

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 7, 2011 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	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, Yamna Anwar, Student Representative and approximately 60 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. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously to accept the public session minutes of November 16, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously to accept the executive session minutes of November 16, 2011.

#### **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 Yamna Anwar as follows:

The Junior prom is scheduled for April 27, 2012 at The Westwood in Garwood. Throughout October and November we continue to sponsor fundraising events and a Homecoming Dance was held with the Senior Class. Currently, plans are underway for additional fundraisers as well as continuing the prom plans.

The Junior and Senior classes held a "Harvest Homecoming" dance on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Students enjoyed a night of dining and dancing and all had a great time. A crowning ceremony was also held to crown the Junior Prince and Princess and the Senior King and Queen. On Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, the SCSC will be visiting Skylands at Randolph as a possible venue for the senior prom. The next meeting will be held on November 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss the holiday candygram fundraiser.

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Interact club raised 91 pints of blood on November 18<sup>th</sup>'s very successful blood drive. In addition, the food drive resulted in a large amount of food donations and was given to the North Plainfield food bank. Members of the Interact team attended a Distracted Driving Conference at Raritan Valley Community College in November which was sponsored by Somerset County. Attendance and volunteering at Rutgers games has been regular and the Rotarians are very happy with the service and commitment members have shown.

Ms. Winsor held a "Holiday Card Writing" program after school. Students were offered holiday treats for spending time writing cards to servicemen and soldiers serving in the U.S. military.

The Canuck Mentors went on their leadership retreat from November 30<sup>th</sup> to December 2<sup>nd</sup>. All students said they had an extremely enriching and character building experience. Mentors who attended shared their experience with those who could not go and are planning to share what it is to be a mentor with freshmen during an extended homeroom period. Also, green dot training was held last Tuesday and our next project is Relay for Life. The prospective date is May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at Scotch Plains High School. By then, all AP exams will be done and prom will not create a scheduling conflict. We are discussing fundraising ideas to meet our pledge.

NPHS football team dominated South Plainfield in a 28-0 victory on Thanksgiving. NPHS Basketball is ongoing. The last scrimmage was against Union Catholic, and the next is scheduled for this week.

The French Honor Society is currently preparing for its first crepe sale after school on December 21<sup>st</sup> as part of its annual fundraising efforts to benefit a local charity. In January, they will gather to celebrate the New Year by sharing Galettes des Rois in the French tradition.

National Honor Society Tutoring is ongoing in the guidance office afterschool.

As seniors are hearing back from colleges about their applications, colleges have also been visiting NPHS for instant decisions after conducting interviews and informational sessions. Today all of Ms. Brain's senior classes attended an informational session for Berkeley College while a representative from Fairleigh Dickinson conducted instant decision interviews in the guidance office. 5 students were accepted after their instant decision interviews.

A free practice SAT was administered at NPHS last week and 49 students took the exam.

The first Math League contest was a success; a great number of students were in attendance.

Yearbook news: The 2012 yearbook is underway and staff is diligently working on meeting crucial deadlines. This year's theme: VINTAGE CANUCK, features alumni faculty, veteran teachers, administrators and former service members. Alumni faculty are encouraged to contact Kristyn Rosen, the advisor, for more information.

Yearbooks are currently on sale at [www.smart-pay.com](http://www.smart-pay.com) for \$85—Quantities are limited.

Dr. Tony Mussari's documentary was featured in the High School's auditorium on December 5<sup>th</sup> during periods 2 & 3 on Monday and Tuesday. It was later shown to parents on Tuesday night.

The senior class parents have been working diligently to help fundraise for project graduation. To that effect, they held a candle sale that ended last week.

### Tunlaw Highlights

Staff members and editors for the school newspaper, Tunlaw, have been meeting regularly after school. The staff currently consists of a diverse group of 22 students from grades nine through twelve, and new members have worked to develop different topics to cover for the second issues of the newspaper. Several topics include, winter sports, holiday traditions and recipes, an advice column entitled "Mr. Canuck and Mrs. Canuck and various other topics. Additionally, the students are excited to continue the year-long column that will commemorate and celebrate the 85<sup>th</sup> edition of the school newspaper. The Tunlaw editors successfully participated in the first two "Layout Lockdowns." Students spent a great amount of time after school to work on editing and layout for the October and December edition.

Overall, Tunlaw is off to a great start. Editors and staff members have expressed interest and demonstrated enthusiasm that will help make Tunlaw a continued success.

### Presentations

Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum introduced the new members of the staff.

Service Milestone Awards were presented by Dr. Birnbaum.

Dr. Birnbaum recognized Dr. Hope Blecher and Ms. Mary Beth Winsor for receiving the Cultural Diversity Award and the Peter Biondi Education Award.

### Superintendent's Report

## RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

### District

On November 19, 2011, **Dr. Hope Blecher-Sass and Mary Beth Winsor** accepted the **Peter Biondi Education Award** on behalf of the school district. The district is the first recipient of the award, named in memory of long time Somerset County legislator, Peter Biondi, who died on November 10, 2011. The award, presented by Dr. Beverly Hetrick and David Livingston of the Somerset County Superintendent's Office, was part of the **Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Dinner and Diversity Award Ceremony: Celebrating our Community**. The honor was bestowed upon North Plainfield due to the efforts of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 Committee. Dr. Blecher-Sass and Ms. Windsor accepted the award for the committee; they have served as co-chairs of the committee since its inception over two years ago.

The citation in the program included the purpose of the 9/11 committee: "Lessons to be learned from the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center must address issues of diversity

and understanding among the citizens of this county and the world. ...[the]cross curricular program expands students' perspectives to embrace a global focus, using educational, the arts, and intercultural/generational experiences."

During the awards portion of the evening, the following items were presented to the district:

1. A letter from Dr. Paul B. Winkler, Executive Director, NJ Commission on Holocaust Education;
2. Somerset County Cultural Diversity Coalition 2011 Diversity Award in the Education category for significant and notable contributions for the betterment of our community in the areas of diversity;
3. A citation from the New Jersey Legislature, to the North Plainfield Public School District, for promoting the greater understanding of civility, tolerance, diversity, collaboration and cooperation;
4. A citation from the County of Somerset Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Information and images from the various projects and programs undertaken by the district's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11 Committee can be viewed at [www.nplainfield.org/9-11committee](http://www.nplainfield.org/9-11committee)

**The following article appeared in the *Courier News* on December 1, 2011:  
*North Plainfield schools, community join to stage 'A Christmas Carol, the Musical'***

*It is not what you take, it is what you give.*

*That is the message at the heart of "A Christmas Carol," the classic play written by Charles Dickens, that will be performed as a musical from today through Saturday at the North Plainfield High School.*

*High school and elementary school students, teachers, administrators and members of the community will take part in the production.*

*"A Christmas Carol, the Musical," was created 20 years ago by composer Tom Mazur, the high school's supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts, and lyricist Bob Nesius.*

*"What is really exciting about this production is that it is a community-wide event," Mazur said. "We have almost 100 people involved. We have 60 people on stage at one time and dozens of parents helping with makeup and scenery."*

*He said the orchestra of nine includes six professional musicians and three students.*

*"We are very grateful that we were able to hire professional musicians thanks to a grant from the Education Foundation of North Plainfield, which is supported by a group of parents who raise funds for special educational programs," Mazur added.*

*Leeanne Chiaramonte, the high school's drama teacher, wanted to produce a musical, but it became difficult because of budget cuts, which eliminated the stipends for the music director and the assistant music director, Mazur said.*

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*While jogging one day on the school's track, Mazur said he struck up a conversation with a parent who is on the board of the education foundation.*

*Mazur said that he told the parent about the school's goal of producing a musical and to his surprise, the organization offered a grant to help make it a reality.*

*"This is a timeless tale, this story, and the whole idea is just as important today as it was 150 years. It is about the importance of giving," Mazur said. "What we have is not as important, as what we can share, that is really at the heart of this work."*

*Duvany Acosta, 16, a junior at the North Plainfield High School, said he loves playing the character of Scrooge*

*"I play him in his later years, the grumpy Scrooge," he said. "What I love about the role is that I can express a wide emotional range."*

*Acosta also loves the message of the play.*

*"Mr. Mazur put it this way and it really made sense to me: The play is about giving and our role as actors is also to give. Everyone on the stage has their role to play and has something special to give within the play," Acosta said.*

*He said he hopes the play will wake the audience up to the importance of giving.*

*"This play applies very much to the bigger picture of what is going on in the world today," Acosta said.*

*The play is especially relevant in these tough economic times, in which the need at food banks is many times greater than it was several years ago, Mazur said.*

*"This play is especially relevant to the students of North Plainfield High School because service to the community is a very high priority here," he added.*

*North Plainfield High School students have been featured in the Face of America project, Mazur added.*

*The project was established by Kitch and Tony Mussari, retired teachers and independent producers, who traveled and filmed throughout the 48 contiguous states, looking for Americans who exemplified and practiced compassion and community service.*

*Last year, the high school students made a donation to the local food bank.*

*They also raised \$16,000 for cancer research and \$8,000 for the needs of military personnel and their families.*

*"These are the kinds of things our kids do," Mazur said. "We talk about test scores, but this idea of giving is alive and well in North Plainfield."*

*Giving is at the heart of Dickens' classic holiday tale, too.*

*“Our goal when creating this musical was to stick as close to the Charles Dickens story as we could,” said Nesius, a resident of Califon and a lyricist who has written for dozens of musicals, corporate programs and for presentations at the Henry Ford Museum and Lincoln Center.*

## **Staff**

At the November WE Celebrate assembly, **Sara Gagliano, academic support teacher** and **Christina Moscatello, special education teacher** were recognized for earning their master’s degrees.

On November 30, **teachers in grades K-2** attended a workshop presented by **Everyday Mathematics**. Cindy Kenny, who is also a K-8 Math Supervisor in the Brick Township Public Schools, presented a discussion of the successes and challenges in using the program, in which it became clear that the successes outweigh the challenges. She included information about the Common Core Standards for mathematics, focusing on the Standards for Math Practices, and how these are addressed through the program. Best practices within the program were also highlighted.

## **Students**

***Shannon West, a senior at North Plainfield High School, has been selected by the coaching staff to represent NPHS as New Jersey joins the nation in celebrating the many achievements of girls and women in sports, particularly throughout our state. Shannon participates on the girls’ basketball and field hockey teams.***

*The statewide celebration for the **National Girls and Women in Sports Day** will take place on January 22, 2012 at Seton Hall University in the Richie Regan Recreation Center. The program will include a state-wide awards luncheon, where outstanding high school and college/university female athletes will be presented with special awards from the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports. Immediately after the luncheon, all award winners and the adults that accompanying them are invited to attend the women’s basketball game between Seton Hall and Syracuse University. The Governor is also expected to issue a proclamation identifying January 22, 2012 as the Girls and Women in Sports Day in the State of New Jersey.*

## **Stony Brook School First Making Period Honor Roll**

On December 6, 2011, **Cathy Kobylarz, principal of Stony Brook School** assembled the third and fourth grade students and teachers for the first Honor Roll Assembly of the 2011-2012 school year. At the assembly, thirteen students were recognized for their academic excellence. The students were as follows for third grade: **Isabella Carrol, Lindsey Depaz, Henry Ruiz Hernandez, Karla Garcia, Ashley Ordonez with high honors going to Jasmine Zaher. In fourth grade: Vanessa Colon, Anthony Grant, Melody Liu, Camille Paduganao, Andy Nunez Reyes, Irvin Solis and Jennifer Vargas.** Each of the students was awarded an Honor Roll Certificate, and a free Applebee’s dessert donated by the PTA. Goals were set and strategies discussed to increase the number of Honor Roll recipients for the following marking period. Group photos were taken and were proudly displayed in the Stony Brook Media Center.

## **West End School First Making Period Honor Roll**

### **Third Grade Honor Roll Recipients:**

Jaycob Adoptante, Christina Aguilar, Zuha Anjum, Joshua Arguello, Tiffany Chacon, Maldini Chavez, Cynthia Contreras, Ashley Dawsey, Amanda Dixon, Marcelo Freire Rizzo, Dylan Galiszewski, Tiara Gonzales, Tatiana Gonzalez, Dajuan Gregory, Jasmin Guillen, Valerie Havrilla, Bryanna Llerena, Jason Mastroianni, Karen Melendez Alas, Matthew Mendoza, Liam Miller, Olafade Omole, Elena Pagliai Garot, Kyle Philistin, Brandon Rosa, Tyler Sullivan, Sukriti, Srinivas, Christian Vallecillo, Justin Vargas Acosta, and Elias Wambugu

### **Third Grade High Honor Roll:**

Isabel Cerdena, Adam Elsaïs, and Valentina Valencia

### **Fourth Grade Honor Roll Recipients:**

Hatice Aygun, Shahinda Bahnasy, Teyanna Burke, James McGovern, Grace McGrath, Sebastian Mendes, McKenna Moore, Jaheim Roberts, Thy Nguyen, Meg Savoy, and Kevin Vasquez

## **West End School WE Celebrate Recognition Assembly:**

At the November WE Celebrate assembly, the following students were recognized:

First grade teacher **Brianna Eckhard** nominated **Devon Walker** and **Nikolas Thunberg** for excelling in mathematics, exhibiting leadership qualities, and being role model students in Room 12.

First grade teacher **Kelli Dunston** nominated **Zah-Niyah Elliot** for demonstrating the pillars of good character every day and for putting forth her best effort during lessons and activities.

Third grade teacher **Debbie Lysicatos** nominated **Jack Quito** for doing an excellent job with school work and being a great friend to his classmates

Third grade teacher **Alison Clark**, student teacher **Megan Pittenger**, and special education teacher **Angela Roman** nominated **Luther Vilvert** putting more effort into his work. His improvement has included writing neatly and participating more in class. He continues to be kind and encouraging to his classmates and helpful to his teachers.

Third grade teacher **Alison Clark** nominated **Liam Miller** for his dedication to the third grade service learning project, the third grade food drive. "Many of my students donated food items, but Liam stood out because he brought in a can or box of food almost every day in November" commented Ms. Clark.

Third grade teacher **Marianne Harris** nominated **Ashley Dawsey, Christina Aguilar, Jaycob Adoptante, and Joshua Arguelo** for being prepared, having a positive attitude towards learning and applying themselves fully in all that they under take. They follow all of the classroom rules and are helpful to others and are positive role models for the class.

Fourth grade teacher **Paula Lemos** nominated **Shahan Baig** for doing a great job this month. Shahan has been doing his work and staying on task.

***East End School Celebrates Citizens of the Month:***

*On November 29, the East End School Community came together to celebrate the first Citizen of the Month Assembly for the school year. "It was wonderful seeing all of the families in attendance and the smiles and proud faces of the students as their names were called," remarked Ms. Herrmann. All recipients of the award had their pictures taken and they will be proudly displayed on the Wall of Fame bulletin board in the main hallway.*

***Kindergarten:*** Madeline Bozack, Shelsea Escobar, Analia Dilone, Joshua Atusparia, Maximillian Bozack, Sophia Accardo, Kayla Balch, Sidra Ilyas

***First Grade:*** Joshua Dabreo, Abigail Meza, Dre'Yuan Robinson, Desiree Acevedo, Amy Zarate, Chelsey Ramkrith, Joffre Yumiguano

***Second Grade:*** Michelle Claros, Saad Rehmatullah, Tatiana Sarmiento, Joselynn Flores, Nala King, Carlos Barrera, Madison Kasper, Sophia Chavez, Aliyah Walker, Daniel Portillo

***Third Grade:*** Valeria Rodriguez, Jeremiah Jeffries, Jaiden Stowers, Nathaniel Lancaster, Nolan Pieters, Luis Martinez, Shania Mendez, Anderson DeLeon

***Fourth Grade:*** Gianmarco Acevedo, Katiana Carter, Gordon Chen, Rachel Soto, Alexis Brown, Joseph Ledesma, Juan Gonzalez, Adriel Dilone, Yamileth Berruecos Montes

***Vocal Music:*** Hannah Pilco Caicedo/1, Tyler Kasper/2, Aaron Liss/3, Jeremiah Jeffries /3, Selma Valjevac /4,

***Instrumental Music:*** Alexis Brown

***Art:*** Samantha Reyes /K, Max Bozack/K, Dre'Yuan Robinson/1, Meia Stapleton/1, Liam Alvarado/2, Michelle Claros /2, Karolina Chagnay/3, Emiliano Arriaga/3, Briana Galarza/4, Christian Henry /4

***Physical Education:*** Kyle Irving/K, Ybette Ayala/K, John Rybak/1, Dre-Yuan Robinson/1, Michael Knight/2, Madison Kasper/2, Ryan Cook/3, Kyle Walker/3, Paul Salazar/4, Jessica Giannotti/4

***Library:*** Ybette Ayala/K, Lily Bissett/1, Liam Alvarado2, Bryan Bajana/3, Selma Valjevac/4

***ESL:*** Jehosafat Melende-Saucedo/3, Anderson DeLeon/3

***Principal:*** Selma Valjevac, Gustavo Caraballo

**Somerset School Principal's Honor Roll:** To be eligible for the Principal's Honor Roll, sixth grade students must have grades of A- and higher on their report cards. To recognize this accomplishment, Reginald Sainte-Rose, principal, will present each student with a Certificate of Excellence and invite each of the following students to the Principal's Breakfast on December the 8 for their outstanding accomplishment during the first marking period.

**Reilly Appezzato**  
**Menatallah Bahnasy**  
**Benjamin Lane Barnhart**  
**Fiona Ting Chen**  
**Jane Emily Crowther**  
**Jessica L. Dardignac**  
**Jenna Jean Guevara**  
**Elizabeth Hernandez**  
**Mohamed Ramy Hosny**  
**Crispreeet Kaur**

**Taqveem Kausar**  
**Annah Kreyling-Hoag**  
**Alexander Kushnir**  
**Jared Lesaca**  
**Lyle Lovette Cruz Pacla**  
**Sebastian Palacios**  
**Jayden Macio Rossi**  
**Jaclyn Scopel**  
**Daniel Spontak**  
**Bruce James Weyand**

*During the November NPMS character education assembly, advisors **Theresa Zimmerman and Danielle Fauci** were proud to announce the seventh and eighth grade students of the month for October. Demonstrating good citizenship and patriotism, as well as achieving positive grades were the following: **Eighth Grade Students: Emily Dayton, Ebrahim Mohammad, Evan Miranda, Ying St. Cerny, Jason Le, Keerthana Shanmugarajah. Seventh Grade Students: Brian Pimental, Aracely Pacheco, Victor Calderon, Carolina Andrade, Abdelaziz Bahnasy, Yanqing Liang.** In addition, over 65 students, received certificates for positive behavior through the teacher-nominated “awesome act” program. December’s theme will be “caring.”*

## **Schools**

### **East End School**

Most years, **Rio Clemente** graces East End School with his piano playing, and last year, he led the staff and students in a December holiday sing-a-long. Mr. Clemente is the first cousin of music teacher **Diana VanHise** and it is evident that musical talent runs in the family because Mr. Clemente has been invited to play at the White House on December 23. “I am ecstatic and so proud. No one deserves this more than he,” remarked Ms. VanHise. Mr. Clemente is a jazz pianist and has played in Carnegie Hall, Newport Jazz Festival and now playing at the White House is just another accomplishment that he can add to this prestigious list.

Once again, the second grade classes have been studying about Native Americans and the pilgrims and how they celebrated the First Thanksgiving. The lessons were integrated across the curriculum and students demonstrated their knowledge on November 22 as they presented their **Harvest Festival**. Second grade teachers **Alyssa Robak, Priya Doshi, Lisa Gabriel, Deborah Lockley Thompson and Sandra Deller** worked with the students and developed a program that was presented to families and friends. The second graders told a story about Thanksgiving, spoke about how different countries around the world give thanks, expressed what they are thankful for and also recited a poem and sang a fun Thanksgiving song. “**Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, superintendent of schools**, was the special guest at the performance and everyone was thrilled to see her,” noted Kathleen Herrmann, principal. Following the performance, the children and their families were able to participate in various Native American activities including picture writing, necklace-making, a bean toss game and a memory game. Finally, the children and guests sat at beautifully decorated tables and enjoyed some delicious treats. Dr. Birnbaum also visited classrooms, spoke with students and staff, and admired their work

which was displayed in the classrooms and hallways. “We are very grateful that our superintendent can find time in her busy schedule to celebrate with us at East End School,” stated Ms. Herrmann.

### Stony Brook School

*Do Fairy Tales Come True? The updates from Stony Brook School have usually been academically based and focused on a student, a teacher or a certain program. This update will be somewhat different and based on a wonderful event that occurred at Stony Brook School. Last year, **Marina Heller**, one of the second grade teachers at Stony Brook, hosted a student teacher from Rutgers University, **Priya Doshi**. They instantly became a strong team and worked cooperatively to meet the demanding goals of their collective assignments. In June of 2011, Ms. Doshi went on to graduate and eventually was hired as a temporary leave replacement teacher at East End School.*

*In late November 2011, Ms. Heller received a phone call from Ms. Doshi's sister with the most surprising and wonderful request. When questioned previously by her sister, Ms. Doshi had stated that Ms. Heller's classroom was her favorite place in the world. As a result, Ms. Doshi's boyfriend chose Room 14 at Stony Brook School as the place where he wanted to propose marriage to her.*

*On November 28, 2011, Ms. Doshi entered Room 14 at Stony Brook School to find flowers, balloons and her boyfriend, asking her hand in marriage. With her answer being yes, congratulations are offered to Ms. Priya Doshi on her wonderful engagement that took place at Stony Brook School.*

### West End School

**November PTA BoxTops Collection:** For November, West End students collected 1,983 BoxTops bringing the total for West End School to 7,450 BoxTops. That is \$745! The classroom winners include 3rd place with 150 BoxTops - **Brianna Eckhard's** 1st grade class; 2nd place with 220 BoxTops – **Christine Birnbaum's** 2nd grade class; 1st place with 230 BoxTops - **Theresa Knauer** and **Wendy McClellan's** 1st grade class.

**Annual Five Fat Turkeys and Thanksgiving Sing-a-Long:** Many thanks to **Jon Scott**, general music teacher, and **Sue Fordham**, special education teacher, for planning and organizing the annual Thanksgiving sing-a-long, which included West End's famous Five Fat Turkeys performance. As is common at West End, staff members perform. This year's stars included second grade teacher **Elizabeth Cirillo** and kindergarten paraprofessional **Kathy Towey**, both of whom made their debut, and in returning roles were fourth grade teacher **Michelle Tafuri** and special education teachers **Angela Roman** and **Wendy McClellan**.

**Third Grade Food Drive:** Recognition needs to be given to our third grade classes for their Thanksgiving Food Drive, which was a service learning/character education project. The food was donated to FISH, a North Plainfield based food bank. FISH has served our community for over thirty years. Many thanks to **Brian Bigden's**, **Alison Clark's**, **Marianne Harris'**, **Debra Lysicatos'**, and **Nicole Rivlin's** third grade classes.

## Somerset School

*First Annual Somerset School Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk: The weather was perfect, the stars shined brightly over head when just over one hundred participants ran and walked under the lights around the turf complex to raise funds in support of the **Somerset Enrichment Program (SEP)**. Community members, friends, families and classmates gathered at the First Annual Somerset School Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk for Education event which took place at the North Plainfield High School, Upper Krausche Field Athletic Facility.*

*“I was extremely pleased with the turnout for this first event,” said Reggie Sainte-Rose, principal of Somerset School. “It wasn’t who ran the fastest and came in first; it was the commitment and devotion of the families whose children will benefit from their participation in this fun event.”*

*The Somerset Enrichment Program will offer challenging and enriching courses for academically talented students and for students who need a little extra help in grades 5 and 6 this spring. The purpose of the program is to supplement mainstream school curricula in the areas of mathematics and language arts. Curriculum and instruction will be designed to engage students in authentic inquiries into major concepts and ideas of a field through critical, creative, and problem-based thinking/learning. At SEP, staff will recognize that each student is an individual. To that end, the program will be dedicated to meeting the varying readiness levels, learning preferences and interests of the students in class. Classes will be taught by certified teachers from the North Plainfield School District.*

*The following participants who finished with Mr. Sainte-Rose will serve as “Principals for the Day” in the spring: **Alex Kushnir, Mikaela Givens, Kierra Adams and Ethan Proffit**. Joining in the run was North Plainfield Board of Education member **Sandra Dodd, her husband Ray Dodd and son Erick Dodd**.*

*Principal Sainte-Rose would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the event committee and sponsors. These special people are **Marie Kushnir, event coordinator; Martha Barrett, who applied and received the NPEA Pride Grant of \$650; and the physical education department at Somerset School**. The sponsors who donated prizes, included **Ski Jewelers, TGIF, Golds’ Gym and the Lima Family**. A special thank you to the **Somerset School PTO for their support and participation in making this event a success. Special thanks to the Kenny, Boland, Fellin, Givens, Woods, Demeola, Proffit, Scopel and King Families**. The event raised \$1,968 through registrations, pledges, sponsorship and refreshment sales.*

## NPHS

**Ann Caruso, counselor**, organized a program in which **Michael DeJean, ROTC instructor**, spoke to grades 7-12 through a series of assemblies. He described his military experiences and what “peace” means to him. “It was a powerful speech that touched the hearts of all present,” remarked **Linda Remolino, director of school counseling**. Following this assembly, students, grades 7-12, received a vinyl flag. They placed this flag into the peace sign outside that was designed and constructed by a member of our grounds crew. This activity was designed to build community with all students and to emphasize the importance of a peaceful culture.

The following colleges/universities will be visiting NPHS:

- **Monmouth University** on Thursday, December 8th @ 2:00 PM
- **University Of Hartford** on Tuesday, December 13th @ 9:00 AM
- **TCNJ The College Of New Jersey** on Tuesday, December 20th @ 9:00 AM

The following colleges/universities will hold **Instant Decision Interviews @ NPHS:**

- **Fairleigh Dickinson** on Wednesday, December 7th @ 10:00 A.M.
- **Centenary College** on Thursday, December 8th @ 10:00 A.M.
- **NJIT** on Monday, December 12th @ 9:30 A.M.
- **William Paterson** on Thursday, December 15th @ 10:00 A.M.
- **Bloomfield College** on Friday, December 16th @ 9:00 A.M.

### NPMS

**“Wanted: Sheriff For A Day”:** Over 30 students, under the direction of **art teacher Tammy Mackiewicz** participated in the designing of a ceremonial patch to celebrate the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Somerset County Sheriff’s Office. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony and will have the opportunity to be part of the Sheriff’s Office for a day.

**“Get a Grip”:** On November 18, all students attended a multi-media experience entitled “Get a Grip.” This assembly helped students see the big picture for their lives-helping them understand that positive self-control leads to satisfying relationships, academic success, and positive feelings about one’s self and others.

**“Turkey Trot”:** Combining the caring and festive nature of Thanksgiving, and the importance of good health throughout the year, PE teachers **Robyn Enderle, Chris Eshleman, Greg Kilmer, and Corrine Laurie** conducted the annual **“Middle School Turkey Trot”** on Monday, November 21. Both students and staff were encouraged to donate a can of food to the on-going food drive and joined together at Upper Krausche Field to participate in a mile “fun run.” The PE department was proud to announce that over 200 cans of food were collected for the district’s **Partnership Food Drive initiative.**

**“Medieval Times: Kings, Castles, and Potions”:** During the week of November 28, eighth grade students participated in an immersion project that brought them back to the Middle Ages. Teams collaboratively prepared an interdisciplinary unit comparing and contrasting society in the Middle Ages with the modern period. Students explored and researched such topics as how society was organized under the feudal system, the history of the Black Death, scientific and cultural advancements, as well as the effects of the Crusades. Student activities included a medieval musical festival, prepared by teacher **Ivan Izzepi**, a poetry writing workshop by English teacher **Marcella Eldekki**, a potion making demonstration by science teacher **Elio Mayo**, fairy-tale gingerbread house construction by teachers **Suzanne Sapega** and **Dawn Kleinfeld**, and “Black Death Jeopardy,” that utilized statistical studies of population before and after the bubonic plague. In addition, students traveled to Stony Brook School to read their illustrated fictional narratives to the younger students.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

### **EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING**

**Safety Topic.** The safety topic for November was Confined Space Awareness. Related safety training was provided via our new on-line employee training system and all employees completed their assigned training on time. The safety topic for the month of December is Accident Prevention.

**Safe Schools On-Line Training.** The department is currently working on district specific course modules to be uploaded to the Safe Schools Training Site. Once these modules are loaded, employees will be able to review district specific work practices and guidelines. As of this date, **Ed Ostroff, director of operations**, continues to receive very positive feedback regarding this new system and a number of our employees have taken additional courses both related and unrelated to their job descriptions.

**Anti-Bullying Training.** **Linda Remolino, director of school counseling and anti-bullying coordinator**, provided an Anti-Bullying Training Session on November 10, 2011 for all operations employees and associated paraprofessionals. Additionally, all North Plainfield crossing guards also attended this training. With this session, 100% of the Operations staff members have been trained as per the Anti-Bullying Regulations.

### **HEALTH & SAFETY**

#### **SECURITY DRILLS**

The security drill for November was a lock down drill. All schools, including our Alternative Program at Somerset, completed this drill. The security drill for December is an on-site evacuation.

#### **FEMA SUBMISSION #1**

**Pending. No further information is available at this time.**

#### **FEMA SUBMISSION #3**

The Governors' Declaration for Hurricane Irene cleared the way for us to apply for reimbursement of reasonable expenses related to the storm. Our reimbursement application was approved and picked up last week by a FEMA Regional Supervisor. We will receive 75% of about \$9,000 (approximately \$6,750).

#### **FEMA SUBMISSION #4**

President Obama has now issued a declaration for the snow storm that hit us on October 29th & 30th. We are now eligible for reimbursement for this storm as well.

### **CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (Completed)**

Listed below is a partial list of projects and/or in-house maintenance tasks that were recently completed:

- Completion of a stone base for the inside of the Harrison greenhouse.
- Assembly of numerous indoor furnishings for the Harrison greenhouse.
- Repairs to two broken sections of 6" \*waste line at NPHS.  
\*It should be noted that two sections of cast iron pipe, approximately twenty feet in all, were replaced within a narrow crawlspace under the main hallway. "Our staff

members performed above my expectations by completing these repairs under very difficult conditions. It should be further noted that if these repairs were contracted out, rather than being completed by our in-house staff, the cost would have been significant. My heartfelt thanks to those staff members who worked on this project” commented Ed Ostroff, director of operations.

### **CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (In Progress)**

Listed below are projects and/or in-house maintenance projects that are currently in progress and should be completed shortly:

- Completion of fence modifications at Harrison School in preparation of the chiller project. See additional project information below.
- Electrical upgrades for Harrison School. The electrical upgrade to 3-phase service has now been completed. This upgrade was necessary to facilitate the installation of a chiller that is currently proposed for this building. Additionally, the improvements to the multi-purpose room required additional circuits that were not available until this upgrade was completed.
- Restoration of hot and cold water mixing at NPHS. The operations department has been working on this issue since shortly after the beginning of the school year. They have experienced intermittent mixing of hot and cold water in a number of areas that has been difficult to trace to a specific cause. In addition to the in-house staff, the district has utilized one of our contracted plumbing engineers for assistance to no avail. “As of this past week, we believe we have located the source of the problem and have made adjustments to a hot water re-circulating valve. We are hopeful that the problem has now been corrected,” commented Mr. Ostroff.
- Repairs and restoration to the NPHS Running Track caused by Hurricane Irene. UPDATE: The damaged section(s) of the running track have been removed and all base paving has now been completed. The base paving must cure for approximately two weeks before the surface material can be applied. If good weather holds for the next week or so, we will be able to complete the repairs before winter begins. If not, the surfacing material will be applied in the spring along with a complete re-striping of the track.

### **CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (ARRA Funds)**

- Installation of a fully functional Greenhouse Teaching Package. The erection of the greenhouse, including associated utility and electrical work, has now been completed. The installation of a recycled water system is now in progress and should be completed shortly.
- Installation of a Pathways Program in the multi-purpose room. All related electrical work and set up of equipment has now been completed with a number of components now operational.

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

#### **HARRISON BUILDING**

The installation of a chiller, piping and associated controls to air condition the entire building. This project will be partially funded by a Rod Grant. Bids were received for this project on November 2 and are currently being reviewed for compliance and amount. \*See additional information below.

**STONY BROOK SCHOOL**

The installation of two package air conditioning units for the multi-purpose room. This project will be partially funded by a Rod Grant. Bids were received for this project on November 2 and are currently being reviewed for compliance and amount. \*See additional information below.

\*All of the bids received for these two combined projects were much higher than anticipated. We are currently reviewing the specifications to determine if any changes can be made to the scope and/or the specifications that could result in a successful re-bid. Additional information to follow.

**DISTRICT-WIDE**

**Solar Energy Grant.** The district just recently received information from Birdsall Services Group, that the project has been funded and is on schedule. Sunlight General Capital, the selected contractor, has now finalized their building system lay outs and has formulated a final material list. The contractor anticipates a start-up of this project before winter begins and they will work through the winter to complete the project before spring.

**ENERGY REDUCTION**

**Demand Response.** The district is currently working with Constellation Energy Services regarding our ability to qualify for a Demand Response Program. If we qualify for the program, the district would be compensated for agreeing to reduce our utility load during a high-demand event. The district would also receive additional compensation for our participation during an actual event.

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses, as 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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the following student teacher placement(s) from Kean University, from January 23, 2012 through May 12, 2012.

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Pamela Gordon	Mathematics	NPHS	Adriana Silva
Adriana Rivera	Mathematics	NPMS	Kerry Thomson
Salvatore Cerchio	English	NPHS	Priscilla Weber

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education adjust the hours of Nancy LasLuisa, paraprofessional at East End School, from 4.5 hours per day to 2.5 hours per day effective November 28, 2011. Ms. LasLuisa will be working in the breakfast and lunch programs.

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education adjust the previously approved leave of absence granted to Amy Six, vocal music teacher at NPHS, as follows:

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Disability Period	11/21/11 – 12/23/11	11/17/11 – 12/16/11
Unpaid Leave of Absence under the Federal Family Leave Act	12/24/11 – 2/26/12	12/17/11 – 02/26/12

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Kim Wilson-McKay as a lunchroom paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for 1.5 hours per day, effective December 5, 2011, at the 2011-2012 hourly rate of \$20.61, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Ms. Wilson-McKay will replace Beatrice Murillo.)

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Farheen Khan, teacher of mathematics at NPMS, effective November 21, 2011.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Aimee Pandya as a teacher of mathematics at NPMS at the 2010-2011 BA/Step 1-2(1) annual salary rate of \$50,615, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated agreement, effective November 22, 2011. (Ms. Pandya will replace Farheen Khan.)

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following teachers to work on curriculum projects and school-based planning activities as indicated at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$49.74, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, to be paid at the conclusion of the project funded with Title I NCLB FY'12 monies:

Language Arts

Dina Diaz	\$348 (Grades 4-6 UbD Units)
Megan Schutz	\$348 (Grades 4-6 UbD Units)
Chemagne Kania	\$348 (Grades 4-6 UbD Units)
Melissa Hunton	\$348 (Grades 4-6 UbD Units)
Suzanne Sapega	\$497 (Grades 6-8 UbD Units)
Ann Ryan	\$497 (Grades 6-8 UbD Units)
Chelsea Howson	\$497 (Grades 6-8 UbD Units)

Stony Brook – School Based Planning

Kathleen Willwerth	\$995
Patricia Klatt	\$995
Michele Motichka	\$995
Kelly Feeney	\$995
Rachel Renfeld	\$995
Sharon Switek	\$995
Marina Heller	\$995
Leslie Castillo	\$995

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Priscilla Flores as a temporary teacher of art at NPHS at the 2010-2011 MA/Step 3-4(4) annual salary rate of \$53,865, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective November 7, 2011 through February 15, 2012. (Ms. Flores will temporarily replace Sonya Larado.)

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following staff members to assist in the supervision of athletic events at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$28.35, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

Peter Ahlert                      Gordon Cain                      Charles Rowan

Further, that the following staff members be removed from the list as they have left the district:

Travis Smith                      Lianne Pellegrino

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Ann Ryan, special education teacher at NPHS, as a substitute CPR/AED instructor on an as-needed basis for the After-School Staff Professional Development Program, at the rate of \$30 per hour.

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the transfer of paraprofessional Pamela Strickland, effective December 8, 2011, as follows:

From:                      East End School Pre-K Class at 2.50 hrs per day  
To:                              West End School Autistic Class at 3.25 hrs per day

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Margie Williams as a one-to-one paraprofessional working with a classified student at East End School, for 2.50 hours per day at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$20.61, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective December 8, 2011. (Ms. Williams will replace Ms. Strickland.)

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of James Garafalo as a volunteer assistant to the wrestling 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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Priya Doshi  
Alyssa Robak

Philip Barrier  
Marion Miller

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the following teachers as co-advisors for the Stony Brook safety patrol/student council at the rate of \$741 each, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

Carla Basile

Marina Heller

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following staff members to teach in extended day mentoring program at the rate of \$35 per hour to be funded with NCLB Title I FY'12 monies:

Stony Brook School

Patricia Klatt	30 hours	Deborah Lendach	30 hours
Susan Garatino	30 hours	Kelly Feeney	30 hours
Sharon Switek	30 hours	Marina Heller	30 hours
Leanne Borbely	30 hours	Andrew Taylor	30 hours
Lucy McCormick	30 hours	Ann Corkery	55 hours

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as substitute paraprofessionals in the district to be called on an as-needed basis at the hourly rate of \$20.16, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

Priya Doshi	December 8, 2011
Dolores Parlato	December 8, 2011
Vanessa Cabrera	Upon completion of the employment process
Erika J. Schreck	Upon 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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Priya Doshi as a temporary elementary teacher at Stony Brook School at the 2010-2011 MA/Step 1-2(1) annual salary rate of \$53,615, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective January 9, 2012 through March 11, 2012. (Ms. Doshi will temporarily replace Michele Motichka.)

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the employment of Stephen Masterson as a substitute custodian at the hourly rate of \$17.66, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective January 3, 2012 through June 30, 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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Shantal Sanchez, paraprofessional at East End School, effective December 17, 2011.

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

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the use of the following textbooks and/or trade books in the district as follows:

Title:	<i>Out of the Dust</i>
Author:	Karen Hesse
Publisher:	Scholastic, Inc.
Copyright:	1999
Course/Levels:	English 9

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-16-11-12 for up to five hours per week to be provided by Professional Educational Services, Inc. at the rate of \$52.24 per hour, effective November 18, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for the following non-classified students for up to five hours per week to be provided by Educere, Inc.:

	<u>Effective Date</u>
HI-17-11-12	November 16, 2011
HI-18-11-12	December 1, 2011
HI-19-11-12	December 1, 2011
HI-20-11-12	December 5, 2011

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for identified student HI-14-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Educere, Inc., effective December 2, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student ATE-01-11-12 receive assistive technology training to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$978 for three sessions totaling six hours.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student ATE-03-11-12 receive an assistive technology consultation to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$464 for one session totaling three hours.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student ATE-04-11-12 receive assistive technology training to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$514 for two sessions totaling three hours.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve a change in out-of-district placement for classified student ZZZ-11-12 from East Mountain School to Somerset Academy at the cost of \$40,300 per year, to be prorated effective December 8, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve a change in out-of-district placement for classified student BBBB-11-12 from Greenbrook Academy to Lamberts Mill Academy at the cost of \$47,206 per year, to be prorated effective December 8, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student NPSY-01-11-12 undergo a neuropsychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$800 for one session totaling 1.5 hours.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-21-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective November 14, 2011.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

**Harrison School and Stony Brook A/C project bid results**

WHEREAS, the Board authorized the Business Administrator to solicit public bids for the Harrison School and Stony Brook A/C project, and having been received, these bids were opened on November 2, 2011 at 10:00 AM at the Board of Education offices located at 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield NJ and;

WHEREAS, seven bids were received and opened with base bid amounts as follows:

1.	DeSesa Engineering Company	\$ 394,500.00
2.	T.M. Brennan Contractors, Inc.	\$ 423,700.00
3.	Central Pack Engineering Corp	\$ 421,573.00
4.	Gabe Sganga, Inc.	\$ 459,000.00
5.	Amco Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 533,000.00
6.	Envirocon, LLC.	\$ 601,450.00
7.	Midcoast Mechanical, Inc.	\$ 477,020.00

WHEREAS, all bids received exceed the allowable budgeted amount available for the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board does hereby authorize the Business Administrator to reject all bids for this project, and that this resolution will take effect immediately.

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept a grant from Target Art & Culture in Schools, in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the purpose of funding expenses associated with an assembly and guest speaker regarding bringing art and culture to students at Somerset School.

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve payment for accrued sick and vacation days earned as per the negotiated Agreement:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Sick</u>	<u>Vacation</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Carol Villani	3.75	30	\$8,567.10

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 Ms. Mullen 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	12/1/11	Nat'l Hispanic College Fair	Hamilton, NJ	\$0.00	Included
HS	11/29/11	Distracted Driving Presentation	Raritan Valley CC Branchburg, NJ	\$0.00	Included

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 Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the disposal of AV equipment that is not operating and is not repairable as follows:

**S#90278-Panasonic VHS Player - Somerset School**

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

**Correspondence**

Letters were received as follows:

Thank you from John Malazda.

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – next meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2012.

Communications – Ms. Dodd asked about phone system and contacting the HS office.

Curriculum – next meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2012.

Finance & Facilities – topics from the December 7<sup>th</sup> meeting were reviewed.

Policy Meeting – next meeting scheduled for January 4, 2012<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

December 7, 2011

Negotiations – next meeting scheduled for January 12, 2012 at 7 p.m. The mediator will be present.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper reviewed recent legislation.

SCSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time

SCESC – meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2012.

### **Old Business**

January 25, 2012 will be held at 7 pm at the Vermule Center and will be a joint meeting with the Borough Council of North Plainfield.

### **New Business**

There was none.

Items moved from future Agenda - there were none.

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

### **Current Events in Education**

Ms. Szaroleta asked about parent conferences and the need for 5 days. Dr. Rich explained they are only scheduled for 2 hours at the end of each day.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were none.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Student Health Study

HIB Report

Technology Discussion – Ronald Fisher – December 21

Parent Conference Reports

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Branen moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on December 21, 2011 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. Branen moved, seconded by Ms. Szaroleta and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg