

November 20, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on November 20, 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 – Absent, notified |                   |

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 17 members of the staff and public.

#### **Introduction of New Staff**

Dr. Birnbaum welcomed Mr. Buckman to the Board.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the public session minutes of November 6, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of November 6, 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 dated October 31, 2013 in the amount of \$6,094,505.44.

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 September 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 |

### **Comments from the Public**

Upon request of the chair for topics from the public, John Langenbach commented on positive behavior of students and urged students not to text and walk at the same time and to cross at designated crosswalks.

### **Student Representative Report**

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

The freshmen class continues to have weekly meetings to discuss fundraiser ideas. We have already had one bake sale and were very successful, making over \$120.00 for the class account. This was due to the high amount of student participation. We have another bake sale scheduled for Tuesday the 19th after school. We are also discussing ideas for other fundraisers for the future, including a Valentine's Day sale.

We continue to have high rates of attendance at all of our meetings, with over 20 students who attend regularly.

The students in Mrs. McEnroe's period 5 & 6 Cooking for Today classes enjoyed the field trip to Shop Rite in Garwood. The registered dietitian discussed the career path to becoming a registered dietitian and the opportunities there are with that degree. She then gave them a tour and offered healthy snacks as we walked around. She discussed label reading, unit pricing and food storage. We ended the tour with a question and answer period. Thank you for the opportunity to go on this trip.

Students were excited about the publication of the first edition of *Tunlaw*. The students enjoyed seeing their writing in print and sharing their work with the community. A great deal of learning took place in the process of publishing the fall edition and students feel more confident about their role within the club. In addition, many new students have expressed interest in *Tunlaw* and look forward to joining the staff.

Editors and staff are now working on the December edition of *Tunlaw*.

In the Child Development class the pre-schoolers learned about families and the Thanksgiving holiday. They created a "Thanking Tree" in the class where each one of them added a feather stating what they were thankful for. Under that tree, is a multi-cultural puppets created by the pre-schoolers representing diversity and unity the same time. We also created a "Friendships Bloom Here" poster for the door. A Turkey project was also put together to represent each of the student as a special person in the Child Development family. During Thanksgiving week, we will have a small class party planned for preschoolers.

HOPE Club has nearly completed planting the flower bulbs around the middle school and high school campus! The dry fall has kept us watering later than usual. We are also raising newly hatched brook trout; the eggs were delivered in mid October from Pequest Trout Hatchery. Our first field trip was to Duke Farms in October. There we examined different habitats from wetlands to dry meadow and forest. We were fortunate to catch and release a number of insects preparing for the winter including walnut caterpillars and other unusual caterpillars, a variety of butterflies, and grasshoppers. The next field trip will be to the Lakota Wolf Preserve.

November 20, 2013

During October, the middle school student council had their annual t-shirt sale and sold nearly 100 shirts. Additionally, we had our Back-to-School night pizza party with approximately 15 families in attendance. On October 25th, the middle school held a Halloween Dance where 100 students in attendance. During October, we began the Student Council "Partnership" Food Drive to help bring in food items for the North Plainfield Food Pantry. The food drive continues into early December. We held our annual Student vs. Staff Kickball game to raise money for the food drive - we raised approximately \$130 in cash and food donations.

Upcoming events include the winter dance scheduled for December 13th and the food sort on December 6th.

The boys and girls Cross Country team has completed their first season. Seventeen boys and girls ran long distance, many for the first time in their lives. We traveled to parks near and far to run the 3.1 mile course, some flat and some hilly.

After hosting a team Lap-a-thon and empanada sale, we are able to purchase long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts and sweatpants for the runners as well as host a team dinner at Pepe's for a significantly reduced cost to the scholar-athletes.

Now it is time to recruit and set our season goals for next year.

The middle school jazz band has had a large increase in membership since last year. Interest is very high. After our first few rehearsals our numbers have gone up to 20. (last year was 8)

We are preparing to play at the winter concert, which we didn't do in last year.

### Interact Highlights

#### November 1<sup>st</sup>- First Fall Blood Drive

- Collected 77 pints-each pint saves 3 lives
- Saved 231 lives in total

#### Food Drive- October 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup>

- Ms. Brain's homeroom collected the most food items
- Winners receive Dunkin Donuts breakfast

#### First Rutgers Basketball Game- November 14<sup>th</sup>

- Work with Rotarians to staff concession stands at Rutgers basketball games. Working with Rotarians helps raise funds for the Rotary Club Scholarship Program. Twenty-three Interact students attended. Rutgers played Yale university. Long fun night!

### Upcoming Events

Joshua's Closet-Clothing Drive

Bake Sale

Teachers Dress Down for Philippines

Canuckling continues to meet to vote on submissions for this year's issue. The theme on which the students voted is "Wired." We have also come up with subcategories for this theme including #hashtag, #zoomingin, #zoomingout, and #unplugged. We have gotten many wonderful submissions in the creative writing category, including many poems and a short story or two. We are in need of artwork, so we, as a club, are trying to reach out to the photography students and art students for submissions. We continue to discuss ideas for this year's club t-shirt as well.

The National Junior Honor Society has had 2 successful bake sales. The funds raised for bake sales will help to pay for the box top initiative reward breakfast as well as fund a NJHS field trip. Several students have participated in essay contests that were introduced at NJHS meetings. Many students have also volunteered to tutor and to usher at school events.

### Presentation

Ms. Patricia Marseglia and Mr. Jamil Maroun, presented the Board with an overview of the Project Lead the Way program of studies.

Mr. Robert Goellner and Mr. John Fellin presented Mini Grants provided by the North Plainfield Education Foundation to various teachers in support of their programs.

Mr. Goellner discussed with the Board new initiatives to build and grow the Education Foundation, which included a new logo.

### Superintendent's Report

## RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

### **Staff**

**The North Plainfield Education Foundation** is awarding mini-grants to the following staff members in the amount of \$250 and \$200 respectively: **Kathy Porter, East End School, "Students Take Flight" and Deanne D'Armiento, North Plainfield Middle School, "Canuck-A-Cycle."** In addition, the foundation is awarding, for the first, time, a mini grant of \$250 to a project which is not part of the school system, but involves the district's students: **Caroll Canales' North Plainfield Glee Club**, which focuses on anti-bullying. Founded in 1997, the Foundation, under the leadership of **Robert Goellner, president**, is a non-profit, fund-raising organization dedicated to encouraging excellence in education in the North Plainfield community and carries out its mission by awarding mini-grants to fund special projects suggested by the district's teachers. Trustees of the Foundation include a cross section of the community representing residents, the Board of Education, school administration, teaching staff and businesses.

### **Schools**

#### Elementary Schools

On November 14, 2013, every **third grade student** in West End School, East End School, and Stony Brook School received the gift of a dictionary from the **Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary Club**. Distributed by Rotarians **Mary Forbes, borough council member and Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, school superintendent as well as community leaders North Plainfield Mayor Michael Giordano and Chief of Police William Parenti**-- the dictionaries were purchased by Rotary through The Dictionary Project, a South Carolina-based nonprofit organization. **West End third grade students** also collected coins in their Polio Pigs. They collected \$92.68 which was given to the Rotary representatives when they came to the third grade classes to distribute dictionaries. The students collected coins for a month prior to the dictionary distribution.

### West End School

The annual **Thanksgiving Sing** will be held on Wednesday, November 27 at 9:30 a.m. “This is always a fun event where the whole student body comes together to a sing-a-long of seasonal melodies and ends with the traditional ‘Five Fat Turkeys.’ Five staff members dress up like turkeys and dance up the aisle and ask many audience members to join them. This is a school favorite event,” stated **Beth Sobel, principal**.

The third grade **annual food drive** is underway. The food collected will be donated to **St. Vincent de Paul which is housed at Saint Joseph’s Church in North Plainfield**. This is a service learning project for West End’s third graders.

**PTA Book Fair December 3 – December 5**. Preview Day is Tuesday, December 3. Students visit the book fair and make a wish list for their parents. December 3 is also Book Fair Family Night from 6:30 – 8:30 PM. There will be story time for the kids, plus hot cocoa and cookies. Class shopping days will be Wednesday and Thursday, December 4 – 5 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### East End School

The **Helping Hearts Fund** raised money to support families in need at East End School. During the week of October 28, school counselor **Nicole Rivlin** and student liaison **Lynnelle Thomas** facilitated an estimating contest. Throughout the week, students were invited during their lunch period to guess how many candy corns were housed in a huge jar. Each time a student guessed, the cost was twenty five cents. At the end of the week, all guesses were examined and the winner was third grade student **Gabriela Montenegro** who had the closest estimate. She won an enormous stuffed animal and her class received the jar of candy corn to eat.

Rain did not put a damper on the **East End Halloween parade**. Rather than march on the school’s field, students and families gathered around the gymnasium and were entertained once again by the members of the high school band and color guard. **Tom Mazur**, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts, accompanied band director **Heather Fencik** to the school and cheered the band as they entertained everyone with their incredible talent. “Everyone applauded and you could hear the positive remarks about the amazing costumes worn by students and teachers. We have the best Halloween parade because the high school students make it very special each year. We are extremely grateful to them for sharing their talent,” remarked **Kathleen Herrmann, principal**.

**Walking Wednesday** was very special at East End on November 6 because **Mayor Michael Giordano** and district business administrator **Don Sternberg** joined Ms. Herrmann and greeted the students as they approached the front entrance. All children who walked to school shook their hands and were able to select either a snap bracelet or pencil as a reward. Walking to school promotes good health and safety. “It is such a nice touch to have Mayor Giordano and Don Sternberg greeting the students upon their arrival. It truly makes it special. Awareness is being raised each day and walking is becoming more and more popular,” stated Ms. Herrmann.

The students at East End had a real treat this week as teacher naturalists from the **New Jersey Audubon Society** presented **Bus to You** in every class. The workshop supported the nature objective as well as science and social studies. Students were able to view and

touch different insects as they learned about habitats and the role of each insect in the environment, and discussed the physical characteristics of each insect. “Students were thrilled with this experience and because the workshop was presented one class at a time, the students were able to ask questions and learned a great deal. Again, we thank our generous PTO for supporting our students,” said Ms. Herrmann.

### **Stony Brook School**

**Stony Brook’s All School Read Aloud:** The utilization of an “All School Read Aloud” has been a very important component of literacy at Stony Brook School. This year, the school based planning team has selected the story *Every Kindness* by Joanne Woodson. It is the story of a young girl’s struggle to fit into a class that struggled to accept her. *Every Kindness* was the 2013 recipient of the Jane Addams Book Award. The Jane Addams Children's Book Awards are given annually to the children's books published the preceding year that effectively promote the cause of peace, social justice, world community, as well as meeting conventional standards for excellence. The story, *Every Kindness*, will serve to enhance the daily anti-bullying themes of Stony Brook’s Jumpstart program, while also promoting literacy for all students.

**Trash to Treasure - Recycling Rewards:** Stony Brook students and staff have developed a new understanding of an old concept, “One person’s junk maybe another person’s treasure,” as two recycling projects have proven surprising results. The first project was Stony Brook School’s **Garage Sale**. The PTA sale was held on an October weekend, as the outdoor blacktop area held over thirty tables of donated, gently used articles. These articles included clothing, shoes, sheets, curtains, jewelry, books, CDs, household items and toys. Every item was sold for under \$5.00, with most articles going for \$1.00 and \$2.00. At the end of the day, committee members counted the cash and were surprised to find a \$600.00 profit with all proceeds donated to SB’s Cultural Enrichment program. The second initiative known as “Treasured Art” was initiated by **Sonya Larado**, Stony Brook’s art teacher. Ms. Larado, **PTA members** and **Principal Cathy Kobylarz** have formed a Courtyard Beautification project with the shared goal of bringing education outdoors through gardens and recycled art projects created and maintained by the students. The word went out over the summer for all families to save their plastic, bottle lids for a surprise art project. Ms. Larado selected Van Gogh’s *Starry, Starry Night* as the first piece to be replicated in bottle caps. The students are once again surprised to watch the project slowly come together. Trash to Treasure is the latest lesson learned at Stony Brook School.

### **Somerset School**

**Hispanic Parent Night:** On November 5, 2013, Somerset School hosted their third Hispanic Parent Night. Geared toward the Spanish-speaking parents, but open to all to attend, the objective of the event is to strengthen the communication between Spanish-speaking parents and Somerset School by disseminating information about the district, school, and out-of-district services. It also provides an informal setting for parents, children, and teachers of Somerset School to congregate over traditional homemade foods. Hispanic Parent Night featured four non-profit organizations which provided parents information about resources that are available for them: **Maria Luisa de Moreno Foundation (MLMIF)**, **Family Support Organization (FSO)**, **Women’s Health & Counseling Center (WHCC)**, **Resource Center of Somerset**, and **Healthfirst NJ**.

**MLMIF** focuses on collaborating with governmental services and other non-profit agencies that cater to the immigrant community regardless of their country of origin. They offer support through social programs that will give immigrants access to a higher education so that they can obtain a better quality of life and ultimately become less dependent on governmental aids. **FSO** of Somerset County, a partner within New Jersey's Division of Children's System of Care, was created to help children with complex emotional, mental health or behavioral issues. **WHCC** has been an integral community resource for women and teens since 1973. WHCC works to reduce the financial, ethnic, language or other barriers that prevent people from obtaining the services they need. **The Resource Center of Somerset** provides help & hope for people affected by domestic abuse. All services are provided free-of-charge. Finally, **Healthfirst NJ** is a not-for-profit managed care organization dedicated to providing low or no-cost health insurance to eligible individuals and families in various New Jersey service areas through Medicare Advantage plans and NJ Family Care.

"The event was a success in fulfilling our goal of creating an environment conducive to community awareness and communication. Parents did convey to the staff how informative and important events like this are for them in the North Plainfield School District. They felt the PowerPoint presentation assisted with addressing their questions and concerns about the district. All parties involved are looking forward to the next event and all that Hispanic Parent Night has to offer," remarked **Luis Jaime**, assistant principal and event organizer.

### NPMS

**"The Great Kick-ball Classic"**: On November 13, 2013, the middle school held its annual **students vs. staff kickball game** to collect additional food for the district's **Partnership Food Drive initiative**. This traditional activity pitted the faculty against students of the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With over 150 students cheering on their peers and teachers, the teachers rallied to win on social studies teacher **Dave Hooker's** game winning homerun to clear the bases. On hand to throw out the ceremonial first pitch, assistant principal **John Ferguson** thanked the students and staff for their support in raising over \$120.00 and providing an additional 50 cans of food.

**"Activity-based Learning, Medieval Style"**: During the first part of November, the eighth grade teams worked in multiple content areas learning about the Middle Ages. The team of teachers planned two days of activities for students to deepen their understanding of the Middle Age time period through a variety of media. On Tuesday, November 5, students assembled in the auditorium during their morning periods to watch a documentary on life in the Middle Ages and excerpts from the film *Robin Hood*. After the film, the students assembled for a panel discussion to review what they saw in the films and what they learned in their social studies classes. In the afternoon, students created a personal coat-of-arms to reflect their learning about heraldry. On November 6, students assembled in the lunchroom to learn about the Black Plague and participate in the "Exponential Growth" experiment to visually represent how the plague spread throughout the world. In the afternoon, students demonstrated their knowledge by creating and interpreting exponential equations in math class.

**"Cave Paintings"**: Students in **John Thompson's** science class found a creative way to study the art of storytelling (narratives) by examining the cave paintings or petroglyphs of early humans. Students created their own "cave paintings" through graphic organizers that

included understanding the essential concepts of setting, characterizations, plot, and resolution. Students shared their stories orally with their peers and wrote narratives.

**“Faster Than a Speeding.....Gray Hound?”** Science teacher **Elio Mayo**, in presenting a unit on speed, velocity, and acceleration, had his students utilize the internet to come up with a memorable lesson. With the assistance of the website, *speedofanimals.com*, students were able to input their height and see how fast an animal could go if it had similar characteristics. Students then picked various animals and created table and bar graphs to show the differences between animals and humans and how speed and velocity are related to weight and acceleration.

### **NPHS**

On November 14, **Bridge to Employment (BTE)** students, under the leadership of **Priscila Weber, student liaison**, had another day-long, out of district experience. One group reported to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital to participate in their **C.H.A.T. (Careers & Health Awareness for Teens)** program, in which they listened to a series of lectures by physicians and nurses and then were given a tour and explanation of several departments including Physical/Occupational Therapy, Child Life, Pathology/Morgue, and Radiology. The second group reported to Johnson and Johnson's IT center at Raritan to participate in their **Digital Camp**.

**Interact Club** held a food drive which ended on November 15. More than 500 items were collected from the high school homerooms to be given to the local food bank for the holidays. The homeroom with the most canned goods -- senior homeroom 143 with teachers **Ellen Brain and Adriana Pequeno** --won a free breakfast from Dunkin Donuts! “In a message on high school news, **Alexander Pereira, advisor to the club** noted, “I want to start by saying how grateful the Interact Club and I are for your contributions. On Friday, November 15th, more than 500 items were collected from the high school homerooms. Thanks to your support many families in our community will have food this Thanksgiving. We can't thank you enough for stepping up once again and helping the Interact Club fight against hunger.”

The **Marching Canucks**, under the direction of **Heather Fencik, music director** and **Shannon Shotwell color guard advisor**, had the performance of a lifetime at MetLife Stadium, taking home fourth place (out of nineteen) with a school record-breaking score of 94.2 at **US Bands National Championships**, Saturday evening, November 9, 2013! They also took home the **Cadets Award of Excellence** for achievement in creativity, performance, and overall effect! Congratulations on a fantastic, award-winning season to all members of the Marching Canucks!

The **NPHS Choral Music Department** will present a **Cabaret Dinner** and musical performance, under the direction of **Amy Six, choral director**, on Friday, November 22, 2013. Tickets can be purchased through November 18 and are \$10 each.

**Melvin Edwards, foremost American sculptor**, is scheduled to address the NPHS advanced art classes on the morning of December 2, 2013. **Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts**, saw a lengthy article on Mr. Edwards in the *New York Times* (10/21/12) last year and called him. The *Times* was covering his sculpture show at the Museum of Modern Art. Mr. Edwards, now 75 years old, has had exhibits at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Neuberger Museum of Art in Purchase New York, and the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. Mr. Edwards lives in NYC but has a workshop in Plainfield.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

### **EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING**

**Safety Topic - Operations.** The safety topic for November is confined space awareness.

**Safety Topic - Transportation.** All of our van drivers have now been scheduled to attend a harassment and bullying training session specifically created for school bus and van drivers. This training session is being provided by the Union County Educational Services Commission at no cost to the district.

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**

#### **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

A joint **Safety Committee and Crisis Team Meeting** was held on November 12, 2013 at Watchung School. This meeting covered a wide range of topics including an introduction of **Stuart Buckman, security specialist**, and the updating of the **Crisis Management Emergency Plan (flipchart)**. Additionally, a representative from our insurance provider, Stephen Perrin, attended this meeting. It should be noted that he was impressed that such a large number of members were in attendance and that we as a district have embraced the importance of a comprehensive safety program. It is his intent to use our program as a model for other member districts throughout the state.

#### **SECURITY SPECIALIST**

At the current time, Mr. Buckman is in the process of evaluating a number of safety-related issues throughout the district. Among these issues is the drop off/pick up zone at West End School and traffic concerns at the Somerset School. Mr. Buckman has been in contact with our local traffic division, and they are currently evaluating several options.

#### **SECURITY DRILLS**

The security drill for November is a lock down drill. All of our schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

#### **FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS**

The district was recently notified that funding has been appropriated by FEMA for Mitigation Grants to be awarded in Somerset County. These grants target specific projects related to disaster preparedness. At the current time, we have three active grant submissions that include the installation of emergency back-up generating systems.

#### **CCTV SYSTEMS**

The CCTV system at Somerset School is now operational. This system, including twelve interior and four exterior cameras, is the latest addition to the district-wide surveillance program. Additionally, the district has now installed CCTV systems in all of our buses. Accessible in real time, this system includes GPS tracking.

## **MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

A complete listing and status update of all current maintenance projects has been provided with this report under separate cover.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)**

### **DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY**

The solar system at the East End School is still awaiting PTO (Permission to Operate) from the utility authority. We were recently advised that all required submissions are now under review and the system should be on-line within thirty days.

### **HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**

The construction phase of this project is now complete and all punch list items were corrected. All close out documents have been received by the district and a final payment request has been processed.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2012/2013)**

### **HARRISON WINDOWS**

The installation phase of this project has now been completed. The only open item at this time is the installation of new window shades that was approved as a change order. We anticipate the installation of these shades within thirty days. Once these are installed, a close-out meeting will be scheduled.

## **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (2013/2014)**

### **HIGH SCHOOL ROOFING**

This project is now complete and all punch list items have been corrected. The contractor will return in the spring to touch up the seams and to spread granular fill to any areas disturbed by the heating and air conditioning contractor. All close out documents and warranties have now been received by the district and a final payment request has been processed.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GYM A/C**

This project is currently in the start-up phase and the final programming of the energy management system is nearing completion. Upon completion of these items, a close out meeting will be scheduled.

## **ROD GRANTS**

We were recently advised that all fifteen of our applications met the criteria for Tier 1 submission and our chances of being awarded these grants are currently above average. Announcement of grant awards is expected within the next sixty days. 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. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the Board member and/or staff member conference and travel expenses, as per the attached list.

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allen – Aye    | Kathleen Mullen – Aye   |
| David Branán – Aye    | Nancy Szaroleta – Aye   |
| Sandra Dodd – Abstain | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the following fall student teacher and/or internship placement(s) from Kean University:

| <u>Student Teacher</u> | <u>Class</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Cooperating Teacher(s)</u> |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Kenneth Tobin          | Mathematics  | NPMS          | Jennifer Riolo                |
| Scott Conroy           | Mathematics  | NPMS          | Lauren Meyer                  |

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allen – Aye    | Kathleen Mullen – Aye   |
| David Branán – Aye    | Nancy Szaroleta – Aye   |
| Sandra Dodd – Abstain | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education grant Jacquelyn Fields, student liaison coordinator at NPMS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, from April 15, 2014 through June 1, 2014, for child care purposes. (Ms. Fields will begin her disability period on March 3, 2014 through April 14, 2014 using accrued sick days.)

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allen – Aye    | Kathleen Mullen – Aye   |
| David Branán – Aye    | Nancy Szaroleta – Aye   |
| Sandra Dodd – Abstain | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that the Board of Education approve the certificated staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken between July and September 2013.

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Thomas Allen – Aye    | Kathleen Mullen – Aye   |
| David Branán – Aye    | Nancy Szaroleta – Aye   |
| Sandra Dodd – Abstain | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, 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, effective November 21, 2013:

Lorena Rivera

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve Patricia Lukacs Cox, teacher of mathematics at NPHS, to tutor students in the P.A.S.S./Extended Day Program before and/or after school for up to 1.5 hours weekdays and for up to 3.0 hours on Saturday mornings, at the rate of \$40 per hour.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve Shane Repmann as a substitute teacher in the Alternative High School Program, at the rate of \$32 per hour.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Catherine Grundman as assistant girls' basketball coach at NPHS at the stipend of \$6,689, and that a supplemental contract be issued.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Arthur Leandro as a probationary night head custodian at NPHS at the Step 2, head custodian rate of \$46,435 plus \$800 HS stipend for a total of \$47,235, effective December 13, 2013 through March 15, 2014. (Mr. Leandro will replace Maria Serrano.)

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as substitute custodians in the district at the hourly rate of \$18.29, pending completion of the employment process:

|                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| William Dixon         | Earl St. Louis          |
| Thomas Allen – Aye    | Kathleen Mullen – Aye   |
| David Branan – Aye    | Nancy Szaroleta – Aye   |
| Sandra Dodd – Abstain | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Heather Shealy as a district K-12 substitute teacher.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Tara Naturile as a temporary special education teacher at Stony Brook School, at the BA/Step 1 annual salary rate of \$55,490, effective December 2, 2013 through January 24, 2014.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that for the 2013-2014 school year, the Board of Education approve Brett Bisconti as a volunteer assistant to the boys' basketball coach at NPHS.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Dodd abstaining, that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Barbara Sobel, academic support teacher at East End School, for reasons of retirement, effective February 1, 2013.

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

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the adoption of the following curricula in the programs noted below:

Freshman Transitions (Grade 9)

School Counseling Programs (Grades 7-8)

"I Like Me: Building Self-Esteem & Assertion in Middle School Students"

"Healthy Behavior and Relationships"

"Bully Busters: Learning Skills to Prevent Bullying"

Thomas Allen – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

David Branan – Aye

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye

Sandra Dodd – 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 students undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$850 each:

PSY-10-13-14

PSY-11-13-14

PSY-12-13-14

Thomas Allen – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

David Branan – Aye

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye

Sandra Dodd – 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-23-13-14, to be provided by district teachers for up to ten hours per week, effective November 18, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

David Branan – Aye

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye

Sandra Dodd – 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-24-13-14, to be provided by Educere for up to ten hours per week, effective November 26, 2013.

Thomas Allen – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

David Branan – Aye

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board hereby approves a long-term suspension for student #150371 from October 9, 2013 through November 27, 2013. Student #150371's return will be subject to an evaluation by the Child Study Team.

Thomas Allen – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

David Branan – Aye

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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 October 31, 2013.

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 November 20, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve change order number LP-003, for the NPHS Media Center Project, in the amount of \$2,775.00 for the purpose of correcting unforeseen conditions related to column repair and preparation not included in original scope of work. The cost of the project will now be as follows:

|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Original Installation Cost.....     | \$133,300.00         |
| Change Order LP-001 .....           | \$ 8,368.36          |
| Change Order LP-002 .....           | \$ 6,851.02          |
| Change Order LP-003 .....           | \$ 2,775.00          |
| Adjusted Total Installation Cost... | \$151,294.38         |
| <u>Project Allowance.....</u>       | <u>\$ - 5,000.00</u> |
| Final Project Cost.....             | \$146,294.38         |

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

| School            | Date     | Purpose   | Location                         | Cost   | Transportation   |
|-------------------|----------|---|----------------------------------|--------|------------------|
| NPHS<br>E. Hansen | 11/21/13 | Community Service for ROTC Cadets.  | Chimney Rock Inn<br>Gillette, NJ | \$0.00 | District (1 bus) |
| NPMS<br>S. Sapega | 12/4/13  | Honors reading class participating in debate. Part of RIISA network. Topic: Bullying in Schools | Joyce Kilmer MS<br>Milltown, NJ  | \$0.00 | District (1 bus) |

**Correspondence**

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – Dr. Rich reviewed major topics discussed and the next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2013.

Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – currently working on the Program of Studies

Finance & Facilities – next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 5pm.

Policy Meeting – Mr. Sternberg updated the Board on the status of updating revised policy.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – Ms. Dodd reported on recent meeting issues related to Education Law.

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

**Old Business**

Dr. Birnbaum asked the Board about the Board's preference regarding food and beverage being allowed in the new media center. Board preference was to maintain the current restrictions on food in the media center.

**New Business**

Mr. Buckman provided the Board with an overview of major initiatives and progress on issues related to improving safety and security throughout the district.

Mr. Allen asked about Educere access and improving access for students. Discussed having students confirm logging on to system with a staff member prior to beginning the courses.

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

**Current Events in Education**

Ms. Dodd asked about issues in-district related to the Affordable Healthcare Act.

**Comments from the Public**

John Langenbach commented on issue of pride and expressed positive comments.

Tracy Peters expressed her appreciation with the Marching Canucks Band.

**Future Agenda Items**

Per Presentation calendar

**Adjournment**

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on December 4, 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. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg