friday evening, October 4, 2013, and a parade was held on Sunday, October 6. Mr. Torres served as the **Grand Marshal** representing **Nicaragua**.

High School English Teacher Publishes Poem: John DeLaurentis, a teacher of English at North Plainfield High School, recently participated in a poetry launch party for the literary journal, ***Killing the Angel***. The event was for the launch of Issue 2 of the journal, which features Mr. DeLaurentis' poem, "Call of the Woolf." Mr. DeLaurentis' poem explores the life of the writer Virginia Woolf. Mr. DeLaurentis read this poem at the event, which took place at Small World Coffee in Princeton, New Jersey on September 27, 2013. He also read another poem about his daughter's first school experience, "Yellow and Blue," from his second poetry book, which is currently in submission. This literary journal was created within the last two years by Jessica Rosevear, who was a part of Mr. DeLaurentis' cohort at Rutgers University when he obtained his Master's degree in English Education and teacher certification. DeLaurentis' reading can be viewed on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/kYfwVsSFCiE>.

Students

"Four Days of Honor and Valor in Gettysburg": A documentary filmed during the 150th Medal of Honor Convention, September 18-21, 2013, featuring six Junior ROTC students from North Plainfield High School (By Thomas Mazur, Supervisor of the Arts)

*The four days of filming in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania proved to be as exciting and informative as anticipated. **Lt. Col. Eric Hansen and Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts**, arrived in Gettysburg at 7:00 p.m. with six NJ ROTC cadets: **Adriana Miranda, senior; Elijah Sheridan, junior); Jared Ruiz, junior; Ruel Lindsay, junior; Kyle Pacla, junior; and Nancy Bahnasy, sophomore.***

*The students were filmed getting off the bus and checking in at the front desk. After bringing their luggage to their rooms, they met for a briefing regarding being on film and received a surprise visit from **General Joshua Chamberlain**. The grandnephew of General Chamberlain, **Ted Chamberlin**, who bears a striking resemblance to his famous relative, paid a visit to the conference room with his wife, Fanny (Faye). The re-enactors, in full 1863 regalia, recounted aspects of the battle including the famous "bayonet charge" led by Chamberlin down Little Round Top, which led to his receiving one of the first Medal of Honor awards from President Lincoln.*

The following morning the students were introduced to the convention during the opening ceremony. Security was exceptionally high, but unobtrusive. The ROTC students, as well as Col. Hansen and Mr. Mazur, wore media passes that permitted access to all the events at the convention without interference. During the gathering at the Eisenhower Farm that followed, the students had the opportunity to meet and speak with Medal of Honor recipients at length. "It was a proud and dignified moment when our ROTC students stood at ramrod

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attention and saluted as each Medal of Honor recipient entered the tent area. The students acquired a special affinity to one hero in particular, **Staff Sgt. Salvatore Guinta**. Guinta received his medal for gallantry at the risk of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan,” remarked Mr. Mazur.

The students then attended an autograph signing session. **Dr. Tony Mussari**, the film’s writer, producer, and director presented each student with a book that contained quotes and remarks by many of the Medal of Honor recipients present at the signing (48 of the 71 living heroes). The students relished finding a Medal of Honor’s page in the book for them to sign. The filming continued as the students toured monuments on the battlefield that corresponded to the awarding of the Medal of Honor. Bruce Rice, the same effective guide seen in “Walking Into the Light at Gettysburg” was engaged to lead this part of the new documentary as well. After the tour, everyone returned to the Visitors Center for a reception where the students had an opportunity to chat with many of the re-enactors.

Friday morning the students attended a Town Hall meeting, monitored by Chris Wallace (Fox News). Three of the ROTC students were able to ask questions of the panel of Medal of Honor recipients when the discussion was opened to the public. Later the students visited the office of **William Troxell, Mayor of Gettysburg**. A veteran of World War II, Mayor Troxell, at age 87, is probably one of the oldest mayors in the country, yet he still presides with vitality and a quick, but gentle wit. The day concluded with a consummate musical event, “A Concert Celebrating America’s Heroes” performed by the “Presidents Own” Marine Band and the West Point Chorus, followed by a dramatic fireworks display. “I was pleased to hear the students’ remark, when asked what they enjoyed most of all, their unanimous answer “the medley from the 1940’s!” exclaimed Mr. Mazur.

Saturday morning students were interviewed individually regarding their impressions of the past three days and finally filmed boarding the van leaving for North Plainfield, arriving home at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21.

The organizer of the convention, and chairperson of the **Medal of Honor Foundation, Robert Monahan**, is very interested in this production. The Foundation runs an educational component, and this documentary has the possibility to be shown throughout the United States. Dr. Mussari has begun the editing process of over 24 hours of film and thousands of still photographs. Mr. Monahan is looking forward to viewing the final cut. Here is the link to Dr. Mussari’s website that includes an initial report on the documentary process and description of Robert Monahan (Blogs).<http://faceofamericawps.com>

Tamaira Holmes, a senior at NPHS, has been selected as an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Tamaira scored in the top 3 percent of more than 6,000 Black Americans that took the test. She is among some of the 3,100 Outstanding Participants that are being referred to U.S. colleges and universities.

On September 22, the *Courier News* and the *Home News Tribune* published the **25th annual Super Summer Reader Club** feature saluting the reading accomplishments of more than 400 children and adults from around Central Jersey. This is the second year in a row that **Yvonne Njoku, a senior at NPHS, and Melody Njoku, a junior at NPHS**, have been recognized by the *Courier News, Home News Tribune* for participating in the Super Summer Reading Club. The newspaper sent Yvonne and Melody a Congratulations bookmark and coupons to Applebee’s for a free Kid’s Sundae as a reward for their excellence.

Schools

West End School

Field Trip to the Pumpkin Farm: During October all of the West End third grade classes go on a field trip to **Wightman's Farm** in Morristown, NJ. On arrival the students are taken on a hayride through the apple orchard, pass several vegetable fields and go up a mountain where they can see the valley below. The hayride ends in the pumpkin patch where they can pick their own pumpkin and run through a hay maze. The students are then able to enjoy a donut and apple cider as they observe and learn about how farms operate. There is a small school house on the property where the students can read and learn about how cider is made and how apples grow. "This trip is extremely beneficial for the students. Many of them have never seen how vegetables or fruits grow. Simply going through the forest on the hayride and seeing the valley below was a new experience for many of the students. They will be able to take this background knowledge back with them into the classroom, where they will be able to make connections to the material being taught," remarked **Beth Sobel, principal**. Upon returning to West End School, the children write a narrative on their experience using the five senses (language arts). The lifecycle of a pumpkin from seed to fruit is studied (science). The farm community, which is rural, is studied and connections are made through the process of growing fresh fruits and vegetables and producing food that can support urban and suburban communities (social studies). A lesson is done involving estimation using the seeds inside a pumpkin (math). To make connections to literature, the book *Mr. Murray and Thumpkin* is read. The story is about two very different mice. One lives in a pumpkin, carefree and lackadaisical. The other, Mr. Murray, is practical and quite the worrier. They are neighbors who don't see eye to eye, until they recognize each other's strengths and work together for survival. This story is used to reinforce the idea of respecting others' differences (character lesson). Also read is the book *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?* by Margaret McNamara. This book explains how you can predict which pumpkins will have the most seeds. The students learn that the shade of orange and the amount of lines found on them can be used to predict which pumpkins contain the most seeds. Overall, this trip is always a huge success!

Week of Respect: As mandated by the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, October 7-11, 2013 was designated as Respect Week. The following activities occurred during the week: On October 7, all students and staff were encouraged to wear blue for World Day of Bullying Prevention. Visit www.stompoutbullying.org for more information about this event. Mini-assemblies to kick off the week and discuss respectful school behavior were given by **Marilyn Pinto, student liaison**, and **Taryn Buffolino, school counselor**. The lessons included the following:

- K- *Fill a Bucket* - book read-aloud & discussion
- 1 - *Have You Filled a Bucket today?* - book read-aloud & activity
- 2 - *Bubble Gum Radar and Just Kidding*— book read-aloud and discussion about teasing
- 3 - *The Friendship Rules* - book read-aloud & activity
- 4 - *Words Can Hurt* - book read-aloud and activity

During the week, Ms. Buffolino presented lessons in each classroom. A popsicle stick for respectful hallway behavior was promoted this week. Classes and individuals are given a popsicle stick when "caught being good" while in the hallway. At the end of the school year the class with the most sticks will be celebrated with a special pizza luncheon and party.

Respect pledges for all students were signed in the classroom. A respect themed bulletin board was assembled in the counselor's hallway. A representative piece (a picture or writing sample) of what was done in the classrooms during the Week of Respect was used for the bulletin board. On Friday, a student was nominated from each class who was respectful all week. The student received a small token and had his/her picture taken with the other nominees, which was added to the bulletin board. Each morning, quotes related to respect were read during morning announcements, which encouraged discussions in the classrooms.

East End School

Week of Respect: Each morning during announcements, **Principal Kathleen Herrmann** reminds students to "*Be a Buddy and Not a Bully* and to make a new friend." Given that respect is focused on every single day through the character education program, the week of October 7 --Respect Week-- became even more significant. The week kicked off with all students and staff wearing their blue Mustang shirts so they could participate in *Blue Shirt Day: World Day of Bullying Prevention*. Ms. Herrmann announced, "We are Mustangs against bullies!" Music teacher **Diana Van Hise** taught her classes a song which is all about respect and how to treat others. The art teacher, **Joanne Wendt**, facilitated the activity where students made a large hallway display that contains the letters RESPECT which will serve as a daily reminder to students. Classroom teachers spoke to students about the many aspects of respect including self- respect, respecting others, belongings of others and differences. Each class created a collage entitled, *Everyone Deserves Respect* which is displayed in the Hallway of Respect located near the community room. Third and fourth grade students were offered the opportunity to enter a writing contest and discuss the meaning of respect. The winning essays will be read at East End's first Citizenship assembly. Furthermore, the authors will be invited to attend a tea party where they will be able to demonstrate their good manners and respect. The school counselor, **Nicole Rivlin**, presented respect lessons in each classroom. In kindergarten, the story *The Grouchy Ladybug* by Eric Carle was read. The story is about a grouchy ladybug that is looking for a fight and disrespects everyone she meets. She finally learns good manners and how to respect others. *Mind Your Manners* by *B.B. Wolf* was read to first grade classes which focused on showing respect through good manners emphasizing the importance of using please, thank you and sorry, as well as having eye contact and staying attentive when someone is speaking. In the second grade classes the Golden Rule was discussed and how important it is to treat others the way you would want to be treated. The book *Do Unto Others* by Laurie Keller was read which uses forest animals to depict important lessons such as playing fairly, honesty, cooperation, forgiveness and consideration. Third grade classes enjoyed listening to *A Bad Case of the Stripes* by David Shannon which sends a strong message about respecting differences. Students wrote and illustrated something unique about themselves, and their work was compiled into one large book which will become part of the classroom library. Finally, fourth graders listened to *Thank you Mr. Falker* by Patricia Polacco which raises awareness of how some students struggle with learning and why supporting each other is far better than making fun of individuals. As a follow-up activity, students wrote a thank you card to someone who consistently shows respect to others.

New Assessments: A letter was sent home to all parents informing them that students across the district would take the assessment entitled Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). At East End School, computer facilitators **Karen F. Lewis and Jill Fogarty** along with student liaison coordinator, **Lynnelle Thomas**, attended a training session in

September and turn keyed the MAP program to staff. During the testing, they took turns supporting students in all grades and ensured that they laptops and headphones were available and ready. “This was a huge undertaking, but it ran very smoothly at East End. A great big thank goes out to all of the staff who facilitated and to the students for their hard work. Everyone worked collaboratively to ensure the students were comfortable and familiar with the procedure. **Ron Fisher, director of technology** and his staff are to be commended for working out all of the details to ensure that the district was able to access the on-line assessment,” remarked Ms. Herrmann. The results of the assessment will provide data that will be used to drive instruction and meet the needs of all students.

Changing of the Cards: “Since the majority of the 479 students at East End enjoy lunch served by **Maschio’s**, I am always looking for ways to ensure that the students have plenty of time for recess and eating,” stated Ms. Herrmann. Last week, charts were made for each class and cards containing each student’s name and barcode were hung around the community room. Students can now enter the community room, remove the card from the chart, select lunch and turn the card in at the register. The cards are then placed back on the charts for the next day. This new procedure has taken valuable minutes off of wait time and ensures that students are not losing cards.

Stony Brook School

Jumpstarting Each Day: Students and faculty members are learning the importance of “Jumpstarting” each day through the use of an Anti-bullying program that promotes respect, individuality, compassion, confidence, strength and peace. Every day during morning announcements, Stony Brook’s **counselor, Leslie Castillo**, shares a short daily lesson to the school. Each lesson cultivates and supports the desired traits mentioned above. There are 180 lessons, 36 weekly topics and weekly classroom activities. Each day of the week has a different objective and follows a weekly format. For instance, Mondays are recognition and inspiration, where students are nominated for their performance. Tuesdays answer the question: Why should we do this? On Wednesdays, role models are discussed and include people like Oprah Winfrey and Holocaust survivors.

Somerset School

Somerset Students are Steered Straight: In tribute to **Respect Week**, Somerset School presented Steered Straight on bullying, choices and consequences. Steered Straight, Inc. is a non-profit educational and prevention/intervention organization, committed to reaching children, teens, and young adults with a message of reality about life-choices and the importance of consequential thinking. The presenters, **Michael DeLeon** and **John Fuqua** captured the student body by engaging them in activities using a PowerPoint which contained facts, photos, and clear messages. In addition, they told stories from their own experiences and encounters with other youths, which made the message relevant. The community room was in complete silence as students listened attentively, actually bringing some students to tears. “Teachers and students were amazed by the number of personal struggles that turned into positive outcomes,” remarked **Luis Jaime, assistant principal**. As a remembrance of the presentation, Steered Straight provided everyone with a wrist band stamped with a message of hope and a hot-line counseling number. Several teachers followed up with activities in their classrooms to reinforce the messages delivered in the assembly. A group of students sent a post card to the administration thanking them for the program. “We feel this program was very successful, and we look forward to working with Steered Straight in the near future,” commented **Reginald Sainte-Rose, principal**.

NPMS

Back-To-School Night: On October 3, the middle school held its annual Back-to School Night, beginning at 6:30 with welcoming remarks and introductions by **John Ferguson, assistant principal**. The program was extremely well attended as the auditorium was filled to capacity. Parents had the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and learn about the exciting activities that will take place throughout the school year. To help parents with their busy schedule, the middle school student council hosted a pizza diner before the night's events.

Partnership Food Drive: Once again, the middle school will partner with Somerset School to participate in the **10th Annual Student Council Food Drive**. Students and staff are encouraged to collect food and toiletry products. Donated items will benefit the Somerset County Food Bank Network and the North Plainfield Food Pantry. Heading up this worthy effort to support our local community are **Megan Farrell**, advisor to the National Junior Honor Society, and **Lindsey Mulry**, student council advisor. Boxes are located throughout the school to gather the donations.

"We are the World": On September 27, **Kristen Didyoung's** and **Danielle Fauci's** social studies classes worked collaboratively on a population density activity that saw the students recreate the entire "world" on the grounds of the middle school. The students had been learning about unique differences between the continents and how people's lives may be different based on where they live. They also learned that geographers are interested in where people live, how many people live in an area, and what effects those people have on natural resources. Once outside, students held labeled posters representing the seven continents. They were then proportioned to represent the density of the areas. The activity resulted in students being able to draw conclusions on why certain areas of the world contain greater populations. And there stood Antarctica all alone!

Blue Shirt Day and the Week of Respect: On Monday, October 7, the middle school staff and students recognized the importance of the world-wide event, "Blue Shirt Day." Students and staff were asked to wear blue shirts to serve as a reminder that all people need to show respect and build positive relationships with others. In addition, counselors **Sally Reagan** and **Lindsey Mulry** visited classrooms and conducted lessons on the theme of respect. During the week, members of the student council read poignant messages of respect and brotherhood during homerooms. Lastly, all middle school classroom doors were adorned with colorful STARS ("Students Together Achieve Respect") that were created by the students and contained positive messages for students to reflect during their school day.

NPHS

Johnson and Johnson Technology Awareness Program (TAP): Two sessions of the **Johnson & Johnson TAP Program** have been held so far this year. The first was held at NPMS on September 26. Twenty-nine students met with **Pete Ward, Amanda Basile, and Karen Greenstein** from Johnson & Johnson in the new computer lab adjacent to the media center. They led a discussion of the differences in the expectations of people from different generations about the workplace and how to understand others' point of view. They were introduced to the business case studies they will eventually present to a full audience of Johnson & Johnson personnel, NPMS administrators, and their parents. Each team is given the support of a Subject Matter Expert (SME) whom they also met at this

first session. The second session was held at Johnson & Johnson headquarters in Raritan. Students entered the executive board room, a plush environment that seemed to impress the students. They worked in teams to identify the names and purposes of basic PC parts. The winner of this competition was allowed to be first in line for lunch! Each team used these parts to construct a working PC. Mr. Ward from Johnson & Johnson commented that our students were the most proficient group he'd seen so far on this task. Students then toured the Creative Lab and the Command Center. They spoke with the Critical Response Team members who deal with worldwide technology issues. After lunch, they again met with their Subject Matter Experts to further their work on their business case studies.

As an observer during the PC build, **Patty Marseglia, supervisor of mathematics**, commented, "Our students worked well together and their knowledge of computers was very impressive. I was amazed to see their rebuilt PCs up and running in less than ten minutes, in some cases. The students had an opportunity to shine in their field of interest, and they certainly did."

Mathlab: The PASS program at NPHS was populated, last year, by many students who struggled in math. This year, that branch of the PASS program has been restructured and renamed as **Mathlab**. **Teresa Thompson, NPHS math facilitator**, worked with **Patty Marseglia, math supervisor**, to develop an efficient means of identifying students who need help beyond that which they get from their assigned math teacher. Initially, the Mathlab will address gaps in students' skills as identified on the summer packet and post-test of skills basic to Algebra 1, Geometry and Algebra 2. Students lacking in basic skills will struggle in any course because of the foundational nature of the subject in which basic skills are repeatedly encountered in increasingly difficult tasks. Students in any course can also be sent to the Mathlab upon request or recommendation of their teacher. To lessen the workload on the guidance department, math teachers will assign students to sessions via a calendar in the First Class system. They will also continue to contact parents about the tutoring assignments, as they have done in the past. The Mathlab will employ Khan Academy videos along with direct instruction in a "flipped classroom" model where students are assigned instructional videos to watch and complete practice in the classroom with the tutors. Students will have the opportunity to raise their grades by demonstrating understanding of previously learned materials through a "Test Correction and Reflection" form.

Shadows Bullying Assembly: Students in grades 7-12 will have the opportunity to see Franklin High School's award winning applied theatre program, **Shadows**, as they put on a powerful show with an anti-bullying message. *Shadows* performs at universities, high schools, and middle schools. After **Frank DaSilva, the district's substance awareness coordinator**, saw them perform twice at Kean University, he engaged their services. "I and am excited that our students are getting the opportunity to see this powerful performance," commented Mr. DaSilva. The performance is 30 minutes followed by a 15-minute discussion.

A. DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

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

Safety Topic - Transportation. No training is assigned at this time.

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

Additionally, a **Right to Know** training session for new employees has been scheduled for December 17, 2013. This training session will cover a wide range of safety topics including classroom safety and district safety policies.

HEALTH & SAFETY

SECURITY SPECIALIST

Stuart Buckman, our new **security specialist**, is scheduled to start on October 16, 2013. Mr. Buckman brings to us a wealth of experience due to his distinguished career in public safety including local law enforcement and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. This new district-wide position will be housed at the high school.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for October has been changed to a *Bomb Threat. All of our schools, including our Alternative High School Program at Somerset, are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

*The Off Site Evacuations, originally scheduled for October, have been moved to the spring to allow our security specialist to observe and participate.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

The next meeting, to update our Crisis Management Emergency Plan, will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS

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

FEMA 4046-DR-NJ

The district recently received a partial reimbursement for expenses related to Hurricane Sandy. UPDATE: Additional reimbursements are currently being prepared and should be disbursed shortly.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS/SUMMER PROJECTS

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

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

The solar systems at Somerset School, North Plainfield High School and West End School are now fully operational. The solar system at East End School has now been granted PTO (Permission to Operate) from the utility authority and should be brought on line within the next two weeks.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

The construction phase of this project is now complete and all punch list items have been corrected. A final payment request is currently being discussed with the contractor and this project should be closed out by the end of November.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2012/2013)

HARRISON WINDOWS

The replacement windows are currently being manufactured and are scheduled to be received by our contractor within the next two weeks. The windows are now tentatively scheduled for installation during the week of November 3, 2013.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2013/2014)

HIGH SCHOOL ROOFING

This project is now nearing completion. To date, all four sections of roofing have been removed and replaced and only minor coping work remains at this time.

HIGH SCHOOL GYM A/C

The new air conditioning and heating units are now in place and associated work, including plumbing, electrical and energy control wiring, is on schedule at this time. This project should reach substantial completion by the end of October.

ROD GRANTS

A total of fifteen Rod Grant Applications were submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education. These applications included a number of capital improvement projects throughout the district. We have been recently advised that all of our applications meet the criteria for Tier 1 submission and our chances of being awarded these grants is above average. Announcement of grant awards is expected within the next few months.

It should be noted that the New Jersey Department of Education received some twenty-three hundred Rod Grant Applications, and our applications were some of the first to be reviewed and receive preliminary approval.

Additional information regarding recently completed Maintenance and Capital Improvement Projects, as well as digital photographs and a current Project Register, can be viewed on our website. Please follow the link to District Operations and click on the listed tabs for more information.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools Personnel

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the attached List of Sick Leave Credits and Personal Days, as of June 30, 2013.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following student teachers as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Katherine Bianco Andrea Schmidt

Further, that the Board of Education approve Ms. Bianco and Ms. Schmidt to tutor students before and/or after school and Saturday mornings as part of the P.A.S.S./Extended Day Program at the rate of \$40 per hour.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Suzanne Sapega as a temporary AV coordinator for the middle and high school at the stipend of \$3117, to be prorated effective October 1, 2013 through February 7, 2014. (Ms. Sapega will temporarily replace Roseann Caruso in the AV position).

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education grant Karen F. Lewis, elementary teacher at East End School, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective March 16, 2014 through May 26, 2014, for child care purposes. (Ms. Lewis will begin her disability period using sick days February 15, 2014 through March 15, 2014.)

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education rescind the recommendation approving the following teachers to teach a sixth period at NPHS, effective October 8, 2013:

John Mattei Italian
Matthew Mergen French

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following new staff to teach a sixth period at NPHS as indicated, effective October 7, 2013, and that an adjusted contract to employ be issued:

Jacqueline Delatour	MA/Step 6-7	\$59,090 + \$9848 (sixth class) = \$68,938	Italian
Kevin Mills	BA/Step 10	\$58,760 + \$9793 (sixth class) = \$68,533	French

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as district substitute paraprofessionals, to be called on an as-needed basis, at the rate of \$21.14 per hour:

Jose Jarquin Noemi Nieves Suci Torres

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following fall student teacher and/or internship placement(s) from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education:

<u>Student teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Min Kim	Elementary/English	East End	Jill Fogarty (6 wks)

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Michael Cain as a custodian in the district at the Custodian/Step 2 annual salary rate of \$38,695 plus \$675 for grounds and \$675 for a boiler license, for a total of \$40,045, effective October 30, 2013 through June 30, 2014. (Mr. Cain is replacing Michael Cavadini.)

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

<u>NPMS School-Based Planning</u>		<u>Mathematics</u>	
Lauren Meyer	\$398	Michelle Motichka	\$249

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education adjust the hours of Kim Wilson McKay, breakfast/lunchroom paraprofessional at Stony Brook School from 3.0 hours per day to 1.0 hour per day, effective September 16, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the hours of the paraprofessionals working with classified students, as indicated on the attached list, effective October 17, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve Angelina Lowder, confidential secretary, to work for up to 50 hours to update student data in Genesis at the hourly rate of \$21.14.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education rescind the recommendation to appoint Matthew Mergen as co-advisor of the French Honor Society.

Further, that the Board of Education adjust the position of Debra Soriano who was approved as a co-advisor of the French Honor Society to that of sole advisor to the French Honor Society at the stipend of \$1163. (Ms. Soriano will replace Mr. Mergen.)

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve James Fitzsimmons to assist at athletic events at the rate of \$28.35 per hour.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education appoint the following staff members to work in the NPMS after-school detention program at the rate of \$25 per session:

Kimberly Annette	Anthony DellaRosa
Megan Farrell	Kate Friedman
Kyle Skrivanek	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve Nicole Hawker-Daniel as a substitute teacher in the North Plainfield Alternative High School Program at the rate of \$32 per hour.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the spring 2014 semester, the Board of Education approve Luis Rincon as a Kean University administrative intern for a total of 150 hours at NPMS, with Jerard Stephenson serving as the on-site supervisor.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Paul Bey	Josefa Salvatore
Rosa Entersz	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education adjust the employment of Cheryl Selby, paraprofessional working with a classified student at West End School, from temporary to permanent, for 3.25 hours per day at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective October 17, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following staff members to tutor students before and/or after school for up to 1.5 hours weekdays and for up to 3.0 hours on Saturday mornings in the P.A.S.S./Extended Day program, at the rate of \$40 per hour:

Jane Adamo	Danielle Fauci
Kelly Beard	Lauren Meyer
Kristen Didyoung	Kevin Mills
Megan Farrell	Aimee Pandya

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following staff members as drivers and/or chaperones in the district for various events including marching band competitions, school concerts, drama club performances and dance recitals, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour:

<u>Driver/Chaperone</u>		<u>Chaperone</u>
Gordon Cain	Antonina Chwialkowski	Pam Lefanto
Guido Carano	Patricia Chwialkowski	Zoraida Para
Eric Gomes	Paula DellaFortuna	Maryann Thorpey
Debbie Mayo	Janeann Dickerson	Theresa Tomasso
Richard Testa	Virginia Feola	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Rebecca DeGritis as a paraprofessional working with K-2 multiply disabled class at Stony Brook School for 3.50 hours per day at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, effective October 17, 2013.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the adoption of the curriculum for the following high school electives:

- Advanced Placement Literature and Composition (gr. 11-12)
- Shakespeare: Alive and Well in North Plainfield (gr. 9-12)
- Page to Stage and Screen (gr. 9-12)
- Photography (gr. 9-12)
- Yearbook (gr. 9-12)

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for the following classified students for up to ten hours per week, as indicated:

<u>ID#</u>	<u>Provided by:</u>	<u>Hrly Rate</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
HI-16-13-14	Union County Ed Services Staff	\$59.00/hour	10/3/13
HI-17-13-14	Union County Ed Services Staff	\$59.00/hour	10/8/13
HI-18-13-14	District Staff	\$52.24/hour	10/7/13

Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for identified student HI-19-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Educere, effective October 16, 2013, pending a child study team evaluation.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-06-13-14 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$850.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student BBBBBB-13-14 at Bright Beginnings Learning Center at the annual cost of \$41,580, to be prorated effective October 17, 2013.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of the following classified students at Montgomery Academy in Basking Ridge at the annual cost of \$51,931.80 each, effective October 15, 2013. Transportation is required.

CCCCCC-13-14

DDDDDD-13-14

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-20-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Educere, effective October 18, 2013.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-21-13-14 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective October 21, 2013.

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

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

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated September 30, 2013.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated October 16, 2013.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve of the disposal of equipment whose useful value has expired and/or is irreparable as follows:

NPHS/MS Titmus Optical Vision Tester Model #OV-7S8552

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the NPMS/HS field trips as indicated on the attached list.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education acknowledge that emergency exit fire drills were conducted on all pupil transportation vehicles during the month of October, 2013 in accordance with NJSA 6:21-11:4.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the tentative field trips for the students at Stony Brook School, as per the attached list.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve reimbursement to the following retiree for vacation days earned based on his retirement as per the negotiated Agreement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Retirement Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Michael Cavadini	19	9/1/13	\$3,762.19

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education and the Green Brook Township Public School District has on July 24, 2013, approved a transportation jointure between the two districts; and

WHEREAS, Green Brook has now requested that a student from their district be transported by North Plainfield transportation services; and

WHEREAS, Route #MID13-14 is available, and the Green Brook Board of Education agrees to pay North Plainfield a total cost of \$4,663.23 as compensation for the service provided;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Plainfield Board of Education does hereby approve the route and cost as determined, per the service agreement for the 2013-2014 school year.

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

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

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2013.

Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – no meeting scheduled at this time.

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

Policy Meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper reviewed current issues.

SCSBA – Mr. Kasper, Ms. Dodd, and Mr. Branan attended a dinner and workshop.

SCESC – Ms. Mullen reported on issues discussed at a recent meeting. She mentioned finances are in the black and new programs are starting.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

Mr. Sternberg reviewed the annual School Boards convention packet that was given to the Board.

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

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Future Agenda Items

There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on November 6, 2013 at 7:00 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg