

April 3, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on April 3, 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
David Branan
Sandra Dodd
Thomas Kasper

Kathleen Mullen
Nancy Szaroleta
Linda Bond-Nelson

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Jihad Womack, Student Representative and approximately members 13 of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the public session minutes of March 20, 2013 and March 27, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of March 20, 2013 and March 27, 2013.

Comments from the Public

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

Student Representative Report

The student report was presented by Jihad Womack as follows:

Interact Club

Our tutoring program is available three times a week. During the week, ten of our dedicated Interact club members help middle school students struggling with their academic subjects. They stay after school until 3:30 helping them primarily in math, but also assist them in understanding other subjects. One of our members, Khamayah McClain, has taken time during her study hall to have a supervised tutoring session for a student who has not been able to come after school. Our program has become a success as many teachers have mentioned that the students' performance in school has improved.

On Thursday, March 21, the club has received their Interact club t-shirts. We bought them in red to represent Rutgers University and the blood drives that we have twice a year.

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Blood Drive, Friday, April 12, 7:30am-12:30pm, High School Gymnasium. Anyone that is interest in donating blood, please call the high school. Ms. Pereira will return your call so that a time can be set up for you to donate blood.

Middle School Student Council

During March we completed our school-wide fundraiser. We raised approximately \$3000 to help offset the cost of field trips. We also planned the Middle School Spirit Week which was held from March 18th through March 22nd. Each day had a different theme, including Twin Day, Pajama Day, Spirit Day, Hat Day, and Wacky Tacky Day. We also had a 7th grade versus 8th grade hallway decorating contest. The 7th grade theme was "Candy Land" and the 8th grade theme was "All Around the World." The 8th grade won.

The student council is also hosting the Middle School Talent Show. Auditions are being held this week and rehearsals start at the end of this week. The talent show is scheduled for Thursday April 18th at 7pm in the auditorium. We will be spending time in April getting ready for the talent show as well as planning the 8th grade dance.

Yearbook

Yearbook is on the road to completing our last publishing deadline. Yearbooks can be purchased at www.balfour.com and are \$85

Middle School Newspaper - The Walnut Review

The middle school newspaper club just distributed their 3rd issue of the "Walnut Review for the year. They covered recent events in the middle school and also shared their opinions on current events. They are already working on their 4th issue for the year.

NJ Science League

Competition testing occurred Thurs., March 14, at Governor Livingston HS. Our teams were:

- Biology 1 [Honors Bio]
- Biology II [AP Bio]
- Chem. 1 [Honors Chem.]
- Physics 1 [Honors Phys.]

Competition was fierce between Governor Livingston, NPHS, Watchung Hills & Scotch Plains-Fanwood [our division]. Last competition is April 11 at NPHS

HOPE Club:

The HOPE Club is participating in the Ocean Days Program this month. This year's topic is Climate Change. Middle School students will attend the Open Days Programs on April 10th and High School students on April 11th at Rutgers. Both groups have been working on posters that show their research on demersal (bottom dwelling) fish in the Atlantic Ocean off New Jersey that are being affected by climate change.

Middle School Jazz Band

Not too much new with the MS Jazz Band. We're in rehearsal mode, looking forward to our spring concert in May!

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Drama Club

Commendations to all students who performed in the Spring Musical "Hairspray". They all worked EXTREMELY hard for three months and put on a fantastically phenomenal production!

In April the Drama Club is going to be working on: the District Arts Festival's "Living Art Exhibit" and games room; the Teen Arts Festival at RVCC; and preparation for the Theatre Showcase and Thespian Induction.

The club has collected toys, books and clothes for a children's charity and is still collecting wish list items for the Humane Society in Plainfield.

Finally, the club will be selling popcorn to raise money for Autism Speaks.

Danz Club

The Spanish Dance Club is working hard on our routines that will be presented on various dates. As of now we are practicing our salsa. Our deadline is April 2013 to have our salsa routine finished. We will be presenting the dance at the District Arts Festival. We will be practicing other dance routines for the Somerset Multicultural Fair. Our dance routine will be completed before May 2013.

Canuck Mentor

Mentors will be attending the Olympic themed Lock in this month to promote peer leadership skills. Activities will include team bonding and a peer leadership seminar. Students who attended the Fall training are eager to share their newfound knowledge!

Interviews for next year's program will be taking place the last week of May. All returning mentor's look forward to the expansion of the program to include the 7th, 8th, and 10th grade mentees and the implementation for a new charity initiative for the 2013-2014 school year.

Juniors who are returning to the program next year will soon begin the planning of the summer mentor training and will be working with guidance to learn new ways to educate fellow students about anti-bullying and conflict resolution.

Steppers

Although we are finished for the season, the Step team will be holding a final meeting where team pins and medals will be distributed to last year and this year's members.

Canuckling

The Canuckling Club has received many submissions in poetry, short stories, and art work from students this year. The club continues to review the submissions, and the editors will be compiling this year's issue soon. We also ordered T-shirts as a reward for the dedicated members of our club. We look forward to an amazing Canuckling Magazine, which will be completed sometime in May.

French Honor Society

The French Honor Society conducted another successful crepe sale in March and inducted 9 new members to the French Honor Society during the World Language Honor Society induction ceremony.

Upcoming Events

Scholarship Clearinghouse Interview Night, Thursday, April 4, 7pm
District Arts Festival Friday, April 12 6-9pm NPHS
Top Ten Student/Teacher Recognition Dinner Tuesday, April 16 7pm HS Library
Middle School Talent Show Thursday, April 18 7pm Auditorium
HS PTO Fashion Show Friday, April 19th 7pm Cafeteria

Presentation

An overview of the Summer Programs was presented by Diana Sefchik, John Ferguson, Reginald Saint-Rose, and John Tarnofsky.

Jane Delaney and Maria Araneo provided the Board with an overview of the Bridge and Pathways program.

Jerard Stephenson provided the Board with an overview of the PASS program.

Dr. Birnbaum mentioned Mr. Kasper becoming a Certificated Board Member.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Board of Education Members

Congratulations to **Tom Kasper** who has become a **Certificated Board Member (CBM)**. As noted on the **New Jersey School Boards Association's (NJSBA)** website, "The Certificated Board Member is the first tier of the NJSBA Board Member Academy certification program. Areas of study are designed to give members a firm foundation in the essential governance skills needed to carry out their responsibilities. To receive this certification, board members must earn at least 20 credits and attain some credits in all of the following CBM core topic areas: Relationships: board/superintendent, board/community, board/board; Policy, Curriculum; School Finance; School Law; Labor Relations; Board Operations."

Staff

The following six outstanding educators have been selected from the North Plainfield School District as the **2013 "Teacher of the Year" Award Recipients**. North Plainfield administrators will be inviting each recipient with a guest to a special luncheon at Giovanna's Restaurant on June 10, 2013. In addition, these educators will be honored at North Plainfield's Teacher Recognition Ceremony on Wednesday, June 5, 2013:

NPHS: Heather Fencik, Instrumental Music Teacher

NPMS: Jen Riolo, Math Teacher

Somerset: Mary Castro Fifth Grade Teacher

East End: Kathleen Porter, Fourth Grade Teacher

Stony Brook: Deborah Lendach, Kindergarten Teacher

West End: Dorian Parreott, Instrumental Music Teacher

Students

NPBS “Top Ten” for Class of 2013: Listed below are the top ten students along with the names of the teachers that most influenced their lives. Students’ college acceptances, thus far, are listed beneath their names. Students and staff will be recognized at a special dinner on April 16, 2013 in the NPBS media center:

<u>Student</u>	<u>Teacher</u>
<p>Megan Hynes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Johnson & Wales University 	<p>Jennifer Sloan (English)</p>
<p>Flor Ledezma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers University, Montclair University, Northeastern University and New York University, University of Massachusetts (Amherst) 	<p>Debra Soriano (World Languages)</p>
<p>Daniela Lopez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers University, Fordham University, Brown University 	<p>Jennifer Sloan (English)</p>
<p>Ethan Mamuric</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers University, Seton Hall University, The Pennsylvania State University 	<p>Roseann Caruso (Elementary, WE)</p>
<p>Evita Nwosu-Sylvester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seton Hall University 	<p>Patrick Wallace (World Languages)</p>
<p>Ashley Ramirez</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William Patterson University, College of Mount St. Vincent at Manhattan, St. John's University and Seton Hall University 	<p>Robert Lake (Social Studies)</p>
<p>Tiana Rosa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rider University, Monmouth University, Drew University, New York University, University of Hartford 	<p>Jennifer Sloan (English)</p>
<p>Kevin Sani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers University, Columbia University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Yale University 	<p>Alexandra Pereira (World Languages)</p>
<p>Michael Sani</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers University (Honors Program), Columbia University, University of Rochester, Cornell University, Carnegie Mellon University, Tufts University, Brown University, Johns Hopkins University 	<p>Sarah O'Donnell, Ph.D. (Science)</p>
<p>Jihad Womack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rutgers University, Montclair University, University of Southern California, Yale University, University of Pennsylvania, Columbia University, Brown University 	<p>Courtney Kopf (Science)</p>

Congratulations to **Kyle Grant, NPBS student**, who earned a **Paul Robeson Youth Achievement Award**. Named for Paul Robeson, a Somerville HS and Rutgers University graduate as well as a native of Princeton, the awards are given to students in four areas: scholarship, the arts, community service, and athletics. Kyle earned his award for scholarship. **Lauren Lattimore, NPMS**, earned a **Renaissance Scholar Award**, given

to students who excel in a number of disciplines. The Paul Robeson Youth Achievement Awards are sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women and Raritan Valley Community College.

The following students have been selected as **2013 Scholar-Athletes**:

- **Skyland Conference Scholar-Athlete: Brandan Selby and Giovanna Rodriguez**
- **NJSIAA Scholar-Athlete: Megan Hynes**
- **Somerset County Scholar-Athlete: Keith Jeffries and Megan Hynes**

Character Education Assembly: Character Education advisors **Danielle Fauci and David Hooker** proudly announced March's middle school recipients of the "Students of the Month" and "Awesome Acts" at the Character Education assembly. The following students were recognized for their outstanding academic performance and their demonstration of March's trait of "respect":

Students of the Month

Awesome Acts

Team 7-1: **Anthony Alvarez
Taqveem Kauser**

Grade 7: **Pablo Alfaro
Nermin Hassan**

Team 7-2: **Nabil Twyman
Abigail Funelas**

**Christain Echenique
David Barriga
Chyna Hargrove**

Team 7-3: **Kalin Barrett
Seneca Sloan**

Grade 8: **Janely Amaya
Johnathan Graham
Cindy Garcia
Matthew Moreno
Dennise Valencia**

Team 8-1: **Victoria Kisling
Hector Guevara**

Team 8-2: **Brandon McDuffie
Christina Troung**

Team 8-3: **Amir Sa'id
Estefani Zavelata**

West End (WE) PRIDE Recognition: Fourth grade special education teacher **Christina Moscatello** nominated **Rafael Renteria** for a WE PRIDE award. In January he was assigned a biography project on Jackie Robinson. He became highly interested in the project and has continued to extend his own learning beyond the requirements of the assignment. His motivation to explore and research Jackie Robinson on his own has been impressive and exactly what teachers hope to instill in their students. He has taken out most of the books on Jackie Robinson from the school library, continues to write and discuss the importance of his role in history and even wrote a letter to Robinson's daughter.

Fourth grade teacher **Heather Morgan** nominated **Anthony Hernandez** for a WE PRIDE award recognizing motivation and perseverance. His motivation in doing well in all academics is inspiring. Anthony takes comments and suggestions from his teachers and

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peers and is able to apply it on future tasks. He constantly asks peers for input on his work and always looks for extra work so he can practice at home. His motivation and drive to succeed is extraordinary.

Third grade teacher **Debbie Lysicatos** and academic support teacher **Dot Carro** nominated **Jason Agyemang** for his determination and work ethic which has been inspiring to everyone who has worked with him.

Third grade teacher **Alyson DiFiore** nominated **Amy Buenano** because of the work hard and effort Amy displays each day to learn new things. She perseveres through the difficult work and always completes her assignments.

Third grade teacher **Brian Bigden** nominated **Tania Fuentes** in recognition of great effort in class. She reads while waiting for the next subject in class; she raises her hand when she wants to participate. Tania does all her work neatly and quietly. She is constantly on "Outstanding" on the behavior chart. Tania is an excellent role model for her peers.

Second grade teacher **Veronica Quick** and special education teacher **Erica Gara** nominated **Madeline Kruszczyński** and **Philip O'Grady** for their outstanding character. Philip and Maddy are always prepared for class and set a good example for their peers. They do their homework each night and are excited to learn each day. Maddy and Philip are extremely polite and respectful. They are very responsible and are always ready to help.

Second grade teacher **Lisa Cirillo** nominated **Yasin Mustafa** and **Lourdes Munoz** for showing improvement in reading, writing and overall effort.

Second grade teacher **Christine Birnbaum** nominated **Amy Cordova** for a WE award this month. Amy truly displays the character traits of motivation and perseverance. No matter how hard work in school is for Amy, she never gives up and she always has a positive attitude. This dedication has allowed her to improve not only her reading level, but also her writing and math skills.

Kindergarten teacher **Miriam Andrews** nominated **Diego Lopez** for being a good student and always motivated to do his best. Diego always pays attention in class and he can be counted on to be polite and behave well in school. He is kind and respectful to his other classmates as well as his teachers. Diego consistently completes all his class and homework assignments.

Kindergarten teacher **Nancy Shreck** nominated **Angelina Gaya** for a WE Pride award. Angelina is always very positive and tries her best in school every day. She always provides encouragement to her classmates. She never gives up, even when something is challenging for her.

Instrumental music teacher **Dorian Parreott** nominated **Yumin Li** for recognition. Yumin has been learning and sharpening her skills week after week. She has reached an impressive level of performance that is recognized to be well above the standard for this grade level. Her preparedness and super talent should be a motivator for other students in band.

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Also recognized was fourth grader **Amanda Gaetan** who was selected for the **Central Jersey Elementary Honors Band**. Mr. Parreott stated, "Many students were nominated, but she was the only West End student selected by a committee of band directors from across central New Jersey to represent North Plainfield. Students from 30 different schools are selected to participate in the Honors Bands which is such a great and proud moment for us all here at West End."

Art teacher **Lisa Cerulo** recognized second grader **Justin Loaya**. Ms. Cerulo reported, "My students were able to take part in a t-shirt design contest sponsored by Areopostale. The students had to answer the question "What makes you smile?" Justin was chosen as part of the top 100 of his grade category in this nation-wide contest.

East End School Citizens of the Month, March 27, 2013

KINDERGARTEN

Zoraisa Nolasco
Emely Barillas
Giana Pasley
Jermaine Smallwood
Kayla Strond
Alex Meza

FIRST GRADE

Estrella Arriaga-Garcia
Bisleisy Cordon
Nikko Evans
Luke Crowther
Kathiana Saldarriaga
Abigael Marita
Alondra DeLeon
Xavier Sample
Micahel Zetino-Fenco
Sophia Accardo

SECOND GRADE

Abigail Meza
Benjamin Toth
Desiree Mitchell
Emily Reyes
Zachary Torres
Santiago Vallejo
Serge Ngoma

THIRD GRADE

Daniel Barriga
Habiba Khamis
Abdelrahman Fayed
Melissa Grimaldy
Joselynn Flores
Brianna Lourenco
Amelia Accardo

FOURTH GRADE

Eryn McLaughlin
Litzzy Moreno
Cordon Hall

VOCAL MUSIC

Nicole Udarnauth/K
Mischael Zetino-Fenco/1
Chelsey Ramkrith/2
Betsy Murillo/3
Liani Oralles/3
Anderson DeLeon/4

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Bridgete Thomas/4

ART

Andres Ortega/K
Sruti Chaparala/K
Luke Crowther/1
Amy Zarate/2
Jennifer Van Buren/2
Lornacelia Lewis/3
Jordan Dabreo/3
Jeremiah Bonema/4
Jaoden Stowers/4

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Dennis Arias/K
Yareliz Minaya-Fernandez/K
Samantha Conroy/1
Natalie Moya/1
Serge Ngoma/2
Donovan Miranda/2
Liam Alvarado/3
Taylor Benjamin/3
Luis Martinez/4
Alyssa Ehling/4

LIBRARY

SreyaChaparala/K
SrutiChaparala/K
Helena deBang/1
Darrell Cogdell/2
Nala King/3
Stephanie Herrera/4

ESL

Ashley Andrade/K
Michael Mazariegas/K
GisselAlvarenga/1
Daniel Melendez-Saucedo/2
EmelyMontesdeoca-Arequipa/3
Daniel Gutierrez/4

PRINCIPAL

Suhey Ayala/K
YasmenZafar/2
Nala King/3
Madison Hall/4

Schools

NPBS

“Hairspray” a Success! (A review by **Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical, and performing arts**): *By all reports from community members and staff, the NPBS Drama Club’s production of “Hairspray” was one for the memory bank. The energy from the entire cast kept the 22 songs moving all the way to the rousing finale “You Can’t Stop the Beat.”*

*Kudos goes to Director **Leeanne Chiamonte** for an excellent job of casting and for seamless blocking of scenes. To close your eyes, the pit orchestra, led by **Heather Fencik**, was reminiscent of Broadway. **Bettina Bergamo’s** student ability appropriate choreography was mind boggling considering how well the ensemble remembered the many different variations. Parent **Denise Brockway** miraculously kept order backstage, while handling costume changes, and **Amy Six** directed the singers from the pit.*

*There were many lead roles, notably **Jordan Rowan (11) as Tracy, David Figueroa (9) as Corny, Alex Carillo (12) as Tracy’s mother –Edna, Adrian Guerrero (11) as Tracy’s dad, Mikaelah Villacruz(11) as Tracy’s goofy sidekick, Joanne Vega (12) as Velma, Megan Rebimbas(11) as Amber, Duvany Acosta(12) as Link and Jakai Hawkins (12) as Seaweed.** The show-stopper was **Motormouth Maybelle** portrayed by **Andrea Wright (10)**. Her songs lifted a very good show to the next level of excellence.*

*Secondary characters were just as terrific: **the Dynamites, a Motown trio played by Moala Bannanti (10), Gaby Spenser (9) and Claudia Vega (9); also Charlotte Brockway (12)** who delivered her lines straight to the audience for their creepy pleasure. The bar has been set high. Whatever is next, it has “Hairspray” to live up to.*

The following e-mail of congratulations was sent regarding the performance:

Ms. Bergamo, Ms. Chiamonte, Ms. Six, & Ms. Fencik,

Congratulations on an excellent performance last weekend! I enjoyed it so much Friday night that I went back on Saturday night! The play was fabulous! It was a pleasure to watch such an enthusiastic performance from so many gifted students. You took a great show to new levels with your combined talents. The students are fortunate to be able to work with such a dedicated and talented staff. Thank-you for bringing a few nights of Broadway to Wilson Avenue! Please pass this along to anyone I may have omitted!

Sincerely,

Teresa Spontak

NPMS

NPMS Coat Drive: The annual middle school coat drive was in full swing during February and March. Sponsored by the National Junior Honor Society, the event is another way for the middle school community to show its collective spirit of caring. Coats of all sizes and styles were donated over a two month period and given to the local Goodwill charity. Facilitated by NJHS advisor **Megan Farrell**, over 50 coats were collected. Donation boxes

were located in several classrooms and the lunchroom. “This was a great response from our students and staff; I know the students are excited that we did something to help others,” stated Ms. Farrell.

National Middle Level Education Month: The month of March was set aside to celebrate National Middle Level Education Month. This annual recognition of middle level education provides the school with a special opportunity to focus attention on this very important time in the education of young adolescents. Middle School Assistant Principal **John Ferguson** attended the annual NJ Association for Middle Level Education conference at William Paterson University on March 22, 2013.

“Getting Into The Middle School Spirit”: The week of March 18 was set aside as “Spirit Week” in the middle school, as students had a chance to express their devotion to their school and have a little fun. Participating in such activities as “Wacky Tacky Day,” “Twin Day,” “Hat Day,” and “Maroon Day,” students also held a hallway decorating contest, which saw the 8th grade edging out the 7th grade for the most inspirational and colorful display. The highlight of the week was a pep rally, in which the coaches from the winter and spring activities, introduced their players and shared stories about the season. **Aniyah Gaddis**, eighth grade student, received a tremendous ovation from the crowd of 500 students, with her rendition of “No One” by the recording artist Alicia Keys. On hand to present the school with the championship trophy for placing first in the **Central Jersey Junior Basketball League** and offering the student body remarks about “over-coming adversity” and “working to your goals,” was the boys’ basketball coach and Somerset Principal **Reginald Sainte-Rose**. To close out the event, teacher **David Hooker** took to the mic and led the students in a rousing chant about school pride.

East End, West End, and Stony Brook Schools

Third Graders Visit American Museum of Natural History: March 15 was an exciting day for all district third grade students. They boarded the buses and traveled to New York City to visit the **American Museum of Natural History**, chaperoned by adults and teachers. **Kathleen Herrmann**, principal of East End School, and facilitator of the event, remarked, “The students were amazed as they saw the huge skyscrapers and the hustle and bustle all around them as they drove through the streets of New York City.” Their day at the museum began with a visit to the IMAX Theater to see the show entitled *Flight of the Butterflies*. The audience watched the 3,000 mile journey which takes place every fall by half a billion monarch butterflies. The flight begins in Canada and continues through the United States and finally ends in Mexico. It is the longest and most amazing insect migration on Earth. The remainder of the day was spent eating lunch and visiting the various exhibits offered at the Museum. “It would be impossible to put into words the fascination and excitement felt by every student. A great deal was learned which supported the third grade science and social studies curricula. The experience brought the disciplines to life as the students learned about Native Americans, mammals, ocean life, birds, and of course, the famous dinosaurs. For many, this was their first visit, and to see a child standing in front of T-Rex and gazing in wonder was priceless. Even the adults were mesmerized. The behavior of the students was outstanding and the reviews from parents, teachers, and students were all positive. Not only did it bring all of the elementary school communities together, it enabled the students to see first-hand so many wonders of the world as it was in the past, and where it is headed in the future,” noted Principal Herrmann.

Stony Brook School

Pennies for Patients – Helping the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society: March is a very important month at Stony Brook School. Every year the Stony Brook students and staff members participate in the “Pennies for Patients” program in an effort to raise funds for the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society. This program was organized by **Leslie Castillo**, Stony Brook’s counselor. Early in the month, each student received a Penny Collection Box which held all of the students’ collected pennies. Every Monday the Safety Patrol students visited each classroom and collected the class’ donation for the week. Totals were kept by the teachers on a chart located outside of the classroom. Week by week the totals began to climb, and by the end of the month, \$1,013.24 was collected. Two classes were selected as the top contributors. In first place was **Deborah Lendach’s** kindergarten class with a total of \$162.45. As a first place winner this class will receive a Domino’s Pizza Party. Second place was awarded to **Michelle Motichka** and **Kim Gargiule’s** third grade class. As second place winners this class will receive an ice cream party. Congratulations to all of the classes! As Leslie Castillo stated, “Everyone participating can feel very proud. Every penny, nickel, dime, quarter or dollar donated helped save the lives of cancer patients!”

West End School

Daddy and Me: Within the last few months, the West End Fast Committee, chaired by student liaison **Marilyn Pinto** and fourth grade teacher **Alison Apisa** has been working diligently to plan for “A Day with Dad and Me” scheduled for Saturday, May 4. Planning for this special day has been through collaboration of the **West End** and **East End NPEA FAST Committees**. Children ages 4 to 12 from the district’s Pre-K, elementary, and intermediate schools will be invited to attend. This family involvement conference will be the biggest FAST event yet. The conference will focus on the importance of fathers playing an active role in their children’s education. Fathers will spend quality time with their children by participating in activities that focus on building “Mega Skills” which are caring, confidence, motivation, teamwork, and problem solving.

Somerset School

Gangs -- What You Need to Know: Somerset School **PTO** is sponsoring a “Gang Awareness Seminar,” April 4, 2013, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the community room at Somerset School. The program is open to all parents and guardians of students, preK-12. **Robert Turlington, NJ Gang Investigator** and presenter, will discuss the general warning signs of gang affiliation, gang signs, markings and identifiers as well as gang language. Parents will also learn why children join gangs and what parents can do to prevent their children from joining.

Departments

Gifted and Talented Department

The Gifted and Talented Department hosted its annual **Parent Information Evening** on March 21 at Stony Brook School. Approximately 193 parents and students attended the evening’s festivities designed with different activities which summarized and highlighted the year’s activities. Guests entered the check-in station where they registered, received their gift bag filled with pencils, stickers, brain erasers, buttons, raffle tickets, brain challenging “Plexers” and Smarties candies to snack on. Student projects were displayed in

the first floor hall and in the Stony Brook media center. Some of the projects that were on display included:

Grade 2

Ocean Biome – Rachel Given
The Desert – Nikolas Thunberg
The Rainforest – Lauren Miller
The Importance of Sharks in the Sea – Zachary Torres

Grade 3

A Green Dream House – Bryant Fiallos/Shaugn Williams
The Digestive System – Raquel Kruszczeni
Van Gogh “Starry , Starry Night” – Nicole Lindemeyer

Grade 4

Pencil Strap – Alyssa Ehling
The Inferno Jacket – OlafadeOrole
Tesla Coil – Liam Miller
Radio Hats – Ashley Dawsey
Piggy Light – Douglas DeSousa

Grade 5

Paper Chase – Sebastian Mendes
Solar Energy – Meg Savoy

Grade 6

Time – GianlucaArbo
Sickle Cell Anemia – Taylor Lacon

Cindy Crawford, G+T teacher, and **Cathy Kobylarz**, supervisor of the program, provided a Prezi presentation explaining the program’s goals, highlights, and important information. In addition, a group of twelve students performed a small skit illustrating one of the problem solving strategies utilized this year titled, “Scamper.” Each student was handed a frisbee and then asked to illustrate the main components of scamper. “Their ideas were spontaneously marvelous”, noted Ms. Kobylarz. The evening ended as six Brain Hats were raffled off to the grand prize winners and the “Plexer” activity became less perplexing.

Science

NJDOE End of Course Science Assessment Committee: Michael Heinz, NJDOE Science Coordinator, announced that the Office of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) would convene a committee to follow-up on the College and Career Readiness Task Force Final Report (2011). The report recommended that the State Department of Education transition to end-of-course exams for high school biology, chemistry and physics courses. The committee will review the recommendations included in the Final Report, review current science assessment policies and practices from across the state, deliberate on the pros and cons of end-of -course assessments vs. comprehensive exams. The committee will submit a written recommendation to Commissioner Cerf by July 1, 2013. The recommendation will be shared with the state board of education and considered during their deliberation process. In response to this request, **Cheryl Lechtanski**, NPHS biology and environmental science teacher, applied for a position

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on the committee and was accepted. She will attend four meetings in March through June, 2013. Her insights into the recommendation of this committee and the test expectations will be invaluable in curriculum development, pacing and assessment in science courses.

Community Health Fair

A **Community Health Fair** will be held on **May 2, 2013**, in the middle school gym, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The fair was created as one of the goals of the Coordinated School Health Grant sponsored by **Empower Somerset**. Members of the Coordinated School Health Grant committee and the district's school nurses were responsible for putting this program together.

District Arts Festival

The **18th Annual District Arts Festival** will be held at North Plainfield High School on Friday, **April 12, 2013** from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. In addition to the display of students' work of **fine art, music, the shops, home economics, drama and award winning winter guard**, this festival is also dedicating a portion of the festivities to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the **Battle of Gettysburg**. Highlights include a recitation of the Gettysburg Address delivered by **Dr. Anthony Mussari, documentary filmmaker**, as part of a musical composition performed by the NPHS Concert Band, and performances by **Linda Russell, historical musician**, who plays a hammer dulcimer and other early 19th century musical instruments while singing songs from the US Civil War, dressed in period costume. The event is free and open to the public. We can get a picture of the state of a civilization by looking at their art. A visit to this festival will offer a picture, if you will, of the state of education in our district, as well as the caliber of our teachers and creativity of our children.

Gettysburg Project

The documentary film "**Walking into the Light at Gettysburg**" featuring ten North Plainfield High School students will be shown in the high school auditorium on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. The event is free. The film records in "cinema verite" style (no script) the students' impressions on what happened at Gettysburg 150 years ago. **Supervisor of the Arts, Tom Mazur** says the film presents our students' ability to get the "big picture" and will stir community pride in anyone attending this hour long film. The citizens of Gettysburg gave the ten students and **the film's producer, Dr. Anthony Mussari**, a standing ovation at the conclusion of the film's premier in Gettysburg this past January. As Dr. Mussari has often said, "If anyone wants to see America's tomorrow today...go to North Plainfield, New Jersey." Supervisor Mazur adds "This film presents exactly this sentiment, and the picture of the future is bright."

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for April is fire safety awareness.

Safety Topic - Transportation. The safety topic for April is evacuation planning for students with special needs.

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

HEALTH & SAFETY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The following emergency preparedness improvements are in progress at this time. See notes below for additional information.

- A stand-by generating system for the Operations Office at 63 Greenbrook Road. The generator has been received by the contractor and we are in the process of obtaining quotations for some minor roof reinforcement that must be completed prior to the generator installation. UPDATE: The roofing detail has now been approved by our architect and the installation of the generator should be completed by month's end.
- Electrical load evaluations of the stand-by generator at Somerset School. A preliminary assessment of the current load on the stand-by generator indicates there is sufficient power generated by this unit to energize additional circuits. UPDATE: The reconfiguration of electrical circuits powered by the stand-by generator will be completed over the summer recess.
- A wireless router back-up for our network systems (Verizon) is in progress.

FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS

The Federal Assistance Funds that are currently being allocated to FEMA for Hurricane Sandy relief contain monies for Mitigation Grants. These grants provide partial funding for mitigation work that will reduce losses suffered by municipalities and other government entities.

- High & Middle School. A permanently mounted stand-by generating system.
- East End School. A permanently mounted stand-by generating system.
- West End School. A permanently mounted stand-by generating system.

The North Plainfield Board of Education submitted three (3) LOI's (Letters of Intent) for submission to FEMA for the aforementioned mitigation projects. This program provides seventy-five percent of the cost of these projects and the district is responsible for the remaining twenty-five percent. There are no penalties if the district decides not to fund these projects if they are eventually approved by FEMA. UPDATE: We are currently awaiting a determination of our grant requests.

FEMA -4046-DR-NJ

UPDATE: Our completed FEMA PW Application was filed on January 16, 2013 and was subsequently approved for reimbursement of submitted expenses on January 22, 2013. The established rate of reimbursement is currently 75% of the submitted total, some \$43,000.00 respectively. It is unknown at this time when payments will be made.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for April is an evacuation, non-fire related. All of our schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

SECURITY DRILLS – UNANNOUNCED

UPDATE: On February 26, 2013, all public and private schools throughout the state received updated guidelines regarding unannounced drills and how they will be managed. Additionally, a copy of the unannounced drill evaluation form was distributed that details the areas of concern. The purpose of these exercises is to reveal areas that may need additional attention in the event of an actual emergency.

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY PLAN

UPDATE: We are currently waiting to be scheduled for an exit interview with representatives from the Department of Education and the Office of Homeland Security.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS/REPAIRS

Listed below are just a few of our contracted and/or in-house maintenance projects that are currently in progress or were recently completed.

- Installation of exterior bells at West End School (Completed).
- Misc. door replacements at the high school and Stony Brook School (Scheduled).
- Security related upgrades for the high school auditorium (Scheduled).
- Repairs to Auditorium seating at the high school (Scheduled for 3/26/13).
- Upgrades to our door entrance systems at Somerset and Watchung (Scheduled).
- System maintenance to the fire pump at the high school (Scheduled for 3/26/13).

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT

DISTRICT-WIDE RESTROOM PROJECT

Restroom Renovations. UPDATE: we are currently waiting for close out documents and a final payment request for the high school.

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

East End School – *Major construction completed. Kiosk's being installed on 3/25/2013.

West End School – *Major construction completed. Kiosk's being installed on 3/25/2013.

Somerset School – *Major construction completed. Kiosk's being installed on 3/25/2013.

H.S. & M.S. – *Major construction completed. Kiosk's being installed on 3/25/2013.

*The owner of these systems must perform final inspections, and if approved, submit to the power authority for permission to operate. This process could take up to six weeks. We anticipate this project to be complete and fully operational within the next sixty to ninety days.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

UPDATE: Plans and specifications for this project have now been completed and the project was advertised on February 27, 2013. A pre-bid meeting was held on March 5 and bids will be received and opened on April 2, 2013. At this time, there is a strong interest in the project with over twelve contractors requesting plans and specifications from the Architect. If the bidding process is successful, the district can entertain a resolution to award the project on April 3, 2013. This project includes a redesign and renovation of the existing space with an emphasis on technology and media. (See tonight's recommendations, C.1)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS (NEW) (2012/2013)

The following two new capital improvement projects have been proposed and approved for completion this school year.

- Harrison School. Replacement of all existing windows (planning stage).
- Middle School. Façade repairs to the main office exterior walls (under evaluation)

PENDING GRANTS

Safe Routes NJDOT Grant. UPDATE: A number of improvements outlined within our grant request will be completed over the summer utilizing maintenance funds as no grants were approved for any community in Somerset County.

Safe Routes Mini Grant. UPDATE: These grants are currently being reconsidered due in part to a number of complaints regarding the funding process. We have been advised that a notice of grant awards will be issued in the near future.

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

As required by FEMA, the North Plainfield Board of Education is currently preparing its portion of the new Five Year Multi-Jurisdictional Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan for subsequent submission to the Somerset County Engineering Office. All requested documentation has been submitted at this time.

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 continue the suspension of employee SU-1-12-13, with pay, through April 17, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Branan abstaining, that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education adjust the dates of the unpaid leave of absence granted to Rose Landis, paraprofessional at NPHS, **from** January 8, 2013 through April 1, 2013 **to** January 8, 2013 through April 30, 2013.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Rafaela Burgos as a custodian, at the Custodian/Step 1 annual salary rate of \$37,720, to be pro-rated effective April 8, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following substitute paraprofessionals as paraprofessionals at West End School for 3.25 hours per day at the rate of \$20.96 per hour, effective April 1, 2013.

Stephanie Cuomo	PK autistic class
Esther Domiciano	PK autistic class
Cheryl Selby	ICR class/grade 4

April 3, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Dorothy J. Carro, academic support teacher at West End School, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education adjust the previously approved recommendation to employ an individual to tutor students in the after-school P.A.S.S./Extended Day Program from **James** Miller to **David** Miller.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board approve the appointment of Nicole Rivlin as web master for the Board of Education for the balance of the school year at the pro-rated amount of \$300.00.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the **2013-2014** school year, the Board of Education grant Dina Glowacki, elementary teacher at West End School, an unpaid leave of absence for the purpose of child care.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Lucille McCormick, kindergarten teacher at Stony Brook School, effective July 1, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education adjust the unpaid leave of absence previously granted to Maria Banos, paraprofessional at West End School, **from** March 15, 2013 through March 29, 2013 **to** March 15, 2013 through May 3, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Wendy Ortega as a substitute paraprofessional to be called on an as-needed basis, at the rate of \$20.96 per hour, effective April 4, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education grant Nicole DiTrani, teacher of English at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act effective April 8, 2013 through April 21, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the following members of the English Department to teach a sixth class at the rate of \$33 per period, effective April 8, 2013 through April 19, 2013. (They will be covering classes for Nicole DiTrani during her absence.)

Chelsea Howson
Adriana Pequeno
Rita DaFonseca

Ellen Brain
Jennifer Sloan

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept with regret, the resignation of JoAnne Myer, academic support teacher at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 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 following curriculum for two high school electives:

Advanced Placement U.S. History	Grades 11-12
History of the Holocaust and Genocide	Grades 10-12

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 the following classified students undergo neurological evaluations to be provided by Dr. Kavita Sinha at the cost of \$325 each:

NEU-10-12-13	NEU-11-12-13
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Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye	

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve an out-of-district placement for classified student YYYYYY-12-13 at Somerset Academy at the annual cost of \$42,300, to be prorated, effective date pending transportation.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-53-12-13 to be provided by Educere, Inc. for ten hours per week, effective April 3, 2013.

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

April 3, 2013

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education is awarding the following bid for the purpose of renovating and refurbishing the library at North Plainfield High School:

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2013, the North Plainfield Board of Education (“Board”) conducted a public bid opening for the award of the project to renovate and refurbish the library located in the North Plainfield High School (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, seventeen vendors submitted a bid for consideration at the bid opening; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Board’s Architect, Parette Somjen Architects, have evaluated the bids received and the Board has determined to award the contract for the Project; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., the Board has determined that ***Construction Contractors of NY Corporation***, having offices at ***208 Russell Place, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601***, is the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder for the Project, with a Lump Sum Base Bid of \$129,000.00 (One Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Dollars), plus an additional alternate bid of \$4,300.00 (Four Thousand Three Hundred Dollars) for a total combined bid of \$133,300.00 (One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars), which amount includes an Allowance of \$5,000.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board make the following award of contract:

Construction Contractors of NY Corporation is hereby awarded the contract for the Project, for the total contract sum of **\$133,300.00 (One Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Dollars)**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this award is subject to Construction Contractors of NY Corporation executing the Owner/Contractor Agreement for the Project, and providing Performance/Payment Bonds and an Insurance Certificate(s) evidencing coverages in accordance with the Project Specifications (“Contract Documents”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board’s counsel is authorized to prepare and transmit for signature the Owner/Contractor Agreement applicable to this award, as well as to secure from Construction Contractors of NY Corporation such other documentation as required by the Project Specifications and this Resolution.

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 extend the contract of the following pre-school providers to offer pre-kindergarten programs for eligible residents of North Plainfield:

Growing Tree Pre-School
Holy Cross Nursery School
Taylor Learning

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the **2013-2014** school year, the Board of Education approve the following tuition rate be paid to approved pre-school providers to offer pre-kindergarten programs for eligible residents of North Plainfield as follows:

\$5,323 per enrolled eligible child

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 authorize the sale/disposal of office equipment at NPMS deemed to be obsolete and irreparable as follows:

Xerox – Fax Machine
Model: Work Centre 555 XTC
Serial: #6 FUMLA-40141-FA-E Sept 2000

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

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – next meeting scheduled for April 25, 2013 at 4:00 pm

Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – Dr. Rich mentioned a set of books donated by author Tim Green.

Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – Policy series 7000 and 9000 are scheduled for approval on 4/17/13.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper discuss current issues from the recent meeting regarding education.

SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

Strategic Planning Conference – April 26 and 27 – Dr. Birnbaum mentioned a flier was posted on the website and sent to businesses in North Plainfield.

Joint Meeting: North Plainfield Borough and Board of Education – date to be determined.

New Business

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

Board of Education meetings in May have been moved to May 8 and May 22, 2013.

The June 5th board meeting has been moved to June 4th.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Tracy Peters asked about mentoring programs.

Future Agenda Items

Holocaust/Genocide Program – April 17, 2013, Jerome Pocius

Rutgers Grant – May 8, 2013, Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Dr. Robert Rich

Technology Plan – May 22, 2013, Ron Fisher

Teacher Recognition Ceremony – June 4, 2013

MALES & Sixth Grade Advisory Program – June 19, 2013, Reginald Sainte-Rose

Adjournment

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on April 17, 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