

December 5, 2012

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 5, 2012 at West End School, 447 Greenbrook Road, 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 Branam
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 150 members of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

New Staff Members and Milestone Awards will be announced during the presentation portion of the meeting.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to accept the public session minutes of November 14, 2012.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of November 14, 2012.

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:

The Step Team has been having practice twice a week, Mondays and Wednesday, after school. Our first performance is Dec. 14. We held our first bake sale on Monday, Dec. 4, to raise money for uniforms.

The Art Club meets every other Thursday of the month. It is a mixture of HS/MS students and has grown quite large. The materials that we most recently worked with were dry pastel and clay. On Nov. 29th, 14 of the art club students took a field trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art where they toured the Egyptian section. It was a very successful and inspiring trip.

The Drama Club ended Violence Prevention month with a strong performance of the One-Act play "And" and the Cafeteria/Homeroom Anti-Cyber Bullying talkback performances were received with much positive feedback and success.

The intention was to use November to prepare for a One-Act play festival. The student-run festival would use the month to conduct auditions, rehearsals, tech, and finally perform in the first week of December. However, due to the Hurricane and its horrific repercussions, the Drama Club did not have adequate time to prepare (memorize, design & rehearse), thus they decided to use the month of November to put together an Improv. Competition similar to Whose Line Is It Anyway? and Wild N Out TV shows. Once the members returned from their time away they auditioned for a place in the two competing Improv. Teams. The teams will compete on Dec. 7th for the Improv. Champion of 2012 title.

- The Drama Club is also preparing their audition pieces for the STANJ theatre competition, which takes place in January. The students will prepare monologues, scenes and improv. pieces which will be entered into the state wide competition. December and January will be used to rehearse and tweak the entries.
- The Drama Club is in the process of purchasing Drama Club t-shirts. Unlike October when the shirts were purchased to raise funds for Breast Cancer Research, these tees will be the official Drama Shirts and will be worn at the STANJ competition to represent NPHS.
- The Drama Club will also use the month of December to organize their January 19th Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre event: this will be an evening for the school and the community. The Drama Club will host a dinner wherein all the guests play a part in a murder mystery; one of the guests is a killer, all are suspects and one is the victim. It should be a truly enjoyable night and 50% percent of the proceeds will go to a cause chosen by the club (possibly Autism Speaks, or Humane Society, or Sandy Relief).
- Finally, the second week of December will be used for auditions for the Spring Musical.
- Overall, an exciting two months for the Drama Club and its members!

The Freshman Class gathered a large group of students to decorate their Spirit Week hallway and earned third place. We are planning a Bake Sale on December 6. Travel mugs have been ordered and will be distributed upon delivery.

The National Honor Society developed a display case outside of central office showcasing each student who was inducted in the National Honor Society. 48 new inductees were inducted into the National Honor Society on November 20. The Honor Society will be tutoring students after school every day in the Counseling Office Conference Room.

The Canuckling Club is happy to announce this year's student staff positions: Our Editor-in-Chief is Elizabeth U. Okereke. She will be following in the footsteps of Yamna Anwar, who helped the Canuckling 2012 issue win the Gold award from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association. We know Elizabeth will do a great job, as she has been involved with the Canuckling Club since her sophomore year. Our Literary Editors are Kaitlin Rink and Jason Le and our Photographic/Art Editors are Milena Contreras and Veronica Attis. Congratulations to all!

The Club has also officially decided that this year's overall theme will be **Juxtapositions**. Our five subsections are The Wait/Weight of a Generation, Walking through Heaven while Going through Hell, Dark Light Bright Shadows, Change and Tradition, and Odds and Ends.

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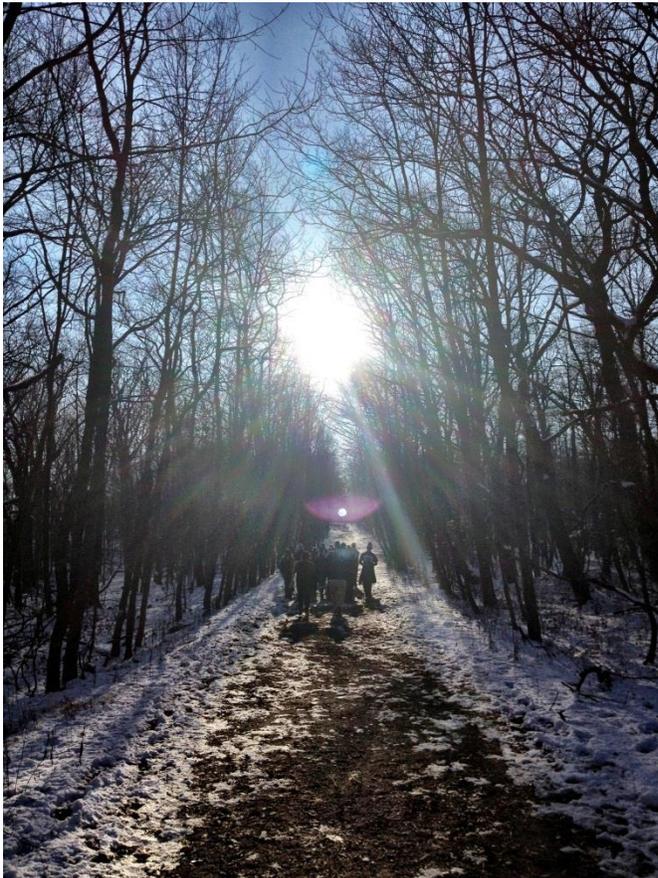
The club members are excited to make Canuckling 2013 an outstanding edition and to help it reach the gold standard we achieved last year.

The Dance Club is flowing smoothly, currently our meeting is being held every Wednesday and Thursday in room 230. Our meetings begin at 2:40 and never last longer than 4:00pm. As of now we have a fair amount of members, 23 people to be exact. In the club we try to focus on the relationship we have with each other in order to establish pleasant environment in which we can convene. Our main goal is to get our routines ready for our first performance, the talent show. Our routines consist of merengue, salsa, bachata, and other cultural songs and moves.

The senior class is still continuing to meet every Monday morning at 7am. Meetings have been focused on planning for future events that we would like to make happen in the spring. In November we had a candle sale, another Wendy's fundraising night, and the Homecoming Dance. The first senior picnic deposit was due in November, so that is done. We were supposed to go canning, but we were unable to because of the hurricane; however, we are looking to reschedule. For December, the seniors have another Wendy's night and a holiday bake sale coming up. We will still continue to meet weekly.

HOPE Club was hit by Sandy. Yet, we were able to plant native dogwoods (shrubs) in the butterfly garden. The dogwoods were donated by Michael Pollack, from Audubon and Duke farms.

We had planned a field trip to Duke Farms on November 2nd, but Sandy has pushed this trip to be rescheduled probably in late January. Duke Farms was badly affected by Sandy. Currently, only the Orientation Center is open to the public due to safety issues resulting from downed trees. However, they are excited to have us come in January when they will help us carry out a winter environmental field trip. I expect this to be a real treat for students to study an environment in winter conditions!!



On November 28, 17 Canuck mentors and 4 teachers embarked on a trip to Newton, NJ, that would not only teach them about each other, but about themselves as well. While teachers and students alike teetered on trepidation at the thought of spending three days in a cabin in the woods, the idea of the trip was to not only build upon leadership skills, but to create a bond between the seasoned - returning seniors and the juniors who are quite new to the Mentor program. While there, students spent their time in the outdoors, participating in a ridge hike over the Delaware gap, archery contest, man-hunt challenges, and endless hours on the ASE leadership training course. Through all of this, not only did it become apparent that new friendships were being formed; I realized that there was one consistent commentary to be made. Our students

never quit. Even in the face of physical and emotional stress, our students bonded together and refused to give up on any game or activity that the guide or teachers threw at them, consistently proving that they were willing to face down any challenge presented with integrity and determination. What arose from these actions was a respect from myself as well as the camp facilitators. These students proved that they are part of a school that often strives to overcome obstacles, and everyone depends on a comfortable reliance of one another to achieve any goal set forth. It is my hope that the Canuck Mentor program will use the skills learned on this trip and the level of communication achieved, to continue to thrive and grow in order to foster positive relationships with all of our students, because the will to continue, in the face of any adversary, is a notion that deserves respect and commendation from each of us.

Marching Band - On November 10 our colorguard earned "Best Guard" honors at NJ State Championships. The next day, on November 11, the marching band won second place in group 3A at USBands National Championships held at MetLife stadium. They also took home Best Guard and Best Visual Performance honors, scoring a school record 93.9!

Jazz Ensemble - The Jazz Ensemble has been busy preparing for our winter concert to be held on December 11, 2012 at 7 pm in the auditorium.

The highlights for the National Junior Honor Society

- Letter writing campaign to U.S. troops
- Co-sponsoring the NPMS food drive with the Student Council
- Applying for a grant to take a trip to the NJ Statehouse
- Sorting collected food items at Somerset School
- Volunteering as ushers for the NPMS band/chorus concert

We are also hoping to contact someone in the community regarding a coat/clothing drive.

The *Tunlaw* editors completed the October edition in time to distribute the Monday before Halloween. Because of the days missed due to the storm, students distributed *Tunlaw* the Tuesday that we returned to school. This first edition of the newspaper was well received.

The *Tunlaw* staff is now working diligently to complete the second edition. The editors and staff members are learning how to cover events and report on various topics. In addition, the editors are familiarizing themselves with the program for layout and working to find a system that is efficient. Students are developing ideas and collaborating to begin producing the upcoming holiday edition. Overall, students remain enthusiastic about *Tunlaw*, and they are constantly presenting ideas for improvement.

Interact Club Highlights

- We are delighted to inform you that the NPHS blood drive on Friday, November 16th, was a success! We were able to collect **92 pints of blood**. This means we collected enough blood to save **276 lives!**
- The Interact food drive ended on November 21st we were able to collect more than 300 food items. The winning homeroom that collected the most cans won a delicious free breakfast from Mrs. G's. The winner is homeroom 244 with 109 items.
- On November 20th we started our fundraiser at Rutgers University. Our job is to help in the basketball concession stands. Fifteen Interact students attended including a former student Yamna Anwar. Our Interact Club did a fantastic job, making and selling popcorn, serving up hot dogs, sodas, candy and hot pretzels, and helping with a myriad of tasks. It was a very fun night.

- On November 28th the Plainfield and North Plainfield Rotary club recognized three Interact students with the Student of the Month award for their community service, leadership, and grades. We met at 12:15 PM at Giovanna's Restaurant, 1462 South Avenue, Plainfield. The three students awarded were Anne Tang, Jairo Acosta, & Yvonne Njoku. During the luncheon Yvonne said that the Interact Club is very important to her because it touches every aspect of her life-both in AND out of school. She ended by saying "I believe that Interact Club has the ability to change the world we live in." We had an amazing time with the Rotarians and Dr. Birnbaum.

Upcoming Activities

- More Rutgers games
- Candy Cane Sale
- Bake sale

The middle school student council held a Halloween Dance and 9th Annual Student Council "Partnership" Food Drive. The Halloween Dance was a success - we had approximately 95 students and 15 chaperones at the dance, plus many food and beverage donations made by students and the PTO.

The food drive has been a great success as well! We currently have about 10 boxes of food donated. Yesterday, Thursday November 29th, we had the 7th versus 8th grade kickball game where approximately 60 students participated. Students and faculty donated either 1 can of food or \$1 as their admission fee. Additionally, baked goods were donated by students and faculty and were sold at the game. All proceeds from the bake sale and the admission fee will go towards items for the food drive. The student council ended up raising \$170!

Next Friday, December 7th, the student council will be heading over to Somerset School to sort the food along with the Somerset Student Council and the National Junior Honor Society. We will be delivering the food over to the Vermule Community Center. We will also have a monthly meeting to discuss the next fundraising activity for the new year.

Presentation

Dr. Birnbaum presented certificates to those students who had achieve perfect scores on the NJASK exams.

New staff members were introduced by Dr. Birnbaum.

Dr. Birnbaum presented Service Milestone Awards.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Staff

Linda Remolino, director of school counseling, has been selected as Somerset County's representative to the state advisory group evaluating **the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Interventions, Trainings and Programs (HIB-ITP) Data Collection System** for completeness, accuracy and ease of use after the first year of implementation. The first meeting will be held on January 14, 2013 at the Department of Education in Trenton, New Jersey.

Students

The following students were inducted into the **National Honor Society** on November 20, 2012 at a special evening ceremony:

Duvany Acosta	David Havrilla	Cheyenne Reid
Jennifer Almonte-Taveras	Mark Havrilla	Giovanna Rodriguez
Bridgett Alvarez	Megan Hynes	Harrison Rose
Jasmine Andrews	Jannelin Leonardo	Arlea Seavey
Chigozie Atube	Daniela Lopez	Jasleen Sevilla
Omar Bailey	Jennifer Marmolejos	Brandon Selby
Miranda Block	Nicholas Frank Mercuri	Christopher Smith
Chelsea Blue	Kevin Monroy	Victoria Stevens
Charlotte Brockway	Yvonne Njoku	Evita Nwosu-Sylvester
Alyssa Chandler	Elizabeth Okereke	Daria Szaroleta
Hasani Eason	Franklin Orellana	Cinly Tank
Kyle Finnegan	Pablo Ortiz	Stephanie Veintimilla
Carla Freire	Laura Paduganao	Juliana Villegas
Bridiette Garcia	Amy Palacios	Shelby Watters
Kyle Grant	Stephanie Pastuna	Anna Zhu
	Krupa Patel	Taylor Zoda
	Ryan Payan	

Congratulations to **Frank Merrill, senior** at **NPHS and Somerset County Vocational and Technical School**, who placed **First** in the **NJ FFA Turfgrass Management Career Development Event**. Frank earned a scholarship to the elite Rutgers Turfgrass undergraduate program. "This is the second scholarship earned by this student in two consecutive years totaling \$2500," remarked Erik Fargo, horticultural technology instructional, Somerset County Vocational and Technical School.

Jairo Acosta, Ann Tang, and Yvonne Njoku, NPHS Interact Club students were recognized at the **Plainfield-North Plainfield Rotary Club's** meeting on November 28, 2012. Introduced by **Alexandra Pereira, Interact Club advisor and NPHS/MS Spanish teacher**, the recipients are all active members of Interact, the youth club of Rotary. **Jairo Acosta** accepted the award as **Student of the Month for September**. He is a senior who plans to attend Rutgers University and major in business. However, this is his "Plan B," because his real dream is to become a professional soccer player on team Barcelona. "Jairo is well-grounded, and acknowledges this dream may not come to fruition," remarked Ms. Pereira. The **Student of the Month for October** is **Anne Tang**. Anne is a sophomore who is ranked number two in her class. She is a hard worker, thorough and efficient, and a great asset to the Interact Club, according to Ms. Pereira. She is using her sophomore year to explore possible career goals so that she can tailor her junior and senior years toward her eventual choice of major in college. This may include a medical degree, but Anne is keeping her options open. She expressed her appreciation for what Interact did for her as well as what it does for the community. The **November Student of the Month** is **Yvonne Njoku**, a junior at NPHS. Yvonne grew up in Houston, Texas, and has developed a love of the sciences, especially biology. She appreciates the teaching profession, but plans to become a pediatrician so she can help children in need of care. Yvonne is another highly active member of Interact while maintaining her exceptional grades. She was recently inducted into the National Honor Society.

*At the November **WE PRIDE** assembly, the following students were recognized:*

*Second grade teacher **Elizabeth Cirillo** and student teacher **Anniely Acosta** nominated **Genesis Garces-Gomez** for a WE Pride award for always going out of her way to be a helpful and kind classmate. Second grade teacher **Christine Birnbaum** nominated **Justin Lascano** and **Silanur Durmus** for being respectful and trustworthy second graders. Ms. Birnbaum stated, "They follow all of our classroom rules, share materials and supplies with those who need it, and are considerate towards their classmates and their teachers. They are true models of respectful students." Second grade teacher **Veronica Quick** and special education teacher **Erica Gara** nominated **Brooke Briggs** for her dedication to collecting bottle caps which is one of our school's environmental projects. Brooke has brought in 40,149 bottle caps since this past September. Second grade teacher **Patricia Russell** nominated **Catherine Savoy** for recognition who wrote about a Thanksgiving wish and her desire to donate money to Hurricane Sandy victims so that they can rebuild homes lost during the storm. Not only did this student write about her wish, but she shared the idea with the class, igniting excitement for the cause.*

*Third grade teacher **Marianne Harris** nominated **Oladimeji Fallowa** for exceptional behavior. Ms. Harris stated, "Oladimeji can always be counted on to follow the classroom rules perfectly and to model excellent classroom behavior for the other students." Also nominated were **Julia Gomes** and **Carly Robertson** for encouraging and helping others. Both Julia and Carly have acted as very helpful and willing student mentors during math and language arts blocks.*

*Fourth grade teacher **Emmery Schulz** nominated **Shaiza Shahzad** and **Joshua Arguello** who both demonstrated responsible, respectful, and polite behavior and exhibited wonderful character. Fourth grade teacher **Heather Morgan** nominated **Anthony Hernandez** who consistently helped his fellow classmates and demonstrated the upmost respect to everyone around him.*

***Band Awards** – **Dorian Parreott** nominated **Jaycob Adoptante** for being a fine leader in the class setting examples and assisting others. Also nominated was **Ava Hanlein** who demonstrates good listening skills, a great attitude and great patience in learning a new instrument.*

The following students received **East End School Citizen of the Month** certificates for demonstrating the six pillars of character:

Kindergarten: Aaron Smith, Erika Castro, Kailyn Mendoza, YarelizMinaya-Fernandez, Naomi Tucker, Jayden Tahuico, KaitlynSanichar, SreyaChaparala

First Grade: Madeline Bozack, Helena deBang, Max Bozack, Ybette Ayala, Paola Espana, Joseph Ehling, Kayla LaPlaca, Maria Castillo

Second Grade:Samantha Draben, Alex Ortega, Jennifer Van Buren, AbagilChango, Enzi Awinyo, Donte Reed, YasmenZafar, Joshua Indrawis, Daniel Melendez-Saucedo, Lillian Munoz

Third Grade:Nala King, Liam Alvarado, Sophia Chavez, SaadRehmatullah, Katherine Amaya, Lornacelia Lewis, Taylor Benjamin, Zy'aire Hopkins

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Fourth Grade:Shania Mendez, Alyssa Ehling, Matthew Parker, Ja'Mia Helms, JulissaJacome, Luis Martinez, Bryan Bajana, Angie Guanatagsi, Diane Guevara, Emmanuel Garcia

Vocal Music:SratiChaparala/K, Max Bozack/1,Darrell Cogdell/2, YasmienZafar/2, Amani Weeks/ 3, Stephanie Herrera-Matiero/4

Instrumental Music:Esteban Flores

Art:Jessy Dong/K, Madeline Bozack/1, Naomi Pieters/2, Kayon Walker/3, Sophia Chavez/3, Daniel Molena/4, Jehosafat Melendez-Saucedo/4

Physical Education:Samantha Melgar/K, Kailyn Mendoza/K, Max Bozack/1,Jeidi Hernandez-Mercado/1,Julissa Ramos/2,Darrell Cogdell/2, Michael Knight/3,Nala King/3, Litzy Moreno/4,Zy'kir Hopkins/4

Library: Anaya Villacresses/K,YassinHassanein/1, Juleanna Santos/2, Amelia Accardo/3, Madison Bush/4

ESL: ZoraidaNolasco/K , GisselAlvarenjo/1,Bryan Lopez/2, Milena Ramos-Chavez/3,Jehosafat Melendez/4

Principal:Emmanuel Garcia/4, MaximillianBozack/1, Madeline Bozack/1, Marcela Gorsky-Ortiz/1

For the third year in a row, **Stony Brook** students will participate in the **“Writing Wall”** project. Based on the book, *The Writing Wall* by Margy Burns Knight, a Writing Wall has been created at Stony Brook with the purpose of displaying monthly student work selected by classroom teachers. Certificates and free dessert awards are given to selected writers. Their writing piece is proudly displayed on the writing wall for all to view and share. In October, the following kindergarten through fourth grade students were awarded recognition: **Kindergarten - Kayla Fonseca Balseca, Keyla Matamoros, Mariam Malik; Grade One - Adamaris Acosta Castro, Gabrielle Aguirre;_Grade Two - Kayon Woods, Uriel Palacios, Andrea Garcia, Hamza Malik; Grade Three - Luisa Salguero, Joel Guevara, Kenny Cabrera and Fourth Grade - Rebekah Narine, Jasmin Solis.**

Schools

Stony Brook School

Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program at Stony Brook School: Maschio’s Food Service delighted the students and staff at Stony Brook with an all school assembly launching the 2012 Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program. Special guests that day were **Catherine Sorge, owner of Ripple Hill Farm in Basking Ridge and Maschio’s Corporate Dietitian Hallie and Chef Nadine, also from Maschio’s.** Another very special guest was Maschio’s Mascot, **“MacApple,”** known to everyone as **Miss Claudia** and lead food server at Stony Brook. Farmer Sorge brought a variety of fresh Jersey apples, enough for all students and staff members to enjoy. She also shared a wonderful PowerPoint presentation which included pictures of the farm and a story of the life cycle of the apple. Chef Nadine demonstrated how to cook an Apple Crisp and Hallie discussed the importance of eating at

least five fruits and vegetables every day in order to stay healthy. Stony Brook School was fortunate to be one of the many schools selected to receive the Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Grant. This grant allows students to receive a weekly fruit or vegetable to sample, as well as an informational card to learn about each of the foods. Sample choices have been pears, apples, blueberries, broccoli and cucumbers, all delicious and nutritious treats.

Somerset School

On Sunday, November 18 the **Girls on Track Team** of Somerset School ran a 5K running event in Somerville. Girls on Track is a national, positive youth development program which combines an interactive curriculum along with running to inspire self-respect and healthy lifestyles in pre-teen girls. Somerset School is very grateful to the **North Plainfield Municipal Youth Services Commission** for the grant they awarded to Somerset School in order to execute this life-changing program. **Sarah Cohen, school counselor** at Somerset along with **teachers Laurie Pfundheller, Bettina Bergamo, Chemagne Kania, Melissa Hunton** and **Megan Schutz** volunteered their time over the past 12 weeks to coach 23 grade six girls. The core curriculum addressed many aspects of girls' development: their physical, emotional, mental and social well-being. The lessons provided the girls with the tools to make positive decisions and to avoid risky adolescent behaviors going forward. The culminating 5K race was packed with girls from different teams across the state of NJ. When the Somerset girls approached the finish line their feeling of independence and confidence in themselves increased. Somerset School could not be prouder of the 23 girls who worked hard to cross the finish line!

NPMS

Partnership Food Drive: Once again, the middle school will join as 'partners' with Somerset School to participate in the 9th Annual Student Council Food Drive. Students and staff are encouraged to collect food and toiletry products. Donated items will benefit the Somerset County Food Bank Network and the North Plainfield Food Pantry. Heading up this worthy effort to support our local community were **Lindsey Mulry, student council advisor**, and **Megan Farrell, Jr. National Honor Society advisor**.

Electing a New President: On October 9, the middle school conducted its annual student elections. Student-candidates, from both the seventh and eighth grades, addressed the entire student body during an assembly to introduce themselves and present their ideas for school improvement. The following students were elected: **Karon Dock**, president; **Yanqing Liang**, vice president; and **Antoine Izaguirre**, secretary. In addition to helping to sponsor and organize student activities, the leadership of the student council meets monthly with **Assistant Principal John Ferguson** in order to collaboratively assess and strengthen the school's climate.

Monster Mash: Middle school students showed their most creative and scary costumes recently when they attended the annual Halloween dance on Friday, October 26. With over 120 students in attendance, the frightful night consisted of dancing, games and activities. The PTO and student council co-sponsored the event and provided the refreshment for the event. A devilish good time was had by all.

Anti-Bullying Bracelet Sale: The Middle school bracelet sale from October has been carried over into November to help raise additional money for the North Plainfield food bank, in an effort to assist community members suffering the effects of hurricane Sandy.

The bracelets depict the slogan, “Don’t Attack When You @” to increase student awareness about the harmful effects of cyber-bullying. District school counselor and anti-bullying coordinator **Dana Smith** stated, “The bracelets are promoting respect on the internet; however, it is important that our students learn that giving back is another way we can show respect to others and to our community.”

Study Skills Assessment Workshops: During October, middle school students participated in study skills instruction involving teaching student to utilize a process for “thinking about thinking.” The workshops required students to execute particular strategies and equipped them with tools on how to effectively learn. Certain skills, such as time management, reading for understanding, and organizing assignments, were addressed to build confidence and improve academic performance on the middle school level.

NPHS

The **Interact Club Blood Drive** on November 16 was a huge success. The Red Cross workers collected 92 pints of blood - enough to help 276 people!!

West End School

FAST Spaghetti Dinner: On October 16, 2012 the West End Family and Schools Together (FAST) committee sponsored the Welcome Back Spaghetti Dinner. Over 200 parents and children attended. The first part of the evening was spent learning about responsibility. The parents attended a workshop that provided information on how to build responsibility at home. They were able to meet with other families to discuss responsibility and homework, and took home some tips to help their children develop into responsible people. During the parent workshop the children listened to a story about responsibility, read by the town’s children librarian, **Jessica Trujilo**. Following, they created a banner to illustrate responsible behaviors. The children were joined together with their parents to create a responsibility contract that they would post in their homes to remind them about what they learned. Everyone then enjoyed a meal of spaghetti, meatballs, bread, and salad all catered by a local restaurant, **DiMolas Pizzeria**. North Plainfield NPEA representative **Jackie Slattery** was in attendance and **Tom Mazur**, arts supervisor played the piano providing dinner music. Local **North Plainfield firefighters** were special guests at the dinner and were available to answer any questions about being responsible.

“Thank you to the FAST members: West End teachers **Elizabeth Cirillo, Angela Roman, Andrea Grasso, Emmerly Shulz, Erica Gara, Heather Morgan, Kelli Dunston, Lindsey Gall, Lisa Cerulo, Nancy Schreck, Paula Lemos, Regina Silverii, Vicki Mendes, Wendy McClellan, Kelly Wagner** and teacher volunteers **Brian Bigden and Ryan Johnson** for a wonderful evening” noted **Beth Sobel, principal**.

PTA October Family Fun Night: The West End community gathered together for a memorable evening of fun. Families decorated pumpkins, listened to spooky stories together, and played Halloween-themed games. There were also a variety of baked treats, which many West End teachers helped to provide. “Thank you to **Dot Carro, Katie Dolan, Kellui Dunston, Sara Gagliano, Andrea Grasso, Theresa Knauer, Vicki Mendes, Wendy McClellan, Michelle Onofri, Marilyn Pinto and Ronnie Quick** for helping to make the night a successful one!” exclaimed Principal Sobel. At the PTA bake sale, \$220.00 was raised and donated to help support West End’s instrumental music program.

P.T.A. BoxTops: In October, West End collected 4,826 boxtops. In third place with 380 boxtops there was a tie between **Kourtney Karl's** first grade class and **Alison Apisa's** fourth grade class; in second place with 450 boxtops was **Elizabeth Cirillo's** second grade class; and in first place with 480 boxtops is **Christine Birnbaum's** second grade class. The total for the year so far is \$737.00.

East End School

On October 23, 2012, the third and fourth grade classes at East End learned about the connection between **literacy and songwriting**. For thirty minutes they viewed a live webcast hosted by *Scholastic* featuring Taylor Swift, centered around the theme, **Where reading can take you!** Taylor's new album is entitled *Red* which stands for "Read Every Day." During the webcast students from around the country posed questions to Taylor Swift. With a smile, positivity, and inspiring anecdotes, she shared her love of reading and storytelling, as well as how her songwriting is inspired by literature. Taylor named titles and authors that she loves such as *Amelia Bedelia*, Shel Silverstein, *The Hunger Games* series, *The Harry Potter* series and *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. The webcast closed with Taylor performing one of her songs. "A heartfelt thank you goes to special education teacher **Alexis Holbrook** for coordinating this inspiring and memorable event at East End School. I was very impressed at how the students were focused and engaged throughout the webcast. Seeing a famous celebrity who loves reading and shared it with children made a positive difference," remarked **Kathleen Herrmann, principal**.

Firefighters Kennedy and Connelly facilitated an assembly on October 23, 2012, in recognition of **Fire Prevention Month**. The students watched a short movie on fire safety which was followed by a question and answer session. The firefighters then dressed in full gear and explained the importance of each piece of equipment. The homework assignment for students and staff was to check the batteries in all home smoke detectors. The assembly provided a great deal of information to everyone and simple steps that must be taken to prevent fires from starting.

Thanksgiving feasts were abundant at East End School on Wednesday, November 21. **Ms. Herrmann** and **Gladys Pazmino** visited all of the classrooms to enjoy an early taste of the familiar holiday foods. Parents filled the classrooms as they assisted staff with serving the food and making various crafts. "As we walked from classroom to classroom, we tasted stuffing, turkey, vegetables and plenty of desserts. It was amazing how much the children enjoyed tasting cranberry sauce for the first time," remarked Ms. Pazmino. Throughout the school, children were observed dressed as pilgrims and Native Americans as they demonstrated their understanding of why we celebrate Thanksgiving in the United States. "I am so thankful for the East End School Community and the partnership that continues to strengthen each day," said Ms. Herrmann.

The students in **Kathleen Porter's** fourth grade class were pleasantly surprised on November 21 as they were greeted by family members to enjoy reading the story *The Relatives Came* by Cynthia Rylant. Ms. Porter spread out blankets, provided a copy of the book to each student and invited the families to share some time with their children. A variety of delicious foods was served for all to enjoy. "It was priceless to see the joy and shock on the faces of the children as they entered the community room and saw their families waiting for them. I am certain that the families and students will remember the experience for a lifetime. After all, the relatives came!" stated Ms. Herrmann. The project was funded through a **PRIDE Grant from NPEA**.

Student council is up and running and quite busy. **Jacquelyn Spaventa** and **Lisa Gabriel** have selected the **safety patrol students** and continue to meet with them on a regular basis to ensure that they fully understand the responsibilities of the position. Box top collections continue and so far over 500 box tops have been submitted which are redeemed for cash to purchase items needed at East End.

Computer club facilitator **Alexis Holbrook** is creating read-alouds on CD's which will be created by members of the third grade club. The students will practice reading their favorite children's story which will then be recorded by other third grade members of the club and burned onto a CD. The completed CD's will be housed in the media center, cataloged and placed in clear bags. A database will be created so that staff can access the titles and availability for use in the classroom during listening centers or for students to take home for reading enjoyment and practice. Members of the club will soon begin working on creating holiday cards using Microsoft Publisher.

Jacquelyn Spaventa, school counselor, and **Diane Olsen**, school nurse, worked diligently for weeks collecting donations and assembling baskets for families at East End School. There was a great deal of need this year, especially due to the impact of super storm Sandy. The baskets ensured that families would have everything they needed to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner with all of the trimmings. "We are very grateful to everyone for their generous donations. We are now in the process of collecting donations and items for the December holiday baskets," stated Ms. Herrmann.

Departments

Mathematics and Science

John Patrick, NPHS honors chemistry teacher, took 32 students from that course to the **Eastern Analytical Symposium** sponsored by the American Chemical Society on Nov. 13, 2012. The main speaker was **Dr. Richard Saferstein** who spoke on the topic of forensic toxicology, including strategies to detect poisons and drugs in the human body. Dr. Saferstein was formerly the head of the crime laboratory of the New Jersey State Police.

Anthony Della Rosa, NPHS computer teacher, took a group of students to **Johnson & Johnson** headquarters in Raritan for the third consecutive year. This is a two-day field trip, the first day of which was November 15. **J&J's "Digital Camp"** is designed to expose high school students to the different IT careers and encourage them to pursue an IT career in the future. There were icebreakers, a tour of the facility, and keynote speakers, including a representative from both Apple and Microsoft. They also heard from the CIO of J&J who spoke of his less-than-stellar high school career that nonetheless led him to his present position. Other presentations included social listening and e-detailing. Students were then presented with the case study which they will work on until the second day of the field trip, December 7. Teams of students will present their responses to the case study by formally presenting their web portals, both desktop and mobile, for J&J product lines, along with the financial, security, and technology requirements of their ideas. Awards will be presented at the end of the day. In appreciation of the work J&J has done in creating these business simulations for our students, Mr. Della Rosa will present a plaque and North Plainfield T-shirts to several members of the J&J staff.

On November 26, at East End School, **Patty Marseglia, math and science supervisor, and Melissa DeCosPalma, family resource coordinator**, presented to parents of students in grades 3 and 4 a repeat of a similar program from last year, “**How Will the Common Core Standards Affect My Child’s Report Card?**” Offered in their choice of Spanish or English, parents learned about the changes in expectations in math achievement due to the transition to the Common Core Standards. The presentation includes a detailed explanation of the report card as a standards-based document and its connection to the marking period expectation documents. Suggestions for approaching teachers and working with students at home also were included.

Arts

The **Alborado Spanish Dance Theater Company** presented a free performance at the high school on Tuesday evening, November 27, 2012, made possible through a grant from Target. Although the audience was small, its members were nonetheless enthusiastic. The dance company included bits of educational material between their mesmerizing dances. From teaching the different methods of hand clapping to including audience members on stage to learn a dance, the program put smiles on everyone’s faces. A three-year-old girl, who bravely left her family sitting toward the rear of the auditorium to learn the dance with several other members of the audience, almost stole the show! A long time resident of North Plainfield who has attended countless concerts and shows at the high school said, “This was the most beautiful event I have ever seen here in the auditorium.”

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic - Operations. The safety topic for November was confined space awareness. NOTE: Due to Hurricane Sandy, the training originally scheduled for November is now due by December 31, 2012. Related safety training is being provided via our new on-line employee training system and all employees are currently in compliance.

Safety Topic - Transportation. There are no current training assignments.

RTK (Right To Know) – Science & Lab Faculty. As required, a refresher training session for science & lab faculty was held on November 26, 2012 at the high school.

RTK (Right To Know) – New Employees. As required, a mandatory training session has been scheduled for all new employees. This training session, to be held on December 11, 2012, will cover a wide range of safety related topics including RTK and accident and injury prevention.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HURRICANE SANDY

UPDATE: As of the date of this report, the following action has been taken to mitigate remaining hazards resulting from Hurricane Sandy.

- Harrison Building – The sectional roof over the multi-purpose room was replaced on November 24, 2012.

- Harrison Greenhouse – One roof panel damaged by falling branches has been ordered and will be installed once received.
- Harrison House – An internal work order has been generated to repair the rear entrance awning that was destroyed during the storm.
- Harrison House – Our contractor is currently scheduling the repair of approximately two hundred square feet of siding damaged during the storm.
- Stony Brook – Repairs have been completed to the fence damaged by a falling tree.
- West End – Repairs have been completed to the fence damaged by a falling tree.
- District-Wide – Repairs were completed to our fiber network that was damaged during the storm.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

At this time, the following emergency preparedness improvements are being evaluated for cost and implementation.

- A direct fiber optic link to the Operations Office at 63 Greenbrook Road.
- Electrical load evaluations of the stand-by generator at Somerset School.
- A stand-by generating system for the Operations Office at 63 Greenbrook Road.
- A wireless router back-up system for our network systems (Verizon).

FEMA -4046-DR-NJ

An initial disaster briefing was held on November 16, 2012. At this time, the district is preparing all documentation related to Hurricane Sandy for future submission to FEMA for reimbursement of related expenses. An intake meeting with a FEMA representative should be scheduled within the next two weeks.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for November was a lock down drill. All schools completed their assigned drills. The security drill for December is an on-site evacuation.

SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY PLAN

UPDATE: A representative from the Office of School Safety and Security will be 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.

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.

- Minor improvements in the break room at Watchung School.
- Two Cat-5 Cable runs at East End & West End for new printers (ARRA Funds).
- Three Cat-5 Cable runs at East End for new classroom computers (ARRA Funds).
- One Cat-5 Cable run at Stony Brook School for the new breakfast program.

A complete listing of all maintenance work, completed in the days immediately following Hurricane Sandy, will be included in a comprehensive storm report that is currently being prepared.

CAPITAL PROJECTS, STATUS REPORT (Current)

HARRISON SCHOOL

Chiller Installation. UPDATE: We are currently waiting for close out documents and system training.

STONY BROOK SCHOOL

Multi-Purpose Room Air Conditioning. UPDATE: We are currently waiting for close out documents and system training.

DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY

East End School – All associated equipment has been loaded to the roof(s) and installation is in progress. An RFI has been approved regarding the installation and location of the electrical inverter.

West End School – All panel arrays have been completed and a system tie-in was scheduled for November 28, 2012. The informational kiosk is on back order at this time.

Somerset School – All panel arrays have been completed and a system tie-in was scheduled for November 30, 2012. The informational kiosk is on back order at this time.

High & Middle School – All associated equipment has been loaded to the roof(s) and installation is in progress. Several RFI's are still outstanding for this location.

WATCHUNG SCHOOL

Complete Heating System Replacement. UPDATE: The installation of the new heating system is now complete and we are currently waiting for close out documents.

STONY BROOK SCHOOL

Complete Heating System Replacement. UPDATE: The installation of the new heating system is now complete with the exception of the work in the gymnasium. A final punch list is pending and a close out meeting is being scheduled at this time.

DISTRICT-WIDE RESTROOM PROJECT

Restroom Renovations. UPDATE: We are currently waiting for close out documents from the contractor. A close out meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

DISTRICT-WIDE WIRELESS UPGRADE PROJECT

UPDATE: The project has now resumed after being delayed approximately two weeks due to Hurricane Sandy. NPHS and Somerset School were scheduled to be completed by Friday, November 30, 2012. The remaining schools should be completed within the next two weeks.

DISTRICT-WIDE ENERGY REDUCTION PROJECT

This project consists of lighting sensors for classrooms, restrooms, hallways and offices. Additionally, the project includes the replacement of gym lighting fixtures and energy controls for a number of our heating and air conditioning units. The first year savings are projected to be approximately \$38,000 district-wide. UPDATE: This project is now scheduled for start-up and completion over the December break.

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS

This project includes a redesign and renovation of the existing space with an emphasis on technology and media. A steering committee has been established to ensure the new design will meet our current and future needs. The planning stage of this project has begun with a projected completion over next summer. UPDATE: A second meeting of the committee was held on November 28, 2012. More information to follow as we move forward with this project.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS, NON CAPITAL (2012/2013)

PENDING GRANTS

Safe Routes NJDOT Grant. UPDATE: The district was recently notified that all grants have been cancelled due to a lack of funding.

Safe Routes Mini Grant. UPDATE: The district was recently notified that all grants have been cancelled due to a lack of funding.

ENERGY REDUCTION

Demand Response. The district is now participating in a Demand Response Program through Constellation Energy Services. UPDATE: The district has received its first quarterly payment of \$2,449.82 for participating in the program. That translates into roughly ten-thousand dollars annual revenue for the district.

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 by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the certified staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken from September 2012 through October 2012 at the 2010-2012 rates indicated, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 up to a total of eight additional hours each for the purpose of training during the 2012-2013 school year for the paraprofessionals indicated on the attached list, effective January 2, 2013.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Cynthia Crawford as district mentor facilitator at the stipend of \$1,000.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 following individuals as substitute teachers in the district:

Anniely Acosta	Christy Oladosu
Danielle Mitchell	Benjamin Ndukwe
Ryan Lee Johnson	Alyson DiFiore
Deborah Kerr	

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Mary Elizabeth Winsor, teacher of social studies at NPHS, for reasons of retirement, effective January 31, 2013.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Lucy Pimpinella as a teacher of art in the Alternative High School program and as a paraprofessional at East End School, effective December 1, 2012.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Nicole Hubbard as a lunchroom paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for 1.50 hours per day at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$20.16, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective December 10, 2012. (Ms. Hubbard will replace Raffaella Bartsch.)

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Judith Levine as a temporary teacher of biological science at NPHS at the 2010-2011 6YR/Step 15 (22+) annual salary rate of \$84,080, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective November 29, 2012 through January 31, 2013. (Ms. Levine will temporarily replace Marie Annette Bicksler.)

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Yuri Urritia as an assistant wrestling coach at the stipend of \$6689.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 teachers indicated on the attached list as mentors for first year teachers, to be paid \$550 at the conclusion of the 30-week program or pro-rated accordingly, to be funded with NCLB Title I FY'13 or local funds.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 following teachers as presenters at three Preschool Parent Academy Programs to be conducted during the school year for a total of six hours each at the hourly rate of \$35:

Allison Hessemer	Michelle Onofri	Ashley Gutowski
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David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 appoint the following teachers to work on curriculum projects or school-based planning activities at the school/department as indicated at the hourly rate of \$49.74, to be paid at the conclusion of the project to be funded with NCLB Title I FY'13 monies as follows:

<u>East End School-Based Planning</u>		<u>Stony Brook School-Based Planning</u>	
Ridhima Bajaj	\$995	Patricia Klatt	\$622
Allison Longley	\$995	Michele Motichka	\$622
Mollie Mallett	\$995	Kelly Feeney	\$622
Rachel Padian	\$995	Carla Basile	\$622

Kathleen Porter	\$995	Rachel Rehfeld	\$622
		Sharon Switek	\$622
<u>Technology</u>		Marina Heller	\$622
Roseann Caruso	\$497	Leslie Castillo	\$622

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 appoint the following staff members to teach in extended day mentoring programs at the rate of \$35 per hour, to be funded with NCLB Title I FY13 monies as follows:

<u>Stony Brook School</u>			
Patricia Klatt	31 hrs	Carla Basile	29 hrs
Leslie Castillo	31 hrs	Kelly Feeney	29 hrs
Jennifer Ferraino	31 hrs	Marina Heller	29 hrs
Susan Garatino	31 hrs	Ines Simoes	29 hrs
Sharon Switek	31 hrs	Eram Tun	29 hrs
		Leanne Borberly	25 hrs

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Emmery Schulz as a temporary elementary teacher at West End School effective December 8, 2012. (Ms. Schulz was temporarily replacing Dina Glowaki.)

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Casey McKeen as a substitute teacher in the NPHS Alternative High School Program at the rate of \$32 per hour.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Frank DaSilva as a district affirmative action officer.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 following individuals as volunteers working with athletic coaches:

Dennis Passe	wrestling
James Garafalo	wrestling
Ryan Dunhamn	wrestling
Stephanie Myers	indoor track

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Laura Dixon, elementary teacher at Somerset School, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act effective March 9, 2013 through May 12, 2013. (Ms. Dixon will begin her disability period on February 4, 2013 through March 8, 2013.)

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 transfer of Jacquelyn Spaventa, counselor at East End School, to student liaison coordinator in NPMS at the 2010-2011 MA/Step 8 (9-10/10) annual salary rate of \$57,390, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective January 2, 2013.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Ryan Lee Johnson as a temporary elementary teacher at West End School, at the 2010-2011 Step 1-1/1 annual salary rate of \$50,615, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective December 6, 2012 through June 21, 2013. (Mr. Johnson will replace Emmery Schulz who was temporarily replacing Dina Glowaki.)

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Kelley Albanese as a district substitute paraprofessional at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$20.16, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 Angelina Taylor as a part-time teacher of art in the North Plainfield Alternative High School Program for up to ten hours per week at the rate of \$32 per hour. (Ms. Taylor will replace Lucy Pimpinella.)

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 following Spring student teacher and/or internship placements from Kean University:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>School/Class</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Robert Giordano	HS/Mathematics	Annemarie Alexander
Robert Gardella	Som/PE/Health	Donna Patton

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 appoint Christine Moscatello as the West End School computer facilitator with a pro-rated stipend of \$700.

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

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the use and implementation of the Pathways and Pathways 2 curriculum for grades 9 – 12.

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the North Plainfield Board of Education does hereby adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, 18A:7a-10 establishes the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) for evaluating performance of each school district, and

WHEREAS, the evaluation of the district is based upon five key components of school district effectiveness: instruction and program, personnel, fiscal management, operations, and governance, and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield School District's five components were reviewed by the New Jersey Department of Education in the 2010-2011 school year, and received the maximum designation as 'High Performing School District,' and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield School District is not scheduled to undergo QSAC this year, and all districts not undergoing QSAC in any particular school year must complete a Statement of Assurance (SOA) annually, and

WHEREAS, North Plainfield School District assures that all indicators in the QSAC review have continued to be met,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the North Plainfield Board of Education does hereby approve the submission to the New Jersey Department of Education of the Statement of Assurance as certified by Marilyn E. Birnbaum, Ed.D., Chief School Administrator and Linda L. Bond-Nelson, Board President.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 following classified students each receive a neurological evaluation to be provided by Dr. Kavita Sinha at the cost of \$325 each:

NEU-03-12-13 NEU-04-12-13 NEU-05-12-13

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote tfor the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the services of a translator for classified student TRAN-03-12-13, to be provided by Ambassador Translating at the cost of \$89 per hour (2 hour minimum) and \$43 per hour for transportation, effective January 4, 2013.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 home instruction for classified student HI-21-12-13 for up to ten hours per week, to be provided by district staff, effective November 19, 2012.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 classified student OT/PT-55-12-13 receive occupational therapy to be provided by the Cranford School District for one 30-minute session per week for 36 weeks at the cost of \$1056.96, effective September 17, 2012.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 classified student ACOS-01-12-13 receive an acoustical evaluation to be provided by Summit Speech School at the cost of \$400.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 purchase of a Rifton Activity Chair for classified student MISC-01-12-13, at the cost of \$3,305.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 home instruction for identified student HI-22-12-13, for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff pending a child study team evaluation, effective November 30, 2012.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 home instruction for non-classified student HI-23-12-13 for up to five hours per week, to be provided by district staff, effective November 14, 2012.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Ms. Mullen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student TTTTT-12-13 at Newmark High School in Carteret at the annual cost of \$50,362.20 to be prorated effective December 10, 2012.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student ATS-01-12-13 at the Somerset Academy Alternative to Suspension program at the annual cost of \$42,300 to be prorated immediately and pending the results of a psychiatric evaluation.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-24-12-13 for up to five hours per week, to be provided by district staff, effective December 10, 2012.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve change order number CO-001 decreasing the total amount paid to DeSesa Engineering Company for the installation of chiller at Harrison School in the amount of *one thousand four hundred and ten dollars* (\$1,410.00), for changes to the original specifications of construction.

Cost of the project will now be as follows:

Original Installation cost.....	\$192,950.00
Change Order.....	\$ <u>-1,410.00</u>
Adjusted Total Cost.....	\$191,540.00

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 change order number CO-001 decreasing the total amount paid to DeSesa Engineering Company for the installation of HVAC improvements (chiller) at Stony Brook School in the amount of *two thousand five hundred dollars* (\$2,500.00), for changes to the original specifications of construction.

Cost of the project will now be as follows:

Original Installation cost..... ..\$130,500.00
 Change Order..... ..\$ -2,500.00
 Adjusted Total Cost..... ..\$128,000.00

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. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the following field trips:

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
HS P. Weber	12/8/12	Inspired by Lead Conference Creating bonds between students and mentors	Rutgers University New Brunswick	\$0.00	District
HS H. Fencik	12/20/12	Students will develop an understanding of the elements of a performance, critiquing and appreciation of different art forms	State Theatre of NJ New Brunswick	\$0.00	District

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. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve tentative field trips for the students in the G&T program at Stony Brook, as per the attached list.

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. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve change order number CO-001 increasing the total amount paid to Thassian Mechanical Contracting, Inc. for the installation of HVAC replacement (boiler) at Stony Brook School in the amount of *forty-two thousand three hundred-fifty dollars* (\$42,350.00) for changes in the original specifications of construction.

Cost of the project will now be as follows:

Original Installation cost	\$570,000.00
Change Order	<u>\$ 42,350.00</u>
Adjusted Total Cost	\$612,350.00

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 and accept a grant from IBM Corporation in the amount of \$3,000.00, applied for by Deanne D’Armiento, teacher of science at NPMS, for the purchase of science supplies to be used at NPMS.

David Branan – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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 a revision to the school calendar to include March 28, 2013 and March 27, 2013 as days that school will be open with regularly scheduled classes in session for students and staff.

In addition, that February 4-8, 2013 be designated as 4-hour sessions for grades K-6 to allow for parent conferences.

Further, that January 21, 2013 and February 18, 2013 remain closed for students but be open for staff only for in-service sessions.

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

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

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today’s schoolchildren; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision to impose \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts in almost all federal programs, including education, that would become effective January 2, 2013; and

CONTINUED

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts, also known as “sequestration,” would have a negative impact on education through a reduction in funds of 7.8 percent or more and could result in larger class sizes, fewer course offerings, possible four-day school weeks, loss of extracurricular activities, and teacher and staff lay-offs; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would affect almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, and 21st Century Community Learning Centers; and

WHEREAS, public schools nationwide would be negatively affected by an estimated \$2.7 billion loss in just three programs alone – Title I grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start – that serve a combined total of 30.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey already ranks last among the states in the percentage of school expenditures (3.1%) supported by the federal government; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2013, New Jersey will lose more than \$73 million in funding for elementary and secondary education programs, administered through the U.S. Department of Education, as well as over \$11.7 million in Head Start funding; and

WHEREAS, with a state-imposed tax levy cap and limited growth in state aid, New Jersey local school districts have limited capacity to absorb cuts in funding resulting from sequestration.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Plainfield Board of Education, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to United States Senator Robert Menendez, United States Senator Frank Lautenberg, U.S. Representative Frank Pallone Jr. and Leonard Lance, State Senator Nicholas Scutari, Assembly Representative Jerry Green, Assembly Representative Linda Stender, the New Jersey School Boards Association, and the National School Boards Association.

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

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

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Curriculum – Mr. Kasper discussed the financial literacy program.
Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Policy Meeting – next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 10, 2012 at 5:30 pm
Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.
NJSBA – Delegate Assembly – Mr. Kasper was sworn in as Somerset County Vice President
SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.
SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

Strategic Planning – the Board discussed and approved the proposed dates with one change and selected 3/8/13 and 3/9/13.
North Plainfield Education Foundation – Dr. Birnbaum discussed the option of an employee payroll deduction for contributions.
Ms. Bond-Nelson mentioned the Superintendent’s Goals & Objectives were received by all BOE members.

New Business

EverFi: Mr. Kasper discussed the Financial Scholars Program made available by Peapack Gladstone Bank and the district adopting the program.

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

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Future Agenda Items

Marching Band and Color Guard – December 19, 2012 – Thomas Mazur
Summer Programs – January 8, 2013 – John Ferguson, Diana Sefchik, John Tarnofsky, Reginald Sainte-Rose
Gettysburg Project – February 2013
Bridge Program – Jane Delaney
MALES Program – June 5, 2013 – Reginald Sainte-Rose
Rutgers Grant – Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Dr. Robert Rich
Technology Plan – May 15, 2013 – Ron Fisher

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on December 19, 2012 at 7:00 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Sternberg

APPROVED: Donald Sternberg