

March 6, 2013

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on March 6, 2013 at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

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

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Jihad Womack, Student Representative and approximately 36 members of the staff and public.

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

There was none.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen and Ms. Mullen abstaining, to accept the public session minutes of February 20, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen and Ms. Mullen abstaining, accept the executive session minutes of February 20, 2013.

#### **Comments from the Public**

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

#### **Student Representative Report**

The student report was presented by Jihad Womack as follows:

**Interact Club** students have been working as tutors for two months now; I am pleased to inform you that our club has helped many 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who are struggling in math and other subjects. Mrs. Reagan along with other teachers has expressed their gratitude and happiness with our tutoring program. A tutoring schedule is posted outside Mrs. Pereira's door and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselors.

Interact t-shirts arrived for this school year!

Spring Blood Drive will be on April 12<sup>th</sup> from 7:30-12:30 pm in the HS gymnasium.

#### **Upcoming Activities**

Last Rutgers games on March 5<sup>th</sup>

Bake sale

Pizza sale

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**Winter Guard** -On February 23rd the Winterguard took their 2nd national title at the Winterguard international regional competition at South Brunswick high school, once again reclaiming their title of scholastic regional champions in the W. G. I. Circuit.

**HOPE Club** has been preparing for Ocean Days on April 10th at Rutgers. High school students are studying and analyzing data on demersal fish that have been affected by climate change off the shores of New Jersey. Middle school students are studying the cod fish and the effects of climate change on it.

**Freshman class** JellyBelly fundraiser ends on March 6. We had our Empanada Sale, earning \$70.

**Middle School Jazz Band** continues to expand its repertoire. New songs are being used as a chance to learn new styles. Our spring concert program is now set, March and April will primarily focus on both learning and polishing for the May performance. We will be performing C Jam Blues in swing style by Ellington, Birdland, a funk/fusion piece by Weather Report, and a gospel rock song called Gospel John.

**Senior Class** had a productive and successful month. We held a Valentine's Day Matchmaker Survey that brought in a few hundred dollars, as well as our monthly Wendy's night. For the first time, the senior class hosted a Volleycheese ball tournament that turned out to be huge success bringing in over \$1,200. Our weekly meetings this month focused on prom invitations and planning/organizing for the tournament.

Upcoming March events: We will continue with weekly meetings, hold our monthly Wendy's night, and start a candle sale. At the end of the month, the advisor will start to sell prom tickets.

**New Jersey Science League**'s next test will be administered Thursday, March 14, at Governor Livingston HS. This leaves the last test for this academic year to be held at NPHS on Thursday, April 11.

**Drama Club** continues rehearsals and preparation for the Spring Musical: Hairspray. The cast is working hard and we are looking forward to a fun run of the show. The weekly Drama Club meetings (Tuesdays) are being well used to keep members up-to-date and informed on all upcoming events and activities.

The Clubs' present objectives are:

- 1) Begin choosing and casting plays for the One-Act play festival which will take place (pending active participation) after the musical (April/May);
- 2) Prepping the scenes for the Teens Arts Festival in May
- 3) Prepping the monologues for the Living Art Exhibit in the District Arts Festival
- 4) Philanthropic activities:
  - collecting donations for the Humane Society: animal toys, food, paper towel, bleach, pet smart cards, etc.
  - collecting donations for a children's charity: clothing, toys and books;
  - planning a visit to the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen to help the homeless
  - planning on collecting donations for Autism Speaks (perhaps through admission to the One-Act play festival)

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**Spanish Honor** Society has decorated the showcase for the World Languages Honor Society Induction Ceremony on March 13th. Twenty-six new members will be inducted into the Spanish Honor Society. Next Monday, we will practice for the ceremony with the new members.

We are also planning to have a field trip to New York in April (Repertorio Espanol). Also, fundraisers (bake sale) and a dinner with all the members of the Spanish Honor Society is being planned.

We will keep tutoring in the library, twice a week.

**TUNLAW** The February edition of *Tunlaw* was well received and students enjoyed seeing their messages published in the Valentine's Day issue. The editors and staff are currently working on the spring edition. Students remain enthusiastic about their newspaper and are constantly discussing ways to improve the articles included as well as the overall appearance of the publication.

**Step Team** ended their season on a high note. Many older step team members as well as an advisor joined for the performance for senior night. Students were surprised to see advisors join the routine. Many people enjoyed the energy of the performance.

**Middle School Student Council:** In the beginning of the month the student council met to put together activities to celebrate random acts of kindness week. Each day had a different theme, such as "value friendship," "donate to a charity," and "be kind to a stranger." The student council did a service project during Random Acts of Kindness Week where they made over 100 bagged lunches for a local homeless shelter. The student body had the opportunity to make a donation toward purchasing the items needed for the lunches during a daily "Coin Drop." Any student who made a donation had their name written on a heart and displayed in the hallway.

In addition, we prepared and conducted a lesson for a 3rd grade class at Stony Brook called "Cooking up Caring and Compassion." Student council members discussed the meaning of caring and compassion, and helped the third graders come up with the ingredients to be a caring and compassionate person. They wrote their recipes on paper plates, and decorated the plates with macaroni, ribbon, and construction paper.

We are now planning our spring dance and Spirit Week activities for the end of March.

### **Presentations**

Dr. Birnbaum introduced Mr. Sainte-Rose, principal of Somerset School and congratulated the Middle School basketball team on their undefeated season, winning the March of Dimes championship, and also winning the Central Jersey Jr. Basketball League championship. Mr. Sainte-Rose expressed his appreciation for a successful season. Each member of the team was presented with a certificate and a CD containing photos from various games throughout the season which was provided by Ms. Dodd. Mr. Gordon and Ms. Bond-Nelson also congratulated the team on their impressive season and express how proud they were of the team.

Dr. Rich presented the Violence & Vandalism and HIB midyear report. He also discussed the annual performance targets for both the district and individual schools.

## Superintendent's Report

### RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

On February 23, 2013, the **NPHS Winter Guard** participated in the **Winter Guard International (WGI) Regional** at South Brunswick High School. This was the first ever prelims finals type event the group has ever competed in of this caliber. "It was a really long day with our first performance at 9:35 a.m. But in true NP fashion the children were amazing, and we came out of prelims in first place advancing us to finals competition later that evening. Later that evening we got ready to do it all again in finals competition. At 6:04 p.m. the children competed in WGI national finals competition for the first time and brought down the house by bringing home their second **WGI National Title** and title of **2013 WGI South Brunswick Regional Champions,**" proudly exclaimed **Shannon Shotwell, advisor.**

**The NPHS Drama Club is presenting *Hairspray*,** March 21, 22, 23 at 7:30 p.m. in the NPHS auditorium. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$10for adults.

### Stony Brook School

**Stony Brook's Reading Incentive Program:** Stony Brook's students love to participate in reading incentive programs. The students set a goal and work very hard to reach it. This year's program is titled "**Reach Your Peak**" was developed by the School Based Testing Objective Committee: **Patricia Klatt, Kelly Feeney, Michele Motichka, Carla Basile and Anne Corkery.** This year's motivation for the program was the story of Jordan Romero, the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest. The committee members studied the story of Jordan Romero and thought he would be an incredible inspiration and motivator for the students. To launch the program, the students were gathered for an assembly highlighting Jordon's story. When Jordan was a young boy, he was inspired by a work of art called "Se7en Summits." His goal was to climb to the top of each continent's highest peak that he saw in that painting. With the help of his family, and a commitment to hard work, he accomplished his goals. At 10 years old he climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa. The following year at age 11, he climbed Mt. Elbrus in Europe and Mt. Aconcagua in South America. At age 12 he climbed Carstensz Pyramid in Australia and Vinson Massif in Antarctica. Finally at age 13 he climbed Mt. Everest in Asia, the highest mountain summit of all. He broke all world records being the youngest person to complete the climb.

Stony Brook students were inspired after hearing his story. The students are keeping track of all the books they are reading in their reading log. With the help of parents and friends, they are determined to work as hard as Jordon Romero. They plan to "Read, Read, Read" right up until the Read Across America celebration on March 5, 2013. Book logs will be checked and data gathered to determine if goals were met. Following Jordon's incredible climbs and major accomplishments, he and Katherine Blanc wrote his story and published it in a book titled, "The Boy Who Conquered Everest, The Jordon Romero Story." In his book he wanted to show other kids that they can set BIG goals and reach them. Now Jordon has taken on a new quest, which is to climb the highest point in all 50 U.S. States to hopefully, inspire the nation's youth to set and then reach their important goals in life. "We hope when he gets to New Jersey and climbs High Point in the Kittatinny Mountains of Sussex County that he will visit us at Stony Brook School," remarked Principal Cathy Kobylarz.

### East End School

Ms. Herrmann has been busy reading to classes. **Jill Fogarty's** third grade class enjoyed Jon Scieszka's *Math Curse* and as Ms. Herrmann read aloud, the students engaged in solving various math problems. "I always enjoyed this book as a former media specialist because it raises student awareness about math operations with a twist of humor," said Ms. Herrmann. She also read to **Lisa Gabriel's** second grade class as they experienced the *Orange Shoes* by Trinka Hakes Noble. "This book was particularly rewarding for the audience because the students become aware of the struggles of others. I enjoyed the discussion following the story that made the children realize how fortunate they are," stated Ms. Herrmann

The PTO sponsored Variety Show was held on Friday evening, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room. **Claudia Capodeferro** and **Suhey Zetino** facilitated the event. The refreshment stand was organized by fourth grade parents, including third grade teacher **Lynnelle Thomas**. Proceeds are being set aside to support the fourth grade event. Upon entering the community room, one heard the upbeat music and saw the balloons flanking both sides of the stage. It set the tone and made everyone aware that the evening was going to be filled with entertainment and fun. There were eighteen acts ranging from singing, dancing, a piano solo, to a martial arts demonstration. "This year's Variety Show was one of the best ever. The students demonstrated outstanding behavior and their acts were very well rehearsed. I enjoyed the finale when all the acts were called to the stage to do a last dance together and then everyone cheered when Winnie the Pooh and Mario appeared. We are all so appreciative to **Ms. Capodeferro** and **Ms. Zetino** for their hard work. It is because of their efforts that the Variety Show was a huge success," remarked Ms. Herrmann.

Principal **Kathleen Herrmann** can also be seen each day at the drop-off zone from 8:00 – 8:25 a.m. ensuring that the students exit cars safely. It took some practice, but the morning drop off is running smoothly and efficiently. As each car pulls up, the students exit from the passenger side of the car and then walk to the front door where they are greeted by school nurse **Diane Olsen** or school counselor **Nicole Rivlin**. Safety patrols escort the children to the classrooms in an orderly fashion. "I can't express how much I enjoy greeting the parents and students each morning as I run from car to car opening doors and wishing parents and students a great day. I applaud the parents for following the rules and as we work together, we are ensuring the safety and well being of the students and drivers. It is a wonderful year at East End because the school community is working together to make East End the best that it can possibly be. We are very fortunate to have families who have become stakeholders in the new security, drop off and dismissal procedures. I appreciate the kind words from parents each morning," replied Ms. Herrmann.

**StarLab** visited East End School once again during the week of February 25, and the students enjoyed the experience as they learned about the solar system. Facilitators of the event include art teacher **Joanne Wendt**, special education teacher **Alexis Holbrook**, third grade teacher **Jill Fogarty**, fourth grade teacher **Nicole Rossi**, and academic support teacher **Karen Lewis**. An evening event was held on Tuesday, February 26 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. The community room was packed with families and while attendees waited their turn to experience StarLab, they visited various centers to learn more about the solar system. Visitors were also afforded the opportunity to estimate how many Milky Way bars were housed in a jar and fourth grade student **Justin Thomas** gave the best estimate and walked away with the (37) Milky Way bars! Once again, fourth grade parents **Naomi Pieters**, **Yanira Ayala**, **Sandra O'Donnell** and third grade teacher **Lynnelle Thomas** sold pizza, hot dogs, beverages and snacks to

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support the upcoming fourth grade event. StarLab evening proved to be a huge success and a time for family and friends to get together and have some fun.

Fourth grade teacher **Katherine Shuster** received a grant from *Pets in the Classroom* and purchased a leopard gecko. The students voted and decided to name him Peanut. He is housed in a large aquarium and the students are busy each day observing Peanut in his habitat. Part of the fourth grade curriculum engages the students in the study of life science and the gecko serves to integrate math, science, social studies and language arts as they observe and record temperature, humidity, and the habits of the gecko. "The students are enjoying having Peanut as their pet and are learning a great deal. This also supports the nature building objective. Ms. Shuster's class truly is taking a minute to be in it!" stated Ms. Herrmann. For more information on how to become an East End tree hugger, visit the school's website and blog with Ms. Ladybug.

### West End School

***Jump Rope for Heart:*** *Since 2008, West End students have had the opportunity to raise money for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart program. As in previous years, physical education teacher Wendy Alvarez met with students, during their recess to help them set up an online account through the American Heart Association. This would allow students to send email to their friends and family members all over the world which enabled them to make an online donation directly to that student. Chris Sepesi, physical education teacher and co-organizer of this event, stated, "Students put forth a tremendous effort and were able to raise a total of \$3,872.94. Of this amount, students raised \$1,250.72 from online donations. This is amazing considering last year's students were only able to raise \$975.00 from online donations and personal contact."*

*Third graders Madison and Tyler Kasper were able to raise \$320.00 each and were West End's top earners. They were followed by first grader Cameron Kelly who was able to raise \$290.00 through regular sponsorships. Below is a list of what students have earned over the years:*

*2008-2009 = \$1,000.00*

*2009-2010 = \$1,522.00*

*2010-2011 = \$1,491.00*

*2011-2012 = \$975.00*

*2012-2013 = \$3,872.94*

**Read Across America:** Congratulations to **Lindsey Gall**, West End School's **media specialist** on her West End Read Across America event. The day began with an assembly and a performance of *The Bully Blockers Club*. Based on the book written by Theresa Bateman, the play gives the audience realistic strategies for dealing with bullies and bullying. The play was directed by **special education teacher, Suzanne Parmelle**. Staff members that made this production possible included **special education teachers Erica Gara, Wendy McClellan, Christina Moscatello, and Regina Silverii, kindergarten teacher Nancy Lubreski, librarian Lindsey Gall, school counselor Andrea Grasso, school nurse Barbara Walker, instructional paraprofessional Ceil Griffiths**. Students performing included **Corrine Blazak, Tyler Sullivan, Douglas DeSousa, Hannah Alphin, Justin Vargas, Jayde Eady, Oleg Bochav, Jaime Valverde, Alex Mendoza, Makari Dankins, Anthony Ventriglia, Amanda Gaetan, Richard Herrera-Ortiz, Alexessi Zavala, Tatiana Gonzalez and Luther Vilvert**.

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The day continued with students hearing guest readers, classes visiting stations with crafts, and everyone viewing a Dr. Seuss movie played in the community room. Guest readers included: **Mayor of North Plainfield Michael Giordano, Borough Councilwoman Mary Forbes, borough clerk Richard Phoenix and his wife, Carla Phoenix, members of the North Plainfield Police Department and Fire Department as well as retired West End teachers Marilou Barrett, Carol Irvine, Marilyn LaMarca, Jan Sanderson, and Russell Royer.** "Many thanks also to **head custodian Angel Lopez** for all he did to assist with set up and break down from the day and for also for being a guest reader, remarked **Beth Sobel, principal.**

### Somerset School

*Tennessee Titans' Jason McCourty and New England Patriots' Devin McCourty visit Somerset School: The McCourty twins visited Somerset School on March 1, speaking to grade 5 and grade 6 students in assemblies about how they got to where they are today and what it takes to get somewhere no matter how hard you thought that goal would be to reach. They encouraged the students to keep pushing themselves and never forget to try to inspire other people to reach their own goals. Friend, mentor and former teacher and coach at St. Joseph Regional High School, **Reginald Sainte-Rose**, principal of Somerset School, hosted the McCourty visit.*

*Jason McCourty was drafted from Rutgers by the Tennessee Titans in 2009. Career highlights included from this past season: set a career high and ranked second on the squad with 107 tackles. He also led the club with 13 passes defensed and tied for the lead with two interceptions. He is a fast, athletic cornerback that has emerged as one of the young leaders of the Titans' defense. Jason will serve as the Tennessee Titan's United Way spokesperson and, in this role, will showcase opportunities for volunteerism and advocacy throughout 2013. First round pick from Rutgers by the New England Patriots in 2010, **Devin McCourty**, was chosen to the Pro Bowl in his rookie year. Jason just completed his second year with the Patriots as defensive back and special teams.*

**Somerset School Drama Club, replete with fifth and sixth graders, will be presenting the Wizard of Oz, April 5 and 6, 2013 in the Somerset School community room.**

### District

#### Gifted and Talented (G+T)Program

*Students from the district's third grade 2012-2013 Inspiration class, under the direction of their teacher, Cynthia Crawford, participated in a field trip to the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City on Friday, February 15, 2013. Aligning with the third grade theme of "structure," specifically, the study of architecture, the museum afforded the class the unique insight of a building designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.*

*Upon entering the museum, the class viewed not only the magnificent oculus but also one of the installation pieces from the current exhibit, Gutai: Splendid Playground. The work consisted of polyethylene tubes filled with dyed water which were suspended across the helical space of the gallery. Before embarking on the walking tour, the guide provided the history of the building reminding students of the repeated organic shapes that Frank Lloyd Wright incorporated in the museum.*

*The class also viewed many of the permanent exhibits including a two paneled painting by Édouard Vuillard entitled Place Vintimille. Here their guide invited them to compare and contrast the two pieces. Students patiently studied the paintings and arrived at a variety of conclusions regarding perspective and time. Afterwards, they were given paper and pencil to recreate a scene viewable by looking out a window of the museum towards Central Park. Once again, discussion centered on perspective coupled with Frank Lloyd Wright's interest in combining structures and nature.*

*Their final stop was in the basement of the building where the class became junior architects and builders. Using a variety of materials, they planned, designed, and constructed structures for a specific purpose. Students got to work immediately and in an hour's time were able to successfully build scale models of a car wash, a spa complex, and several museums.*

The G+T department is sponsoring a parent information evening on March 14, 2013, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Stony Brook School. The evening will include a program overview as well as a sampling of student independent project.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

### **EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING**

**Safety Topic - Operations.** The safety topic for February was proper lifting techniques and back safety. Related safety training was provided via our on-line employee training system and all employees completed their assigned training as scheduled.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

#### **HURRICANE SANDY**

A comprehensive analysis of the educational and financial impact of Hurricane Sandy has been submitted to the Superintendent for review. Copies will be distributed upon final approval.

#### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

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

- 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 wireless router back-up for our network systems (Verizon) is in progress.

#### **FEMA MITIGATION GRANTS**

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

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

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

#### **FEMA -4046-DR-NJ**

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

#### **SECURITY DRILLS**

The Security Drill for the month of February was an active shooter drill. All of our schools completed their assigned drills. The security drill for March is a bomb threat drill.

#### **SECURITY DRILLS – UNANNOUNCED**

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

#### **SCHOOL SAFETY & SECURITY PLAN**

**UPDATE:** On February 20, 2013, representatives of the district attended a Safety and Security Plan Wrap-Up Meeting in Hamilton, New Jersey. The purpose of this meeting was to outline future expectations of districts and to review current findings.

#### **HIDDEN CAMERA SURVEYS**

Hidden Camera Surveys were recently completed at the high school, middle school 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.

#### **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.

- Misc. door replacements at the high school and Stony Brook School (Awarded).
- Security related upgrades for the high school auditorium (Awarded).
- Replacement of a steam line at the Harrison House (Completed).
- Repair of two clogged drain lines at Stony Brook School (Completed).
- Replacement of gym lights at Somerset School (Completed).

#### **CAPITAL PROJECTS (Status Report) (Current)**

##### **DISTRICT-WIDE RESTROOM PROJECT**

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

## **DISTRICT WIDE SOLAR ENERGY**

East End School – \*Major construction completed. 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.

## **HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**

This project includes a redesign and renovation of the existing space with an emphasis on technology and media. UPDATE: Plans and specifications for this project have now been completed and the project was advertised on February 27, 2013. A pre-bid meeting was scheduled for March 5, and bids will be received and opened on April 2, 2013. If the bidding process is successful, the district can entertain a resolution to award the project on April 3.

## **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.

## **PENDING GRANTS**

**Safe Routes NJDOT Grant. UPDATE:** We have now been advised that grants were not approved for any community in Somerset County.

**Safe Routes Mini Grant. UPDATE:** These grants are currently being reconsidered due in part to a number of complaints regarding the funding process.

## **HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN**

As required by FEMA, the North Plainfield Board of Education is currently preparing our 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. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote, with Mr. Allen, Mr. Branan, and Mr. Kasper abstaining, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individual(s) as substitute paraprofessional(s) in the district to be called on an as-needed basis, at the rate of \$20.96 per hour:

Eman Mobarak	Stephanie Cuomo
Esther Domiciano	

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

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Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education rescind the previously approved recommendation to hire Delores Galimore as a substitute custodian in the district.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Earl Thompson as a substitute custodian at the hourly rate of \$18.07, to be called on an as-needed basis, pending completion of the employment process.

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

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

Keisha Harris	Shane Repmann	Andrew Zlotnick
Jadson Nyakeri	Elisa Salvemini	
Thomas Allen – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye	
David Branan – Aye	Nancy Szaroleta – Aye	
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye	
Thomas Kasper – Aye		

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve Shane Repmann as a counseling intern from the Rutgers Graduate School of Education, with Linda Remolino serving as the on-site supervisor.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education adjust the previously approved recommendation granting Lauren Paczkowski, speech language specialist, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act **from** effective March 14 through June 6, 2013 **to** effective March 7, 2013 through May 30, 2013.

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

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Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve Corrine Cecala, physical education teacher at East End School, as a volunteer assistant to the varsity softball coach.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Andrew Zlotnick as a temporary elementary teacher at West End School, at the BA/Step 1-2/1 annual salary rate of \$54,210, to be prorated effective March 7, 2013 through June 21, 2013. (Mr. Zlotnick will temporarily replace Patricia Russell.)

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education continue the suspension of employee SU-1-12-13, with pay, through March 20, 2013.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education grant Maria Banos, paraprofessional at West End School, an unpaid leave of absence effective March 15, 2013 through March 29, 2013.

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

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

#### Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve the use of Dynamic Therapeutic Services for speech/language therapy services for a second therapist for the remainder of the 2012-2013 school year, at the cost of \$95 per hour for up to 650 hours.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-45-12-13 to be provided by GenPsych Educational Company, Silvergate Prep. for up to ten hours per week at the cost of \$52.24 per hour, effective February 20, 2013.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-46-12-13 for up to five hours per week to be provided by Educere, effective February 26, 2013.

March 6, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the following classified students undergo psychiatric evaluations to be provided by Dr. Nancy Durant at the cost of \$150 per hour:

PSY-14-12-13

PSY-15-12-13

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2012-2013 school year, the Board of Education approve classified student OT/PT-56-12-13 receive occupational therapy to be provided by NuView Academy for one 30-minute session per week at the cost of \$49.50 per session.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-47-12-13 for up to five hours per week, effective March 4, 2013.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the **2013-2014** school year, the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the New Jersey Department of Education Division of Early Childhood Education District One-Year Program Plan Update and pre-school budget as per attached.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and approved by a roll call vote of 4-3 that be it:

**RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education of the Borough of North Plainfield hereby adopt the following preliminary school district budget for the 2013-2014 school year:

General Fund	\$ 54,917,464.00
Special Revenue Fund	\$ 2,516,789.00
Debt Service Fund	\$ <u>1,331,222.00</u>
Total Base Budget	\$ 58,765,475.00

**Be it further resolved**, that the following amounts be raised from taxes:

General Fund	\$27,931,831.00
Debt Service	\$ 1,331,222.00

**Be it further resolved**, that the Board of Education direct the Superintendent and Board Secretary to complete all required forms and submit this budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for review and approval for advertising as required by law, and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Board of Education hereby establish March 27, 2013 as the date for the public hearing on this preliminary budget and authorize the Superintendent and Board Secretary, after approval by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, to advertise this budget and the budget hearing as required by law.

**Be it further resolved** that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Thomas Allen – No  
David Branan – No  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – No

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

March 6, 2013

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education authorize the sale/disposal of NPHS cafeteria food equipment determined to be obsolete and irreparable as follows:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A. Vulcan Steamer<br>Model #VSX-7GC<br>Serial #AP1023830-XXX-6789 | B. Hobart Mixer<br>NP ID Tag #01097<br>Model #A-200<br>Serial #981283 |
|---|---|

All equipment has either reached the operating age limitations as defined in N.J.S.A. 6A:27-7.3, or its useful life (obsolete/irreparable). The public bidding services will be provided by the County of Somerset On-Line Public Auction System.

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

School	Date	Purpose	Location	Cost	Transportation
HS C. Kammerer	3/14/13	NJ Science League Testing (Biology, Physics & Chem)	Gov. Livingston HS Berkeley Heights, NJ	\$0.00	District
HS T. Zimmerman	5/29/13	View artwork that has been studied in class in preparation for research project	Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, NY	\$277.00	District
HS T. Mazur	3/15/13	Marching band to participate in St. Patrick's Day parade	Newark, NJ		Contracted
HS S. Spanner	4/06/13	Undergraduate Open House tailored to meet the needs of ESL students in Gr. 9-12	Kean University Union, NJ	\$0.00	District

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education authorize Allison Longley, education media specialist, and Mollie Mallett, elementary teacher, to submit a grant in the amount of \$2,200 from the Lowes Corporation for "Butterflies in our Backyard" for the purpose of building a butterfly way-station/garden at East End School.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education authorize Kyle Skrivanek, music teacher at NPMS, to submit a grant from Target in the amount of \$1,000, for the purpose of purchasing a music technology cart for use at NPMS/HS.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve and accept a donation of the following items from Donors Choose.org, which was applied for by Kimberly Nydick, art teacher at NPMS, for use in a photography course at the Bridge Program, valued at \$507.94:

- a) Supplies (ink & batteries)
- b) Printer
- c) Two Cameras

### **Correspondence**

Letters were received as follows from: there were none

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Communications – next meeting scheduled for Friday, March 8, 2013  
Curriculum – next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2013.  
Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Policy Meeting – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
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**

Mr. Sternberg discussed and reviewed the 2013-2014 school budget.

Ms. Bond-Nelson discussed dates for the joint meeting and requested ideas for agenda items with the NP Borough Council.

**New Business**

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

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

- 5111 Admission
- 5113 Attendance, Absences, and Excuses
- 5118 Nonresidents
- 5120 Assessment of Individual Needs
- 5127 Commencement Activities
- 5131 Conduct/Discipline
- 5131.1 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying
- 5131.5 Vandalism/Violence
- 5131.6 Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco
- 5131.7 Weapons, and Dangerous Instruments
- 5141 Health
- 5141.21 Administering Medication
- 5142 Student Safety
- 5145.4 Equal Educational Opportunity
- 5145.11 Questioning and Apprehension
- 5145.12 Search and Seizure
  
- 6114 Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness
- 6115 Ceremonies and Observances
- 6142.2 English as a Second Language; Bilingual/Bicultural
- 6142.4 Physical Education and Health
- 6142.10 Technology
- 6142.12 Career Education
- 6144 Controversial Issues
- 6145.1/6145.2 Intramural Competition/Interscholastic Competition
- 6156 Instructional Planning/Scheduling
- 6161.1 Guidelines for Evaluation and Selection of Instructional Materials
- 6163.1 Media Center/Library

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6164.1	Intervention and Referral Services for General Education Pupils
6171.3	At-Risk and Title 1
6171.4	Special Education
6172	Alternative Educational Programs
6173	Home Instruction
6178	Early Childhood Education/Preschool
6200	Adult/Community Education

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve for first reading the following new policies:

4119.26	Staff Use of Internet, Social Networks and Other Forms of Electronic Communication
5141.8	Sports Related Concussion and Head Injury

### **Current Events in Education**

Ms. Dodd asked about School Choice Districts and what the impact is on our district.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were none

### **Future Agenda Items**

Summer Programs – April 3, 2013, John Ferguson, Diana Sefchik, John Tarnofsky, Reginald Sainte-Rose

Bridge & Pathways Program – April 3, 2013, Jane Delaney

PASS Program – April 3, 2013, Jerard Stephenson, Priscila Weber

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

MALES & Sixth Grade Advisory Program – June 5, 2013, Reginald Sainte-Rose

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

Technology Plan – May 22, 2013, Ron Fisher

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on March 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn to executive session at 10:25 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to reconvene to public session at 10:40 pm.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED: Donald Sternberg