

February 20, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on February 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 – absent, notified
David Branan
Sandra Dodd
Thomas Kasper

Kathleen Mullen – absent, notified
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, and approximately 5 members of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of February 6, 2013.

Financial Report

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated January 31, 2013 in the amount of \$5,787,043.39.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper 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 December 2012 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.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Comments from the Public

Upon request of the chair for topics from the public, Mr. Desmond Matist asked for information regarding resources that are available in our schools.

Student Representative Report

There was none.

Presentation

Mr. Mazur provided the Board with an overview and discussion of the students' trip to Gettysburg, PA in recognition of 150th anniversary of Civil War. A film of events will be shown on April 13, 2013.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students

How does a hovercraft work? Are there different types of clouds? Why is organic chemistry the mainstream of life? On January 31, NPMS held its second annual **Science and Math Expo** and put these and many other questions to the test. Science teacher **Michael Nardi** and math teacher **Aimee Pandya** facilitated this educational and fun-filled evening, which showcased over thirty experiments and displays created by fifty ingenious students. Sixty parents were in attendance as students **Emily DeSotelle** and **Emily McGrath**, garnered **first place honors** for their submission. **Second place** was awarded to **Noran Zahher**, as **third place honors** went to **Nabil Twyman**. All the students received a certificate of participation, with trophies awarded to the finalists. Presentations included:

All about Clouds	Aldana Espinoza, Laura Leon
Big Foot	Jeremiah Weaver
Bouncy Balls	Menat Bahnasy, Olga Metz, Daniela Abrantes, Caprice Adams, Crispeet Kaur
Cloud Displays	Chyna Hargrove, Jefferson Reyna
Cake of the Earth	Cristina Dulche
Chicken Bones	Victoria Fellin, Arelis Romero, Olivia Rae Molenaar
Color Changing Milk	Myles Bush
Corrosive Digestion	Harley Riccardi
Egg in a Bottle	Erika Barbosa, David Giraldo
Electric Potato	Ramy Hosny
Electroplating Disintegration	Tyler Rodriguez
Epilepsy	Annah Kreyling Hoag
Endangered Animals	Yanqing Liang
Electric Battery Power	Andre Eason, Sebastian Palacios
Electric Trip Wire	Brian Pimentel
Hovering Hovercraft	Emily DeSotelle, Emily McGrath
Hydra-Engine	Nabil Twyman
Lava Lamp	Daniela Barriga, Emely Chicaiza, Itati Agurrie
Leather Armor	Antoine Izaguirre
Magic Squares	Radha Patel
Making Clouds	Tauhir Sanders
Nail and Eggs	Ayah Elsaïs, Jasmine Lattimore
Organic Chemistry	Rishwati Persaud
Putty Project	Leslie Cruz, Julia Pacheco, Quinn Gilmore
Respiratory System	Andy Wagnac
Screaming Ice Cream	Gabriel Ramirez, Chanell Martinez
Super Cooling Water & Snap Freezing	Jordan Grundy
Volcano	Karen Gordon, Nikita Forrester, Emely Velastegui
Water Egg	Noran Zaher
Water Evaporation Cycle	Dlavar Athar
Sour Test	Michael Pena, Kenny Navas, Matt Moreno

Somerset School High Honor Roll, Marking Period 2

Demetrius Acevedo	Danielle Havrilla	Tien Nguyen
Kierra Adams	Rana Nishap Hosny	Diana Orozco
Laura Amancha Negrete	Hassan Imtiaz	Elisa Peregrina
Alyssa Andrews	Stacy Jeffries	Nico Pucciarelli
Gianluca Arbo	Joshua Josias	Zamaleena Rehmatullah
Kayla Arguello	Taylor Lacon	Shafaz Shahzad
Jeiner Betancourt-Quintanilla	Samantha Marquez	Samuel Ryan Somwaru Narine
Sarah Carranza	Laura Martinez	Huong Ta
Adon'rich-ter Datu	Jennifer Mendoza-Yanez	Courtney Thomas
Mobolaji Falowo	Abraham Monrroy	Tanaysha Mya Williams
Troi Ford	Christopher Manrroy	Amaya Womack
Mariateresa Gonzalex Morales	Ashley Muhando	Sabriya Zafar
Kristen Gordon-Gaibor	Sydney Muhando	Alveiry Zarate

The following **East End School** students were recognized during the **Citizenship Assembly** on February 6, 2013 for demonstrating the six pillars of **character education**:

Kindergarten: Jada Pinzon, Sofia Jerez, Aracely Perez, Sayde Prado, Jhonatan Ayala, Andres Ortega

First Grade: Danielle Pullen, Van Lai, Gissel Alveranga, Natalie Moya, Justin Tenelema-Herarra, Nahomie Perez-Castillo

Second Grade: Victor Pena, Amy Zarate, Donna Siegel, Nicole Torres, Emely Chango, Hannah Pilco, Jayden Rodriguez, Naomi Pieters,

Third Grade: Aliyah Walker, Alexander Motta, Adonis Gomez, Camila Chacha, Farah Baijnath, Melanie Valentin, Michael Knight, Tatiana Sarmiento

Fourth Grade: Stephanie Herrera, Bacil Elshiekh, Ashley Camino, Jehosafat Melendez-Saucedo, Aliyah Sa'id, Brendan Leary, Daniel Gutierrez, Isabel Chango

Vocal Music: Joel Pinzon/K, Ybette Ayala /1, Dominic Gabri/2, Lornacelia Lewis/3, Jehosafat Melendez-Saucedo/4

Instrumental Music: Kyla Walker

Art: Naomi Tucker/K, Mickey Lin/1, Van Lai/1, EmelyChango/2, SeynabouDia/2, Samantha Bautista/3, Taylor Benjamin/3, Aliyah Bush/4, Bryan Rivera/4

Physical Education: Naomi Tucker/K, Sreya Chaparala /K, Maria Castillo /1, Joseph Ehling/1, Daisy Dong /2, Emily Reyes-Aguirre/2, Camila Chacha /3, Kenny Cano-Reyes/3, Angie Guanatagsi/4, Bridget Thomas/4

Library: Aaron Smith/K, Kathiana Saldarriaga/1, Isabel Chango/4, Jayden Rodriguez/2, Abigail Chango/2, Brandon Rosas/3, Angie Guanatagsi /4, Brendan Leary/4

Principal: Daisy Dong/2, Kennedy Jordan/K, Jordan Okolo/2, Justin Thomas/4, Nolan Pieters/4

February 20, 2013

The **NPHS Winter Guard** secured yet another first place finish at their competition this past Saturday, February 16, 2013 at Gateway HS, Woodbury, NJ.

Honoring Academic Excellence and Leadership Skills: On February 12, 2013, the third and fourth grade students and teachers at **Stony Brook School** were assembled for the second marking period **Honor Roll Assembly**. Following a long Stony Brook tradition, the 2012-2013 academic excellence goal had been set at the first Honor Roll assembly. The goal decided upon was to increase the number of Honor Roll recipients each marking period. The first marking period saw thirteen recipients, and the second marking period honored twenty! True to their word, the students successfully met their goal and increased the number of awardees by seven students, including three new **High Honor Roll recipients** in grade four: **Isabella Carroll, Karla Garcia and Jasmine Zaher**. The following students were awarded **Honor Roll** certificates and were acknowledged for their academic excellence: grade three –**Joel Guevara, Ivan Mangui Velez, Derek Murillo, Joshua Njoku, Kristobal Olivares, Bhavaya Patel and Jenny Sanon**; grade four – **Viviano Blanco, Lindsay DePaz, Drew Evans, Michael Hernandez, Santiago Laynez, Ashlyn Murillo, Rebekah Narine, Ashley Ordonez, Henry Ruiz, Ariel Spurgeon**. Four students received **L.E.A.D.** awards for their outstanding contributions in a leadership capacity: **Derek Grant, Ariella Romero, Amaya Shallo, and Olivia Sheridan**.

Athletics

Boys' Basketball ** (See article below)

Middle School Boys Basketball

- Undefeated Season 24 – 0
- March of Dimes Champions
- CJJBL League Champions

Indoor Track and Field

Somerset County Winter Track Tournament, December 27-Lehigh University

- Somerset County Champion --55 Meters High Hurdles-- Izayah Williams
- 3rd Place – 400 Meter Run – Keith Jeffries
- 5th Place- 400 Meter Run – Omar Bailey
- 2nd Place-Boys Relay Team (Omar Bailey, Jamar Harris, Izayah Williams, Keith Jeffries)

Skyland Conference Indoor Championships – January 26, 2013

- 2nd Place – 55 High Hurdles – Izayah Williams
- 3rd Place – 400 M Dash - Omar Bailey

NJSIAA North 2, Group 2, State Sectionals – Bennett Center, Toms River – February 4, 2013

- 1st Place Champion – Brandon Selby – 55 Meter Dash
- 5th Place– Brandon Selby - High Jump
- 6th Place – Omar Bailey – 400 Meter Dash
- 6th Place – Matt Barbosa – 55 Meter High Hurdles
- 4th Place – Keith Jeffries, Matt Barbosa, Jamar Harris, Omar Baily-4 x 400 Relay

NJSIAA All Group 2 State Finals – Bennett Center, Toms River – February 16, 2013

- 4th Place – 55 Meter Dash – Brandon Selby
- 6th Place – 4 x 400 Relay- Keith Jeffries, Matt Barbosa, Jamar Harris, Omar Baily

Wrestling

- **Somerset County Wrestling Tournament-January 12, 2013-Hillsborough**
 - 3rd Place--JT Valley
 - 3rd Place—Dominick Mulhern
- **District 12 – Wrestling Tournament – February 17-18, 2013 – South Plainfield**
 - 3rd Place

Middle School Wrestling

Raritan Valley Junior Wrestling League Tournament- February 3, 2012

- **North Plainfield Middle School Team – 4th Place overall**
- **Individual Results:**
 - 105 lbs 4th Place Carlos Reyes
 - 112 lbs 3rd Place Kevin Tabares
 - 126 lbs 4th Place DlavarAthar
 - 140 lbs 4rd Place Alex Marques
 - 165 lbs League Champion FredyPenaranda
 - Heavy Weight League Champion Amir Said

Upcoming Tournaments/Championships

Girls' Varsity Basketball, 1st Round NJSIAA State Tournament @Holmdel HS, 2/25/13, 5:00 pm

Wrestling, District Tournament, 1st Round @South Plainfield HS, 2/22/13, 6:00 pm
2nd Round/Finals @South Plainfield HS, 2/23/13, 10:00 am

Indoor Track, Tournament of Champions @Toms River, Bennett Center, Toms River
2/23/13, 9:00 am

*****Central Jersey Junior Basketball League (CJJBL), Boys 2012-13 Champions
By Donna Patton, Physical Education Teacher, Somerset School***

The Road to Victory proved to be a sweet journey for Coach Reginald Sainte-Rose and his grade 7 and 8 roster of talented players from the North Plainfield Middle School. The team competes in the Central Jersey Junior Basketball League (CJJBL) and compiled an 18-0 season record, giving them the #1 seed in the League's Eastern Division Tournament.

In the playoff round, North Plainfield MS took on #8 seed, Bound Brook in the quarterfinals, defeating them 66-33, which moved North Plainfield into the semi-final contest against the #4 seed, Valley View. Sainte-Rose's team stepped up once again with a decisive victory of 58-27.

The North Plainfield MS team hosted the finals at Green Brook Middle School and found themselves in a tight, hard fought game against the #2 seed, Long Hill. In the last five seconds of the game with a 1 point margin in favor of North Plainfield, Ka-Ron Dock drained 2 foul shots giving the #1 seeded team a 59-56 victory and capturing the CJJBL Championship. Ka-Ron Dock of North Plainfield was honored with his team's MVP award. The CJJBL is a two-division league, providing an opportunity for middle school boys and girls basketball teams in Central Jersey to compete interscholastically.

Earlier in post-season play, the North Plainfield Middle School players competed in the 61st Annual March of Dimes Basketball Tournament, which was hosted by the Dunellen Recreation Department. It was a single-elimination tournament with Coach Sainte-Rose's team taking 1st place honors, the 6th time since 2000.

Schools

Stony Brook School

Stony Brook School Celebrates Black History Month: In honor of Black History Month, Stony Brook School celebrated the achievements and accomplishments of African Americans through their family multicultural evenings. On February 15, 2013, Stony Brook's PTA offered a potluck dinner to all Stony Brook's families and an evening rich with three different cultural events. Opening the evening was an **African Caribbean Drum performance by Wakhiba** who then surprised everyone with a guest dancer. Audience participation was encouraged, and many family members joined in this beautiful performance. The second act was a read aloud presentation by a local author, **Bianca Gray**. Ms. Gray works as a teacher in Plainfield and published her first book, **Back to School**. She invited all of the children to sit with her as she read her story. She answered questions, spoke about how to be an author and then introduced her two children who were the main characters of the story. The Stony Brook students were amazed to see the characters in the story sitting right next to them. The final performance was a **Hip Hop Musical performance** by a local group called, **Negros Americanos**. This group performed three songs they wrote with central themes of modern day beliefs. The two musicians were teachers from Plainfield who traveled to Latin America to perfect their craft. They wrote all their own songs and enjoy sharing their talents with local students in the area. "The potluck dinner was truly another highlight of the evening. Families were encouraged to bring their favorite dish. Among some of the favorites were rich and black eye peas, bourbon chicken, arroz moro, pan de bono, white rice and peas, chips and salsa and delicious, home baked cupcakes for dessert. This was an evening of celebration and diversity, that reminds us of the importance of cultural traditions," stated Principal Cathy **Kobylarz**. "Thank you to our performers and families for a night to remember."

East End School

Media specialist Allison Longley is motivating the students and parents at East End School to join the **Read to Me Chapter Book Club**. As a member of the club, students pledge to read a chapter book or be read to by a parent. Pledges continue to roll in and the class who returns the most membership forms will receive a brand new chapter book for each student. The race is very close, and membership forms are coming in every day. Ms. Longley has promoted the club during morning announcements and addressed the audience at the last citizenship assembly. "Ms. Longley continues to promote the importance of reading and this club invites parent and child to spend quality time reading together," remarked **Principal Kathleen Herrmann**.

February 20, 2013

Principal Herrmann spent time with **first grade students** in **Barbara Curtis'** class Monday morning, February 11, reading ***Honest Abe* by Edith Kunhardt**. As the young learners listened to the story unfold, they discovered a great deal about the sixteenth President of the United States. "I love reading to the children and this book led to great discussions about slavery, the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation. It is always so interesting to see the look on their faces when they learned that cars and electricity were not invented then. They were amazed to find out so many facts about Abraham Lincoln - from his childhood to his Presidency. Although the students are first graders, they are like sponges and they absorb a great deal of information. It is so important to remember that students have a higher listening comprehension than an independent reading comprehension and that is why I continue to promote reading aloud to children and to include non-fiction books," remarked Ms. Herrmann.

February 11 and 12 were dedicated to **Jump Rope for Heart** which is a national educational fund-raising program that is sponsored by the **American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance**. Students are sponsored and then jump rope in order to raise money for the American Heart Association. The event was held during each child's physical education period and was facilitated by **physical education teachers Corrine Cecala and Todd Vanderputten**. Many parents volunteered throughout the event to assist the students with their exercises. East Enders are anxiously awaiting the total amount collected for this worthy cause.

West End School

Kindergarten Valentine's Day: On February 12, the six kindergarten classes met in the community room to celebrate Valentine's Day. First the Kindergarten children heard a Valentine's Day story read by **Nancy Schreck** and **Nancy Lubreski**. Next each child wrote "I care" on a paper along with a drawing to show how they care for others. A large mural was made with these papers and put on the community room wall. Afterwards each child made a Valentine card using cut out hearts and crayons. They wrote "I care" and signed their name on the cards. These were delivered to a senior citizens home for Valentine's Day.

NJ ASK Testing Night: On Tuesday evening, February 5, 2013, the West End Elementary School's F.A.S.T (Families and School Together) Committee delivered a NJASK Testing Night to third and fourth grade students and their parents. Students and their parents first enjoyed pizza and salad as **Marilyn Pinto, student liaison** spoke to them about the F.A.S.T Committee and explained this event. **Andrea Grasso, school counselor**, then spoke to parents about ways to reduce student and parent anxiety/stress about standardized testing and also provided them with a testing tips informational flyer. Next, the parents were separated into groups and rotated between three classrooms, which held presentations in regard to each section of the test: math, writing, and reading. English as a Second Language instructor Alan Adams traveled with the ESL parents and translated the presentations for them. The presenters included special education teachers **Erica Gara**, and **Angela Roman**; fourth grade teachers **Heather Morgan** and **Alison Apisa**; Academic support teacher **Vicki Mendez** and school librarian **Lindsey Gall**. The parents also got to ask many questions to each of the presenters in order to best prepare their children for this assessment.

Somerset School

Under the direction of **Luis Jaime, new student liaison coordinator**, Somerset School is hosting its annual **Hispanic Parent Night**, February 27, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the school's community room. The program will provide an opportunity for Spanish-speaking parents to ask questions, share their concerns about their child's education, and enjoy delicious food. **EmPOWER Family Success Center** and **Health1st** will also provide an informational booth to assist parents with resources.

NPMS

Random Acts of Kindness Week: Random Acts of Kindness Week is held during the second week of February. In celebration of this week, the middle school student council made over sixty brown-bagged lunches for a local homeless shelter. Starting on February 11, the student council conducted a "coin-drop" in the lunchroom for students to donate loose change to raise money to purchase the needed ingredients for a nutritious lunch. **Lindsey Mulry**, advisor to the student council, stated, "It's great to see the entire student body come together and get behind this charitable activity." Students that made a donation were recognized by having their names displayed on the "wall of hearts" dedicated to the week's celebration.

Keeping the Memory Alive: Teachers **Matt Iannucci** and **Jerry Pocius** are currently compiling an **on-line Holocaust resource guide** for the middle school community using primary and secondary resources from their own private collections. The goal is to create a living guide for students to draw from as they conduct research regarding genocides and building tolerance. "I want to make sure that history is preserved and our students have the ability to access information about this important time," said Mr. Iannucci. Included, will be information about North Plainfield during the time of World War II. Items will be continually updated throughout the year.

Rutgers Ocean Day Event: For the past two months, the middle school Hope Club has been meeting weekly with Science teachers **Michael Nardi** and **Sara O'Donnell** in preparation for their submission of a research project and display at the annual Rutgers Ocean Day Event. The students will present their findings on fish migrations and ocean temperature changes during the April event.

The Wisdom of Ancient China: Students in **Danielle Fauci's** seventh grade social studies classes are currently learning about the Shang Dynasty of ancient China. The Shang Dynasty created China's first writing system in order to communicate with their ancestors. They believed their ancestors had magical powers in which to aid them and bring happiness. By carving questions onto bone or shells, village elders would study the marks and determine their meanings. After learning about "oracle bones" students created their own artifacts which are currently on display for all to interpret.

From Classroom to Home: The Missing Link: Math teacher **Lauren Meyer** recently revealed to her seventh grade classes her newest technology application for at-home instruction. Utilizing her I Pad and the interactive whiteboard, Ms. Meyer is currently recording her daily lessons on video for inclusion on her webpage. What is unique about this application is that the lesson can be saved as a link and posted on her website where students can view the video at anytime. Students can also use the laptop computers to watch the videos in class for tutorial enhancement.

Beware of the 20 ft. Snake: This month the seventh and eighth grade classes visited the meaning behind the **Chinese New Year**. In honor of the holiday, the classes created art work that combines their knowledge of China's history with Chinese art to better understand the culture and traditions. Art teacher **Tammy Mackiewicz** had the seventh grade classes create paper lanterns, focusing on the element of color and shading, while the eighth grade classes created large images of dragons using oil pastels. To further enhance the experience and in celebration of "Year of the Snake," a 20ft paper snake adorns the hallway just outside the art room, protected by spiritual lanterns and pastel dragons.

NPHS

*The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's Shakespeare LIVE! Performance Troupe, will be presenting William Shakespeare's **Comedy of Errors** and **Romeo and Juliet** on February 20, 2013 in the NPHS Auditorium. Orchestrated by **Kristen Rosen**, English teacher, this outreach program's mission is to bring live Shakespearean performance to New Jersey's schools. NPHS received a special grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and these spectacular performances are being offered at minimal cost to the district.*

According to the theater's literature, "The acclaimed Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey is one of the leading Shakespeare theatres in the nation. Serving nearly 100,000 adults and children annually, it is New Jersey's only professional theatre company dedicated to Shakespeare's canon and other classic masterworks. Through its distinguished productions and education programs, the company strives to illuminate the universal and lasting relevance of the classics for contemporary audiences. The longest-running Shakespeare theatre on the east coast, The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey marks its 46th season in 2008.... Shakespeare LIVE! is the educational touring company of The Shakespeare Theatre. This dynamic troupe of actors brings exceptional abridged productions of Shakespeare's masterworks directly into the classroom."

In discussing the program, Ms. Rosen noted, "Every child deserves the chance to see a live, professional Shakespearean performance and we are giving them that amazing opportunity! Great things are happening at NPHS!"

District

The Music Faculty Scholarship Concert, featuring music teachers throughout the district, will be held on February 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the NPHS auditorium. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for students and senior citizens.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for February is proper lifting techniques and back safety. 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

HURRICANE SANDY

UPDATE: The following work related to damage caused by Hurricane Sandy will be scheduled for completion in the spring.

- Harrison Greenhouse – The roof panel damaged by falling branches has now been received. A work order is pending.
- Harrison House – An internal work order has been generated to repair the rear entrance awning that was destroyed during the storm. A work order is pending.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The following emergency preparedness improvements are in progress and/or have been completed at this time. See notes below for additional information.

- The network reprogramming associated with the fiber link to the Operations Office at 63 Greenbrook Road has now been completed, and all systems are now directly assessable.
- 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.
- 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.
- A pair of Jetpack “Hot Spots” have been obtained from Verizon Wireless and have been strategically placed in the event of an emergency.
- 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. The North Plainfield Board of Education is currently preparing three (3) LOI's (Letters of Intent) for submission to FEMA for the following mitigation projects.

- 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.

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.

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.

INSURANCE CLAIM

An insurance claim was submitted through our Joint Insurance Fund for the damage incurred during Hurricane Sandy. UPDATE: As of this date, the district has received some \$25,000.00 reimbursement for damages related to Hurricane Sandy. An explanation of benefits, and a total amount of expenses that will be covered, is currently pending.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for February is an active shooter drill. All of our schools are in the process of completing their assigned drills.

SECURITY DRILLS – UNANNOUNCED

All school districts throughout the state have been notified that the Office of School Safety and Security, in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security, will be conducting unannounced security drills beginning this month. 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: A representative from the Office of School Safety and Security was in district on December 7, 2012 to observe two (2) of our Security Drills and to review our Safety and Security Plan progress to date. A full report is forthcoming from the Office of School Security and will be reviewed once received. To date, we have not received any information regarding the drill observations.

HIDDEN CAMERA SURVEYS

Hidden Camera Surveys were recently completed at NPHS/MS and Somerset School. These surveys, conducted to detect the presence of hidden cameras, were performed by our service provider. These surveys did not reveal the presence of any hidden cameras. A complete listing of the areas that were surveyed is on file at the Operations Office.

CURRENT HEATING ISSUES

We are currently experiencing sporadic heating issues at the following location.

- Stony Brook School. We are currently experiencing sporadic heating issues in number of classrooms related to our energy management system. Our service provider is working to resolve these issues.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS/REPAIRS

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

- Miscellaneous door replacements at NPHS/MS and Stony Brook School.
- Security related upgrades for the high school auditorium (in progress).
- Energy Management controls for the new HVAC Unit at East End School.
- Repairs to a broken water line at Stony Brook. Temporary repairs have been completed and a permanent repair will be scheduled in the near future.

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)

HARRISON SCHOOL

Chiller Installation. UPDATE: All close out documents have now been received and we are processing a final payment request.

STONY BROOK SCHOOL

Multi-Purpose Room Air Conditioning. UPDATE: All close out documents have now been received and we are processing a final payment request.

WATCHUNG BUILDING

Complete Heating System Replacement. UPDATE: All close out documents have now been received and we are processing a final payment request.

STONY BROOK SCHOOL

Complete Heating System Replacement. UPDATE: All close out documents have now been received and we are processing a final payment request.

DISTRICT-WIDE RESTROOM PROJECT

Restroom Renovations. UPDATE: All close out documents have now been received for East End, West End and Stony Brook and we are processing these final payment requests. We are currently waiting for close out documents and a final payment request for NPBS.

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

East End School – *Major construction completed. Punch list items remain.

West End School – *Major construction completed. Punch list items remain.

Somerset School – *Major construction completed. Punch list items remain.

High & Middle School – *Major construction completed. Punch list items remain.

*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. The informational kiosks, to be installed at the above listed locations, are scheduled for delivery within the next two weeks. We anticipate this project to be complete and fully operational within the next sixty to ninety days.

DISTRICT-WIDE WIRELESS UPGRADE PROJECT

UPDATE: All close out documents have now been received and we are processing a final payment request.

DISTRICT-WIDE LIGHTING UPGRADE PROJECT

This project has now been *completed. As proposed, this project included the installation of lighting sensors, lighting fixtures, energy reduction controls and one new heating and air conditioning unit. The aforementioned upgrades were completed at East End School, Stony Brook School and Harrison School. Additionally, the project included the replacement of gym lighting fixtures at the high and middle school including the wrestling gym. The remaining work to complete this project was performed on third shift in order to expedite completion and so as to not interfere with the educational process.

*We are currently awaiting a final list of areas in each building that the contractor could not tie in lighting sensors due to grounding issues. We will review the final list once received and proceed accordingly.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

This project includes a redesign and renovation of the existing space with an emphasis on technology and media. UPDATE: Preliminary plans for this project have now been approved by the superintendent and Board finance and facilities committee. Bid documents are currently being prepared. We anticipate advertising this project in late February and will receive bids in March. The committee will continue to meet on an as-needed basis throughout the construction phase to address any unforeseen conditions and/or programming needs. Diagrams will be available at the Board meeting.

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.
- Middle School. Façade repairs to the Main Office exterior walls.

PHYSICAL PLANT & CAPITAL BUDGET, 2013/2014

PENDING GRANTS

Safe Routes NJDOT Grant. UPDATE: We have now been advised that no grants were approved for any entities 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.

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.

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. Kasper and unanimously approved that the following recommendations be tabled:

That for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the salaries indicated on the attached lists per the negotiated Agreement between the Board of Education and the North Plainfield Association of Educational Administrators and Supervisors.

That for the 2011-2012 and for the 2012-2013 school years, the Board of Education approve the salaries of the exempt administrators indicated on the attached list.

That for the 2011-2012 and for the 2012-2013 school years, the Board of Education approve the salaries of the exempt staff indicated on the attached list.

February 20, 2013

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

WHEREAS Rosalie Gargano, paraprofessional in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on February 1, 2013, and

WHEREAS she has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately seventeen years with dedication to the highest standards of education, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Gargano its thanks for the service she has given and best wishes for her future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on February 20, 2013, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Ms. Gargano.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education adjust the leave granted to Patricia Russell, elementary teacher at West End School under the Federal Family Leave Act **from** May 3, 2013 through June 30, 2013 **to** April 4, 2013 through June 30, 2013. (Ms. Russell will begin her disability period effective February 11, 2013 through April 3, 2013.)

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education grant Jagmohan Goraya, paraprofessional at NPMS, an unpaid leave of absence effective February 15, 2013 through February 27, 2013.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote 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.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the certificated staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken between September and December 2012.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Luis Jaime, student liaison coordinator at Somerset School, as a substitute supervisor in the NPHS Alternative Program at the rate of \$39 per hour, effective February 21, 2013.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Stephen Masterson as a full-time custodian at the Step 1/Custodian rate of 37,720, effective March 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013. (Mr. Masterson will replace Lester Genung.)

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Michael Sacco as a probationary custodian at the Custodian/Step 1 rate of \$37,720, effective February 21, 2013 through May 21, 2013. (Mr. Sacco will replace Alexander Kepuladze.)

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the Board of Education suspend employee SU-1-12-13 with pay, effective February 15, 2013 through February 20, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers:

Nichoela Lynton
Michael Mastriano

Kelly Remsing

February 20, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Branan abstaining, that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education adjust the unpaid leave of absence granted to Rose Landis, paraprofessional at NPHS, **from** February 13, 2013 through February 22, 2013, **to** February 13, 2013 through March 31, 2013.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Ms. Dodd moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the following recommendation be tabled:

That for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the use of Dynamic Therapeutic Services for speech services for up to six hours per day for five days per week at the rate of \$107 per hour, from February 25, 2013 through June 6, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-44-12-13 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective February 18, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-45-12-13 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by UMDNJ at the cost of \$55 per hour, effective February 13, 2013.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the long term suspension of Student ID #160376 through June 30, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for the term of the suspension, Student ID #160376 is prohibited from participating in any extracurricular events, school events or any other event occurring on legal school property; unless accompanied by their parent or guardian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board will review this matter on a bi-monthly basis for the term of the suspension.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the long term suspension of Student ID #150347 through February 20, 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, for the term of the suspension, Student ID #150347 is prohibited from participating in any extracurricular events, school events or any other event occurring on legal school property; unless accompanied by their parent or guardian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board will review this matter on a bi-monthly basis for the term of the suspension.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated December 31, 2012.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated February 20, 2013.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorize the transfer of funds from account 30-000-401-331-00-00 in support of the following projects:

- a) Anticipated additional expenditures in conjunction with the renovation of the NPHS library in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00
- b) Replacement of the Harrison School windows, anticipated cost of \$166,000.00.
- c) Repair of the Middle School office facade and roof, anticipated cost of \$55,000.00.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

February 20, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve a resolution authorizing the Business Administrator and Parette Somjen to accomplish all necessary steps to proceed with approval and submission as follows:

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education (“Board”) has determined that, the Harrison School windows need to be replaced and that this project is necessary for health and safety in the building (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, this project has been identified in the Long Range Facilities Plan as several projects for the purpose of improving and/or replacement of issues related to the structural condition of the school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the district intends to fund this project as “Other Capital Project” through the district Capital Project Fund utilizing available funds in another account via approved transfer; and

WHEREAS, the Board must now take all actions as directed by the Department of Education and any other authority in order to receive a determination and approval to proceed; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Donald Sternberg, along with Parette Somjen Architects is hereby authorized to submit and take all necessary action to obtain approvals for proceeding with the project, including the submittal of an application and related schematic drawing; and

FURTHER, be it resolved that upon approval for the project from the Department of Education, the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary Donald Sternberg, along with Parette Somjen Architects is hereby authorized to advertise and solicit bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et. seq. in order to award the project to the lowest responsible bidder; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve a resolution authorizing the Business Administrator and Parette Somjen to accomplish all necessary steps to proceed with approval and submission as follows:

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education (“Board”) has determined that, the Middle School office facade needs to be repaired due to continual water infiltration and that this project is necessary for health and safety in the building (“Project”); and

WHEREAS, this project has been identified in the Long Range Facilities Plan as several projects for the purpose of improving and/or replacement of issues related to the structural condition of the school buildings; and

WHEREAS, the district intends to fund this project as “Other Capital Project” through the district Capital Project Fund utilizing available funds in another account via approved transfer; and

WHEREAS, the Board must now take all actions as directed by the Department of Education and any other authority in order to receive a determination and approval to proceed; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Donald Sternberg, along with Parette Somjen Architects is hereby authorized to submit and take all necessary action to obtain approvals for proceeding with the project, including the submittal of an application and related schematic drawing; and

FURTHER, be it resolved that upon approval for the project from the Department of Education, the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, Donald Sternberg, along with Parette Somjen Architects is hereby authorized to advertise and solicit bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et. seq. in order to award the project to the lowest responsible bidder; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective immediately.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorize the expenditure necessary to have a uniformed police officer present at special Board of Education meetings involving student conduct hearings.

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

Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – Ms. Dodd reviewed the topics discussed at the meeting held on 2/15/13.

Curriculum – next meeting scheduled for March 12th at 5:30 pm.

Finance & Facilities – Mr. Branan reviewed with the Board various topics which included the 2013-2014 school budget.

Policy Meeting – next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 4th at 6:00 pm.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

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

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

That the Board of Education approve for second reading the following newly adopted policy:

4119.26 Staff Use of Internet Social Networks and Other Forms of Electronic Communication

Mr. Sternberg provided a brief overview of the information that is in the budget books that were provided to the Board. Also, the public presentation of the budget is scheduled for March 27, 2013.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Elizabeth Havrilla commented on overview meetings regarding school offerings. She also mentioned the negative atmosphere in the HS library.

Mary Forbes requested invitations be sent to North Plainfield Council members for viewing of the Gettysburg movie.

Future Agenda Items

Summer Programs – April 2013 – John Ferguson, Diana Sefchik, John Tarnofsky, Reginald Sainte-Rose

Bridge Program/Pathways Program – April 2013 – Jane Delaney

MALES Program – June 5, 2013 – Reginald Sainte-Rose

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

Technology Plan – May 2013 – Ron Fisher

Holocaust/Genocide Program – April 2013 – Jerome Pocius

V&V/HIB Mid-Year report – March 6, 2013 – Dr. Robert Rich, Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum

Recognition of NPMS Basketball Team – March 6, 2013 – Reginald Sainte-Rose

Ms. Bond-Nelson requested to change board meetings in May to May 8th and May 22nd and the Board members agreed to the new dates.

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on March 6, 2013 at 6:30 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED: Donald Sternberg