

February 1, 2012

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on February 1, 2012 at Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Thomas Allen
David Branan
Sandra Dodd
Thomas Kasper

Kathleen Mullen
Nancy Szaroleta
Linda Bond-Nelson

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Jihad Womack, Student Representative and approximately 60 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 to accept the public session minutes of January 11, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Kasper abstaining, to accept the public session minutes of January 25, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of January 11, 2012.

Comments from the Public

Upon request of the chair for topics from the public –

Alexis Gardner commented on the need for improved communication.

John Langenbach expressed thanks for NJROTC recognition of men and women in the service. Also, mentioned the intersection of Watchung and Jackson Avenue.

Monique Womack asked about the public presentation of the annual budget.

Jacqueline Slattery commented on morning detention at Somerset School.

Maddie Colas mentioned issues regarding the PayForIt.net program and the use of humanitarian lunches.

Student Representative Report

The student report was presented by Jihad Womack as follows:

During the 8th grade lunch, members and advisors of various high school clubs have been speaking with the eighth grade students about the vast array of opportunities that will be offered to them upon their arrival into the high school in the fall of 2012.

Scheduling for the 8th grade and high school students will commence soon.

There is an after school HSPA class, facilitated by Mr. Rincon that is offered to all juniors who are interested in extra preparation for the state exam.

Unfortunately, the Freshman/Sophomore Winter Semi-Formal dance was cancelled.

The “Mr. Canuck Competition” was held on January 12, 2012. Winners were announced as follows: Sal Mastrobattista was awarded 3rd place, Rafael Hernandez awarded 2nd place, and Jamal Cross 1st place.

The Senior Prom will be held on Friday, June 1, 2012 at Pierre’s in Monmouth Junction.

The junior class is selling Valentine’s Day candy grams for \$2.00 each.

The Interact Club received a thank you letter from the North Plainfield Food Bank expressing their thanks to club members for participating. Also, the Interact Club had a bake sale on January 19th and they are currently selling Valentine’s Day Candy Grams.

The Canuckling Club has been busy voting on numerous submissions that have been made. The club is continuing to accept submissions and is looking forward to more excellent work from NPHS students.

The high school talent show will be held on February 2nd and 3rd.

The final report, provided by the visiting team from Middle States Commission, included the following compliments and recommendations:

- The Administration and Staff of North Plainfield High School has created a school environment that was praised by the many stakeholders the Visiting Team encountered. North Plainfield High School can be justly proud of its educational and extracurricular programs.
- The Student Body at North Plainfield High School is one of its main strengths. The students feel the staff sets high expectations for them and offers the support needed for them to reach their fullest potential.
- The *Accreditation for Growth* objectives that the school chose will not only affect the quality of the academic program, but they will also reach out to the social and emotional well-being of the students.
- The team has made some recommendations regarding action plans, governance, and school improvement and planning facilities, assessment of evidence, student services, student life, and technology.

Presentation

There was none.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Staff

Dr. Hope Blecher, supervisor of language arts, literacy, social studies, and library media services, has been selected to serve as a member of the New Jersey writing team for English Language Arts model curriculum. As noted in the acceptance letter, *"The work on building the model curriculum will mean that you will participate in*

- *determining instructional units aligned to the Common Core State Standards (or Core Curriculum Content Standards)*
- *writing student learning objectives for, at minimum, one assigned grade level,*
- *collaborating across grade levels to ensure that learning progressions are met, and*
- *determining/writing appropriate assessments to measure the student learning objectives.*

The department will host a kickoff event on Tuesday, February 7. Acting Commissioner Chris Cerf, and Chief Academic Officer Penny MacCormack will be addressing the curriculum teams that day. Sandra Alberti, Student Achievement Partners, will present an afternoon workshop on curriculum development aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

This work is critical and the department's plan is to have student learning objectives and assessments by May 2012. Your commitment of time to the project is also critical - we estimate that your time commitment will include one full day of in-person meeting every other week as well as 5-6 hours per week of additional writing and virtual collaborating via webinars, conference calls, etc. Much of the writing will be done independently by your team, submitted for review, shared with feedback teams of teachers and further reviewed by experts in districts and at colleges and universities."

Students

Frankie Pelligrino, seventh grade trumpet player, auditioned for the Region II Intermediate Band on Saturday, January 28, 2012. Kyle Skrivanek, his music teacher, was present during Frankie's audition; therefore, Mr. Skrivanek will be able to work with Frankie on the more delicate techniques required beyond mere talent in order to make it successfully through the rigorous process. "I am grateful to the Board of Education for supporting this activity. Frankie will have learned much from this experience of tooting his horn in a larger arena," commented **Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts**.

"Ending the Year with Care," Character Education Assembly: On January 13, the middle school held its monthly Character Education Assembly. The theme for December was Caring. **Theresa Zimmerman and Danielle Fauci, social studies teachers and advisors**, remarked to the students that "Caring includes such human virtues as

compassion, kindness, benevolence, altruism, charity, generosity, and sharing, all of which are at the heart of ethics. To be caring is to show love, regard, and/or concern for the well-being of others. You can show concern for others by being compassionate and empathetic in another's time of need. A person shows kindness by being sympathetic, generous, or charitable and by generally doing well. You can also be thankful and express gratitude for what people do for you. There are many ways you can demonstrate that you are a caring person. Simply say thank you to someone who deserves it, helping someone in the hallway who drops their books, donating cans to a food drive, or helping out at a local charity."

7th Grade Students of the Month: Students were selected by their teachers, whose comments were read to the entire student body. Each student received a certificate in recognition of his/her achievement:

Kevin Andrade: "Kevin is kind and generous. He always says thank you and is willing to help out someone in need."

Mirian Fuentes: "Mirian is kind and compassionate. She always shows respect and kindness towards others."

Royer Brito: "Royer demonstrates caring because he is always concerned about the feelings and well-beings of his classmates. He assists any classmates who are struggling and demonstrates overall concern for his own academic career."

Jonnelle Steward: "Jonnelle demonstrates caring towards her classmates and teachers. She is polite and considerate by making others feel good about themselves and assisting in any way she can. She goes out of her way to do well in class and complete all of her work consistently."

Kenny Navas: "Kenny is always willing to take time out of his day to help a student with homework or studying and is kind and considerate to all his peers."

Raimondo Barrios: "Raimondo has a great deal of respect and concern for all of his classmates in the middle school and high school community."

7th Grade Awesome Acts: Demonstrating positive behavior for the month of December:

Andy Amaya, Iyannah Anderson, Kimberly Angulo, Brooklyn Balla, Raimondo Barrios, Chris Cooney, Yazmin DeJesus, Husnanur Durmus, Mirian Fuentes, Shirley Gamboa, Rondoldo Garcia, Mina Georgi, Hector Guerara, Jennifer Hercules, Heather Hernandez, Le-Andrew Hurtado, Jesse Knight, Savina Lepak, Christian Mejia, Matt Moreno, Aracely Pacheo, Rishwati Persaud, Farrakh Nasier, Genero Pena, Akenyon Pierre, Gabriel Ramirez, Jocelyn Ramos, Brian Robinson, Jefferson Rodriguez, Christian Truong, Yana Walker, and Jeremiah Weaver.

8th Grade Students of the Month: Students were selected by their teachers, whose comments were read to the entire student body. Each student received a certificate in recognition of his/her achievement:

Rolando Batario: "Joren as he is known to his teachers and friends, demonstrates caring because he always helps to straighten up the classroom and is there to assist teachers in

any way he can. He cares about his grades and asks questions if he's not sure about a subject."

Caterin Torres: "Caterin demonstrates caring because she is a sweet girl who is considerate and compassionate towards her fellow students. She is conscientious and always goes out of her way to do well in class."

Kelly Olivares: "Kelly is a caring student who takes pride in her classwork as well as herself. She cares for her classmates and is a positive role-model in the classroom."

Zainah Bash: "Zainah is an excellent student who cares about her classwork, her classroom and the overall school community. She takes pride in her work as well as pride in herself."

Clarissa Zavala: "Clarissa cares about her education, her teachers, and herself. She is friendly and helpful both in school and at home."

Martyn Megaloudis: "Martyn cares about his education, his school, and his classmates. He is always positive and willing to help whoever and whenever there is need."

8th Grade Awesome Acts: Demonstrating positive behavior for the month of December:

Alejandro Alvarez, Joanna Arriago, Stephen Barna, Rolando Batario, Trevor Bell, Benjamin Blazek, Eli Castro, Jazmine Conover, Alexandra Cortes, Jessica Damacela, Emily Dayton, Ja'Quan Edwards, Priscilla Espinoza, Sherif Gaballa, Logan Lawson, Nicole Lema, Desiree Lopez, Mariah McClutcher, Martyn Megaloudis, Angelo Mel-Tos, Yasmin Morales, Tatiana Ortiz, Sirraj Price, Ivan Proano, Petrina Rice, Edwin Rivas, Steven Rogolifoi, Chyanne Santana, Katherine Soto, David Sawyer, Amber Torres, Samiyah Tucker-Croom, Charles Urmaza, Christian Velasco, Kelly Velastegui, Yvette Way, Sean Weeks, Jazmine Williams, and Tatania Zamora.

East End School held its **Citizen of the Month Assembly** based on the Six Pillars of Character Education and the following students were recognized at the assembly on January 31:

Kindergarten: Paola Espana, Mackenzie Hathaway, Destiny Mazariegos, Danna Caracas, Isabella Amancha, Ivy Chen

First Grade: Giselle Peraza-Lopez, Samantha Conroy, Dominic Gabri, Nathaly Rodriguez, Julissa Ramos, Haley Balch, Jayden Rodriguez, Khamyla Ornetta, Victor Pena

Second Grade: Camila Chacha, Bryan Auccapina, Michael Knight, Angelina Brito, Valeria Divas, Melissa Grimaldy, Alaja Guidos, Anthony Solis, Zy'aire Hopkins, Samantha Miranda

Third Grade: Alyssa Ehling, Aliyah Sa'id, Natalia Villafane, Ashley Camino, Jonathan Gonzalez, Angie Guanatagsi, Julissa Jacome, Brendan Leary

Fourth Grade: Gianmarco Acevedo, Georgette Amancha, Nayeli Perez, Daniel Pareja, Brittany Guaman, Ayden Guzman, Aaliyah Jennings, Madelyn Ramkrith, Ernesto Guidos

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Vocal Music: Madison Smith/1, Guiliano Merano/1, Dre'Yuan Robinson/1, Alexandra Liss/2, Saad Rehamatullah/2, Bacil Elsheik/3, Litzy Moreno/3, Xavier Pena/4, Jimena Torres/4, Walter Guitierrez/4

Instrumental Music: Katiana Carter, Brandon Murillo, Xavier Pena

Art: Mackenzie Hathaway/K, Victor Pena/1, Marlon Chipa/2, Bridget Thomas/3, Alexis Brown/4

Physical Education: Madeline Bozack/K, Nery Reyes/K, Yasmien Zafar/1, Desirae Acevedo /1, Nala King /2, Liam Alvarado /2, Emiliano Arriaga/3, Bridget Thomas/3, Alexis Brown/4, Daniel Pareja/4

Library: Bisleisy Cordon/K, Karina Quinteros/1, Saad Rehamatullah/2, Julianna Rei/3, Michael Matos/4

ESL: Van Lai/K

Principal: Litzy Morno, Daniela Carpio

At the January WE Celebrate Assembly, the following students were recognized: Second grade teacher **Christine Birnbaum** nominated **Mya Salgado** for consistent **demonstration of the second grade character pillar of trustworthiness every day** both in and out of the classroom.

Second grade teacher **Veronica Quick** nominated **Andrew Scopel and Bryant Fiallos** for consistent **demonstration of good second grade character** by always being **prepared for class and setting a good example for their peers**.

Second grade teacher **Elizabeth Cirillo** nominated **Andrea Cardona, Joel Herrera, Raquel Kruszczyński, Spencer McGovern, Damon Schumann, Ludwing Sop, Sandy Veliz, Victoria Smagalla, and Baylee Wnuk** for being **trustworthy, honest and hard working** second graders and **role models** for their peers.

Fourth grade instrumental music director **Dorian Parreott** nominated **Abby Smith** for coming to band **prepared** to play each week and doing **an outstanding job as a leader and musician**. She is very helpful during the lesson and demonstrates proper classroom etiquette. She is one of the students **recommended for the Central Jersey Elementary Honors Band**.

Schools

West End School

West End School Proudly Announces *Once On This Island* as its Musical for 2012: On January 27, 2012, third and fourth grade students eagerly awaited to be called in for auditions for this year's spring musical. Over fifty of West End's students showed off their talent and now anxiously wait for the cast list posting later in the week. West End's talented students will be joined by teachers and alumni as they enter into rehearsals starting in February. "We look forward to having you join us on our island opening night,

June 12, 2012. The play will run for two nights, June 12 and June 13, 2011,” noted **Beth Sobel, principal**.

January PTA BoxTops Collection: For January, West End students collected 2,213 BoxTops bringing the total for West End School to 12,313 BoxTops. That is \$1,231! The classroom winners include 3rd place with 190 BoxTops –**Kourtney Karl's** 1st grade class; 2nd place with 210 BoxTops – **Nicole Rivlin's** 3rd grade class; 1st place with 260 BoxTops – **Jason Lilly's** 2nd grade class.

East End School

Mariah's Amazing Puppets performed at East End School on January 10. The puppet show was made possible through the statewide **Clean Communities Grant** and the **Borough of North Plainfield**. Ms. Mariah delighted the students as the puppets performed to *The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein and a play entitled *The Selfish Litterbug Giant*. Students were selected to participate in each show and were afforded the opportunity to work the marionette puppets. A strong and clear message was sent to the students that we have one Earth and how important it is to recycle. “Everyone enjoyed the performance and Ms. Mariah did an outstanding job raising awareness about pollution and recycling, as well as involving the students throughout the show. She was an excellent puppeteer who delighted the audience and it was a true learning experience for everyone,” stated Ms. Herrmann. For more information you can visit Mariah's website at www.amazingpuppetshows.com.

Melissa Saul, Corrine Cecala, and Jena Rodgers, East End teachers, are very excited to bring *Girls on the Run*, a popular nationwide program, to East End School. The goal of the program is to build students' self-esteem and confidence. Students will be empowered with tools that will enable them to avoid peer pressures and at-risk behavior in the future. This program teaches third and fourth grade girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles through running. Lessons presented will address students' physical, emotional, and social development. The program combines the lessons with training for a 3.1 mile (5K) running event that will take place in June. Upon completing the ten-week program, the girls will have a stronger sense of identity, greater self-confidence, a healthier body image and a better knowledge of what it means to be a member of a team and a community.

On January 17, 2012 the **Museum of Early Trades and Crafts** visited East End School. Their objective was to introduce the students to various games that children in Colonial times played after their chores had been completed. The students were able to participate in a various hands-on activities. Kindergarten and first grade students sanded and painted wooden tops. The second and third graders made marbles out of clay. They were even able to bring their marbles home in burlap sacks. When the fourth grade students visited the gym, they made tin punch hearts, using hammers, nails, and tin. Ms. Herrmann also participated in this project and worked with students as well. Several of the students even commented that they were interested in completing this activity at home with their families. In addition, individuals from the museum discussed what fourth grade children's lives were like during the Colonial days. “We are very grateful to the PTO for funding this event and for the many parent volunteers who helped us throughout the day. The all day workshop provided our students with experiences that made the children feel as if they were living in Colonia America. The School Based Planning Team is commended for working diligently on this school objective,” remarked Ms. Herrmann.

“The more you read, the more you know; and the more you know, the smarter you grow.” Jim Trelease. Join the Reading Revolution! Allison Longley, library media specialist, is facilitating this endeavor from January through March. All East Enders will be participating in the ***East End Reading Revolution***. Everyone in the school will be on one of two teams - the Vermeules or the Drakes - which ties into the school’s building objective. A student reads or listens to a book and records it on their log and then turns it in to Ms. Longley. Students can win prizes for themselves, for their team, and for the whole school. The team scores will be posted outside the library and reported during morning announcements. The objective of this reading program is to encourage students to read more and to encourage parents to read to their children. “Reading is the foundation for all subjects and we are thrilled that East End continues to encourage children to read and to be read to at home,” said **Ms. Herrmann**.

Under the direction of **Diana VanHise**, music teacher, East End held its winter concert on the evening of January 18, featuring songs from Broadway musicals. Ms. VanHise provided interesting information before each song was preformed. When the concert was over, the audience yelled, “Encore!” and the students performed *Bye Bye Blackbird* once again for the audience. The children received a standing ovation for their outstanding performance. “East End is very grateful to the district’s director of fine, practical and performing arts, **Tom Mazur**, and board of education member **Nancy Szaroleta** for taking the time out of their busy schedules to attend the concert. Many thanks to the parents for encouraging their children to participate in chorus and emphasizing the importance of the arts in our schools. And thank you, PTO, for providing delicious treats to the children in the chorus,” remarked Principal Herrmann.

East End School’s annual **Pride Day** was held on January 20, 2012. The school was filled with blue and white attire as the entire school community proudly wore the school colors. Many wore sweatshirts, sweatpants and shirts that contained the words “East End Mustangs.” Although every day is a day that the school community is proud to be a part of East End School, it is special and important to celebrate a specific day so that everyone is focused on school pride and is reminded of just how fortunate everyone is to be a member of East End School. “While visiting the classrooms, I was amazed at how many children wore their East End attire. I attributed this to the phone messaging system because it is an excellent way to remind families of upcoming events. I also thank our PTO for facilitating the East End attire sale so that families could purchase various items,” said Ms. Herrmann.

In teaching students about the Civil Rights Movement and Martin Luther King’s role **Karen F. Lewis, second grade teacher**, showed a short movie which took the students from the present to the past and then to the future so they could see firsthand what the world would be like if Dr. King had not fought for equality for all. Ms. Lewis assigned homework which engaged the students to write about topics connected to the lesson. The following day Ms. Herrmann visited the class again and the students shared their work by reading aloud. “Ms. Lewis did an excellent job teaching the students about the Civil Rights Movement and multiculturalism. I enjoyed this experience,” stated Ms. Herrmann.

Ms. Herrmann continues to visit classrooms and read aloud to the children. Her most recent read aloud took place in **Leslie Hansen’s third grade classroom**. The story read was *Saving Sweetness* by Diane Stanley. “I couldn’t believe how much the children enjoyed listening to this story. It is one of my favorites and I fondly remember reading it when I was a library media specialist. They enjoyed it so much, that I plan on returning and reading them the next book in the series entitled *Raising Sweetness*” said Ms. Herrmann

Stony Brook School

How to Spend One Thousand Dollars: Stony Brook School was the proud recipient of a check for \$1000.00 from Bob's Furniture Stores. Stony Brook's doorbell rang and in walked **William Ballou, program donation director from Bob's Furniture's Corporate Office** in Connecticut. Mr. Ballou explained that Bob's conducts a contest called "Random Acts of Kindness" and one of the store's clients submitted Stony Brook School in North Plainfield, New Jersey as a candidate to receive one thousand dollars. Shocked, dismayed and delighted, giant "thank-yous" were exchanged. The check was posted on the front hall bulletin board and then the real work began. Principal Cathy Kobylarz announced the happy news to staff and students with the suggestion that they all work together to decide how to spend the money. "Student replies have ranged from hilarious to very thoughtful. For example, new hair clips, new desks, more books, swings, bicycles, Ipads for everyone and new chairs for the teachers," explained Ms. Kobylarz. "My favorite comment has been a student request to use the money to 'fix the world.'" The contest continues as all ideas are being considered and many, many thank you cards are being prepared to send to Mr. Ballou and of course Bob of Bob's Furniture. Thank you again, Bob's Furniture.

Stony Brook's Winter Concert: Winter and spring concerts have always been a joyous event at Stony Brook School, and this year's winter concert continued this same tradition. On January 12, 2012, **Jewel Crenshaw, the choral music teacher**, directed the Stony Brook chorus during two tremendous performances. The morning assembly included students ranging in grade levels from second through sixth, while the evening performance included Stony Brook students from grades two, three and four, with both assemblies focusing on a winter theme.

The all-school morning assembly took place in the Stony Brook multi-purpose room. Ms. Crenshaw arrived with the "**Somerset Singers**" consisting of thirty students in grades 5 & 6 from Somerset School, who had been invited to join the performance. Former Stony Brook students were among the Somerset group which delighted the staff and student body to see their familiar faces. The assembly began at 9:00 am and lasted over an hour. Ms. Crenshaw accompanied all songs on the keyboard. The second graders opened the show with two songs, "Sing, Sing a Song" and the "Scat Song" which included two fourth grade students, **Reina Globis and Melody Liu as soloists**. Every third grader performed next with two more songs, "Follow Your Dreams" highlighting four third graders, **Isabella Carroll, Lindsey Depaz, Hunter McKay and Ashlyn Murillo as soloists** and the second song was "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing." Next, the third and fourth grade chorus members were invited up for three different songs, "Martin's Cry" in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, "Sir Duke" and a "Winter Fantasy" medley. The chorus members included: Alejandro Mendoza, Ariel Spurgeon, Ariela Romero, Ashley Ordonez, Brian Yumiguano, Christien Desir, Drew Evans, Gaselle Solis-Ramos, Irvin Solis, Jasmin Solis, Jennifer Vargas, Joseph Manzano, Karla Garcia, Lindsey Depaz, Melissa Ramos, Olivia Sheridan, Rebecca Batz, Reina Globis, Shelbie Quesada, Verina Girgis, Alejandro Solis-Ramos, Anthony Grant, Ashley Jara-Campaign, Ashlyn Murillo, Brianna Quesada, Cinthia Cruz, Elsy Amaya, Henry Figueroa, Jacob Agui, Jasmine Zaher, Jessica Colon, Kaitlyn Sanchez, Kennedy Perez, Melanie Salazar, Melody Liu, Oscar Morales, Rebekah Narine, Samantha Castro, and Talitha Hubbard. The finale was performed by the Somerset Singers with the song "Someone Like You," for an outstanding performance.

The evening performance was held in front of a standing room only crowd of proud parents and friends of Stony Brook School. The special guest of honor, on hand for the evening performance, was **Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts** for the district. "It truly was a joyous night to remember as families and friends celebrated the musical accomplishments of their children. Special thanks to Ms. Crenshaw for sharing her talent and love of music and Stony Brook's PTA for the continued support and hospitality table," stated Principal Cathy Kobylarz.

Somerset School

On January 23, 2012, **Janet Darvin, fifth grade teacher**, sent the following letter to the Board of Education:

*"Thank you for the opportunity to take Somerset School fifth graders to visit **Rutgers University** on Friday, January 20th. The students had an amazing day of learning and made remarkable real-world connections to the classroom lessons we promote each day – work hard, help one another, set goals, believe in yourself, and never give up on your dreams!*

*I wish to acknowledge the tireless efforts of **Brenda Fleisher**, who has been corresponding with me since the beginning of the year to make this trip possible by coordinating the necessary transportation. For years, Ms. Fleisher has demonstrated a sincere desire to support our learning objectives and make real-world experiences a reality for the students of North Plainfield.*

*We arrived on campus at 9:30 a.m. and began our day at the **Math and Science Learning Center** on the Busch Campus. As we approached our destination, students were encouraged to observe buildings, the undergraduate students moving between classes, college transportation, and the overall atmosphere of the campus. The fifth graders were amazed to discover that our initial journey took us only through science department buildings; they could not believe that so many large and different buildings could encompass one academic discipline. They began imagining and expressing how vast Rutgers must be!*

*Our time spent at the **MSLC** was divided between two lectures, focusing on **Biology** and **Physics**. Each of the presenting professors, **Dr. Monica Torres** and **Dr. Suzanne Brahmia**, presented their lessons with an incredible sense of accessibility to the fifth graders. They included fascinating demonstrations and opportunities for the students to test the theories discussed. Following the lectures, the fifth graders engaged with undergraduate and graduate students as they tested various physics models and participated in hands-on learning activities.*

*We were invited to eat our lunch at the **MSLC** before departing for the **Rutgers Athletic Center** for a tour of the indoor arena. **Ms. Randi Larson, Athletic Academic Advisor for the Men's Basketball Team** arranged our tour, which proved to be an enormous thrill for the students. We visited the **men's locker room** (while the players were completing their final practice before departing for a weekend road game), met the **equipment manager**, who gave us a tour of the stockroom and passed around a size 18 shoe for the students to examine. We were introduced to the **men's trainer** and visited his facility – one student was even treated to an ankle wrap just like the ones he performs on the players before games!*

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*Randi showed us the **student computer lab** and explained the academic requirements and support offered to student-athletes in order to maintain their grades. [She even proudly explained that last semester the Rutgers Men's Basketball Team achieved a 3.0 academic average!] We convened at center court to hear more about the student-athlete experience – the demands and rewards of building intellectual acumen and physical strength amid a climate of teamwork and personal responsibility. Our tour concluded with a visit to the weight room where the strength and conditioning coach discussed the machines used by the student-athletes and the individual regimens she designs. The fifth graders were even treated to a brief “workout” of jumping jacks and sit-ups!*

*As we prepared to leave the RAC, Randi gave each student a **Rutgers sport sack, tee shirt** and “**R**” magnet! She explained that the Rutgers Men's Basketball Team would be exchanging letters with our fifth graders in the continuing Pen Pal Program, a partnership begun several years ago between Ms. Larson and me.*

The fifth graders were gracious in their appreciation and proudly represented North Plainfield on January 20th. They came dressed in scarlet and respectfully and enthusiastically engaged with all members of the Rutgers community. I was exceedingly proud of each and every student!

I hope you enjoy the enclosed pictures documenting our visit and thank you, once again, for making this trip possible.”

NPHS

The **NPHS Winter Guard** took first place in the competition held at Hillsborough High School this past Saturday, January 28, 2012. The winter guard presented “Family & Friends” night on Tuesday evening, January 31 at 8:00 p.m. in the middle school gym, performing their award winning show.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic. The safety topic for January was “Cold Weather Safety and Protection.” Related safety training is being completed via our new on-line employee training system and all employees are currently completing their assigned training. The safety topic for February is “Proper Lifting Techniques and Back Safety.”

Safe Schools On-Line Training. We are 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.

HEALTH & SAFETY

HIDDEN CAMERA MONITORING

The district has purchased a simplified hidden camera locator and has begun to sweep target areas including team rooms, locker rooms and restrooms. Additionally, the district is exploring the possibility of having our Joint Insurance Fund cover the cost of a more in-depth and certified sweeping of target areas.

SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for January was a "Lockdown Drill." All schools, including completed this drill as required. The security drill for February is an "Active Shooter Drill."

FEMA SUBMISSION #4

Our preliminary submission has been approved and we are now waiting for further instructions.

CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS (Completed)

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

- Completion of metal trim work on the snack shack and permit close out.
- Completion of metal roof coating on one maintenance building and the closure of all three (3) roofing permits.
- Completion of electrical work in the East End library.

PROPOSED FIELD HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

The operations office, in conjunction with the business office, will be proposing the following field house improvements utilizing excess food service funds.

- Installation of new flooring for locker, training and restroom areas.
- Installation of new lockers for both varsity and junior varsity teams.
- Installation of new drinking fountains and restroom partitions.
- Installation of new exterior entrance doors and associated hardware.
- Complete painting of all areas including exterior restrooms.

CAPITAL PROJECTS (Status Report)

HARRISON SCHOOL

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 have been rejected due to cost. We are currently preparing to re-bid this project with modifications to the specifications.

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 have been rejected due to cost. We are currently preparing to re-bid this project with modifications to the specifications.

DISTRICT WIDE

Solar Energy Grant. The engineering firm is currently in the process of filing for Department of Education project approvals for all locations slated to receive solar panels. It should be noted however that the Stony Brook School has been removed from the list due to a negative feasibility study. The process of filing for approvals is expected to take up to six weeks. We do not anticipate a start-up of this project until late spring or early summer.

2012/2013 BUDGET

The operations office, in conjunction with the business office, has compiled a list of proposed capital improvement projects for the upcoming 2012/2013 Budget Year. The list of proposed projects assumes state aid will be unchanged from last year.

- Stony Brook School – Complete heating system replacement.
- Watchung School – Complete heating system replacement.
- District Wide - Restroom renovations to include East End, West End, Stony Brook and North Plainfield High/Middle School.

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. UPDATE: We have just recently received a completed copy of our District's PLC's, and if approved, will be submitted with our application to Demand Response for the issuance of a contract draft.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools Personnel

It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the certificated staff indicated on the attached list be reimbursed for courses taken between June 2011 and December 2011 at the 2010-2011 rates indicated, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Kathleen Towey, paraprofessional at West End School, effective February 1, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Miriam West, school nurse, to work during spring central registration for up to 150 hours at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$49.74, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers:

Patricia Cooper	Lakiesha Mendez
Ifeoluwa Fawole	George Sheehy
Caprice Ladson	Kimberly Carter
Allison Lynch	

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the following student teacher placements from Kean University from February 2, 2012 through May 12, 2012:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Kenneth Walker	Physical Educ.	NPMS	Chris Eshleman
Natalie Majoreczak	Elementary	East End	Lynnelle Thomas
Jonathan Bauza	Elementary	East End	Kitty Jedra

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Jenna Dzurilla as a substitute paraprofessional in the district at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$20.16, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education grant Rosario Herscovici, paraprofessional at West End School, a five-day unpaid leave of absence effective February 14, 2012 through February 23, 2012.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education adjust the hours of Wendy Gaeton, paraprofessional at West End School, from 3.50 hours per day to 4.25 hours per day, effective January 23, 2012.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the employment of Louis Venturi as technical director for the drama club's spring production of "Come Blow Your Horn" on March 22, 23, and 24, 2012, at the 2010-2011 stipend of \$2396, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education appoint Emily Thompson, special education teacher at NPMS, to work up to ten hours to modify tests and study guides for a NPMS biology class, at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$49.74, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Ms. Thompson will temporarily replace Erin McManus.)

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Patricia Collins, ESL teacher at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education appoint the following teachers to work on curriculum projects and school-based planning activities as indicated at the 2010-2011 negotiated rate of \$49.74 per hour, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, and to be paid at the conclusion of the project:

Elementary Common Core Standard Models

Laura Dixon	\$348
James McCloskey	\$348

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept with regret, the resignation of Nancy Masucci-Beirne, teacher of social studies and psychology at NPHS, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2012.

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-25-11-12 to be provided using Educere, Inc. for up to five hours per week, effective January 17, 2012 and continuing for approximately two months.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-26-11-12 to be provided by district staff for up to ten hours per week, effective January 6, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve a change in the out-of-district placement of classified student LLL-11-12 from Banyan School to The Children's Institute at the rate of \$278.21 per day, effective February 6, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the use of First Children to provide itinerant services on an as-needed basis to hearing impaired students at the rate of \$125 per hour.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the following classified students undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Nancy Durant at the cost of \$450 each:

PSY-14-11-12	PSY-15-11-12	PSY-16-11-12
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Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-17-11-12 to be provided by district staff for up to ten hours per week, effective January 23, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student OT/PT-50-11-12 receive the following physical and occupational therapy while on home instruction:

Occupational therapy to be provided by Trinitas Hospital for 60 minutes per week at the rate of \$81 per hour.

Physical therapy to be provided by Cerebral Palsy of New Jersey for 90 minutes per week at a rate of \$97 per hour.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education rescind the previously approved recommendation for classified student SP-05-11-12 to receive itinerant speech services from Summit Speech School.

Further, that the Board of Education approve classified student SP-05-11-12 receive itinerant speech services to be provided by First Children for three hours per week at the cost of \$125 per hour, effective February 1, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-28-11-12 for up to five hours per week to be provided by Educere, Inc., effective February 3, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-29-11-12 for up to five hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective January 31, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen and Ms. Szaroleta abstaining, that:

Be it resolved upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby determines that student R-1-12 does not reside within the Borough of North Plainfield

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

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

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board approve closing out two capital projects and transferring the funds to Capital Reserve, per the 2010-2011 annual audit as follows:

East End HVAC Project:	\$107,679.79
HS Bathroom Renovation Project:	\$ 16,135.00

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated February 1, 2012.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved 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	3/13/12	HS/MS Jazz Band Performance	NP Senior Center North Plainfield, NJ	\$0.00	District
MS	3/27/12	MS Select Chorus Performance	NP Senior Center North Plainfield, NJ	\$0.00	District

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and approved by a roll call vote of 6 to 1 that:

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 authorizes changing the election date of school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November (the General Election); and

WHEREAS, Such action requires the adoption of a resolution by a school district or the municipality or municipalities constituting such district, as set forth in P.L. 2011, c. 202; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that the change to a November election remain in effect for four years; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 eliminates the annual voter referendum on the proposed general fund tax levy (i.e., the base budget which is at or below the statutory tax levy cap) in school districts where board of education members are elected at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, P.L. 2011, c. 202 requires that an additional general fund tax levy proposal (i.e., for an expenditure in excess of the tax levy cap) be presented to voters as a separate question at the General Election; and

WHEREAS, The North Plainfield Board of Education believes that the financial interest of its constituents is safeguarded by the state's tax levy cap and the thorough review of the proposed school budget by the Executive County Superintendent and the Executive County School Business Administrator; and

WHEREAS, The North Plainfield Board of Education believes that more citizens will participate in the selection of school board members at the General Election than on the third Tuesday in April and that the higher level of participation will foster positive interest in our public schools; and

WHEREAS, The North Plainfield Board of Education is committed to the non-partisan status of school board membership and the nonpartisan conduct of school elections, and believes this principle will not be compromised by conducting board member elections in November.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the North Plainfield Board of Education changes the annual election date for school board members from the third Tuesday in April to the November General Election, beginning in 2012; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, the annual organization meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education will take place in the first week of January following the November General Election and that the board of education's next organization meeting will take place in the first week of January 2013; and be it further

RESOLVED, That pursuant to P.L. 2011, c. 202, members of the North Plainfield Board of Education whose terms would have expired by May 2012 will continue to serve in office until the January 2013 organization meeting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be transmitted to the Somerset County Clerk; the Somerset County Board of Elections and/or Superintendent of Elections; the North Plainfield Borough municipal clerk and School Board Secretary; the Department of State, Division of Elections; the Department of Education's Executive County Superintendent; and the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Local Government Services; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution also be provided to the New Jersey School Boards Association and New Jersey State League of Municipalities.

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

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

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – Ms. Dodd will be handling the coordination of the next meeting.

Curriculum – Dr. Rich is in the process of scheduling the next meeting.

Finance & Facilities – Mr. Sternberg is currently reviewing dates for the next meeting.

Policy Meeting – Mr. Sternberg will be contacting committee members with possible dates.

Negotiations – meetings have been scheduled for February 8, 2012 and February 21, 2012.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper updated the Board on recent legislation.

SCSBA – Ms. Dodd will be attending the next meeting on February 2, 2012.

SCESC – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There was none

New Business

Items moved from future Agenda – there were none.

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

Electronic Residency Verification – Dr. Birnbaum and Mr. Sternberg discussed a proposal regarding verifying residency electronically.

School Election Law – Senate Bill S3148 and Assembly Bill 4394 – the Board reviewed and discussed the resolution on moving the annual school elections to November and eliminating the vote on the school budget.

Strategic Planning – Dr. Birnbaum discussed the Board's feelings regarding the process of strategic planning.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

February 1, 2012

Comments from the Public

Mr. Williams suggested verifying the company with regards to the sweep of cameras

Mr. Langenbach expressed approval to move election of board of education members to November.

Alexis Gardner asked again about researching the possibility of using the cable channel.

Virginia Feola inquired about the process for revising policies.

Future Agenda Items

HIB Report – February 15, 2012

Middle States – tentatively March 7, 2012

Pathway Program Update

Humanitarian Lunches

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on February 15, 2012 at 7:00 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg