

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on November 16, 2011 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 Branam  
Sandra Dodd  
Thomas Kasper

Kathleen Mullen – absent, notified  
Nancy Szaroleta  
Linda Bond-Nelson

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, and approximately 50 members of the staff and public.

**Introduction of New Staff**

There was none.

**Minutes Approval**

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the public session minutes of November 2, 2011.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of November 2, 2011.

**Financial Report**

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated October 31, 2011 in the amount of \$4,995,548.42.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Funds, for the month of September 2011 and further recommends in compliance with NJAC 6:23-2.11(B), that the Board of Education certify that to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
David Branam – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

### Comments from the Public

Upon request of the chair for topics from the public, North Plainfield high school student, Kevin Perez requested permission to host a ROTC Drill Competition at North Plainfield High School. Mrs. Bond-Nelson expressed the support of the Board and permission to proceed. Jay mentioned first place in recent competition and asked about varsity letter for ROTC participants.

### Student Representative Report

There was none.

### Presentation

Mr. John Ferguson, middle school vice principal and Mr. Edison Torres, high school student liaison, presented to the board new initiatives related to the middle school programs.

Mr. Robert Goellner, Hildy Jackson, and Fred Swiller – North Plainfield Education Foundation presented Mini Grant Awards to the following teachers:

1. Nicole Rossi and Katherine Shuster – Experience with Electrical Circuits
2. Kathy Porter – No Child Left Indoors
3. Thomas Mazur – Mr. Goellner presented award for musicians for Christmas Carol show

Mr. Mazur, supervisor of fine and performing arts, gave the Board a preview of the upcoming Christmas Carol play being presented on December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. A song was performed by 7<sup>th</sup> grade student Duncan Brockway.

### Superintendent's Report

## RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

### Staff

**The North Plainfield Education Foundation** is awarding mini-grants to the following staff members: **Kathy Porter, "No Child Left Indoors," \$250; and the "team" of Nicole Rossi and Katherine Shuster, "Visual Literacy and Hands-On Learning Experience with Electrical Circuits, Insulators, and Conductors," \$260.** (See items under East End School for additional information.)

Founded in 1997, the Foundation, under the leadership of **Robert Goellner, president**, is a non-profit, fund-raising organization dedicated to encouraging excellence in education in the North Plainfield community and carries out its mission by awarding mini-grants to fund special projects suggested by the district's teachers. Trustees of the Foundation include a cross section of the community representing residents, the Board of Education, school administration, teaching staff and businesses.

## Students

**Kevin and Michael Sani, under the direction of Dr. Sarah O'Donnell**, have received a grant award from the **Young Science Achievers Program (YSAP)** for their science research project **"Fauna Drift Following Storm Surge in an Urban Stream."** As a result, they will be given an industry mentor (in addition to Dr. O'Donnell, biology teacher) from AT&T. They also will receive \$500 to spend on the project. They asked for funds to spend on a statistical software package! So far, they have conducted the field research and should complete specimen identification in the next few weeks. Dr. O'Donnell along with Kevin, Michael and their parents also received an invitation to the YSAP annual Science and Math Day at Princeton University, on Saturday, November 19, 2011.

## District

**The Face Of America In North Plainfield, New Jersey:** After driving more than 30,000 miles throughout the 48 continental United States, looking for people who are representative of America on its best days, **Dr. Tony Mussari** and his wife Kathleen bring their "What is America" documentary to North Plainfield, featuring the students of NPHS and people of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The public is encouraged to attend the screening of **"Shanksville: A Place of Transformation"** in the high school auditorium on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. There is no admission fee for this cinematic gift to North Plainfield from the Mussaris.

The **NPHS cheerleaders** are featured in the film, as well as the **NPHS concert band**. The evening will also include a musical performance by recording artist **Jo Ann Biviano**, who will sing her original song "I'll Always Remember" with the **NPHS singers**.

This documentary began as a serendipitous coincidence when the NPHS cheerleaders arrived at Ground Zero to pay tribute to the passengers of Flight 93 where Dr. Mussari happened to be filming in Shanksville. The film presents a positive look at our community with a simple message from Dr. Mussari, "If you want to see America's tomorrow...today, go to North Plainfield." For a preview of the film visit: [faceofamericawps.com](http://faceofamericawps.com) (click on "Videos," then click on "Flight of Valor")

## Schools

### East End School

**Walking Wednesday:** November 2 was Walking Wednesday at East End School. Every child who walked to school received a fall sticker from **Mayor Michael Giordano and Donald Sternberg, business administrator**. "It was a special morning and the students were thrilled to shake hands with the Mayor Giordano and Mr. Sternberg. We continue to emphasize that walking is excellent exercise which is part of a leading a healthy lifestyle," commented Ms. Herrmann.

**Grants:** Facilitator and winner of a North Plainfield Education Foundation, Inc. mini-grant, **Kathy Porter**, planned an exciting day for the students and staff of East End School. They will welcome author **Jane Kirkland** on November 15 from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. as she presents her compelling and interactive program called, "I saw a Bald Eagle Soaring Over My Grocery Store." Focusing on heightening environmental awareness and enjoyment on a local level, participants will be encouraged to "Take a Minute to be in it"--in nature, right in their own school yard and back yard. Knowledge gained during the school-wide assembly programs, during small group question and answer periods with the author, as well as during an after-school staff workshop will be instrumental in guiding East End students to create a field guide to their school yard. This year-long school-wide project will be based on hands-on inquiry and investigation, and will include learning in all elementary disciplines including science, writing, technology, math, history, and creative arts. The end product will be a published field guide to the trees and birds of East End School. Best-selling computer book author turned award-winning juvenile author Kirkland has been an advocate for having fun in the outdoors for the past ten years since noticing a bald eagle flying over her grocery store parking lot. This revelation and career change have led her to appear on Animal Planet TV, PBS, at Disney's Epcot Center, and at the Philadelphia Flower show. Her award-winning series of Take a Walk Books are recommended by the National Science Teachers Association, the National Gardening Association, and Ranger Rick Magazine. "Our students need to be aware of their surroundings, realize the learning potential and enjoyment found within, and develop an understanding of the need to preserve our environment as the valuable resource that it is, stated Ms. Porter. You can find additional information at [www.takeawalk.com](http://www.takeawalk.com).

Also receiving funding and winning the NPEF grant was fourth grade teacher **Nicole Rossi's** project, "Visual Literacy and Hands-on Learning Experiences with Electrical Circuits." This grant will provide students with a deeper understanding of electrical conductors, insulators and circuits as the disciplines of literacy and science are integrated. Children will be able to observe energy and gain an understanding of energy in their daily lives. They will categorize objects based on their ability to conduct heat or electricity by figuring out how to make a closed circuit (complete loop). The students will test whether metals or non-metals are good conductors of electricity by analyzing the results of allowing an electrical current to pass through the loop. In addition, literacy, communication skills, writing, and handwriting will be integrated into this study. Ms. Rossi worked with Katherine Shuster on this grant, but the funding could only support Ms. Rossi's class. However, Ms. Porter, Ms. Rossi and Ms. Shuster are invited to the November 16 Board Meeting so they can be recognized for their efforts.

**Relatives Visit East End School:** Sponsored by a **North Plainfield PRIDE in Public Education Grant**, **Kathy Porter**, fourth grade teacher invited the relatives of her students to East End Elementary School to spend time together reading on November 23, 2011 from 11:30 a.m.– 12:20 p.m. Learning about their country is a highlight of fourth grade social studies. Across our diverse country lie traditions, landforms, products, animals, plants, foods, and sights just waiting to be discovered by inquisitive students. "Studying authentic literature is a hands-on, real-world way to discover and understand the regions of our country," stated fourth

Kathy Porter. One book, in particular, spoke strongly of family and became the basis for the event. *The Relatives Came*, by Cynthia Rylant, is a sweet tale of simpler times. Two families, gathering in Appalachia to reunite for an extended family reunion, from different backgrounds and ways, discover pleasures in their differences as they work and play together. Immediate families and extended families will surprise the students and gather to read and feast together in celebration of the importance of family.

**Scholastic Book Fair:** Driving past East End School and seeing the huge sign clearly let everyone know that the PTO hosted the Scholastic Book Fair from October 31 through November 9. All classes were provided with an opportunity to browse and purchase, and if two books were bought, the buyer received one free book. Friday morning, November 4, the PTO provided bagels and muffins to staff beginning at 7:30 a.m. and welcomed them to browse the fair as well. Also, the fair was open Friday evening and any parent who visited and purchased books received a raffle ticket worth \$10.00. The tickets were drawn at the November 8 PTO meeting. "The parents worked diligently and the students and staff enjoy the book fair so much. We are very grateful to our hard working PTO for facilitating this event," stated Ms. Herrmann.

**Families and Schools Together:** The NJEA provided a grant to promote parent involvement at East End School. Teachers **Lynnelle Thomas, Allison Longley, Barbara Sobel, Deborah Lockley Thompson, Sharon Egan, Barbara Curtis, Reema Bajaj, Katie Shuster, Priya Doshi, Mollie Mallett, Leslie Hansen and Francesca Cardona** formed a committee entitled **Families and Schools Together (FAST)** and hosted Hispanic Heritage Night on November 7, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the community room. Approximately 200 people attended and families brought delicious homemade foods representing their Hispanic culture. Everyone was welcomed by Principal Herrmann and then chairperson of the committee Ms. Thomas addressed the audience and invited everyone to taste the delicious foods which were served by the East End staff. **Parent Sandra O'Donnell** served as the translator. After everyone enjoyed the main course and desserts, Ms. Thomas and Ms. O'Donnell informed the audience about the importance of working with their children at home and that additional evenings will be offered throughout the year to provide parents with strategies. **Diana Sefchik, supervisor of ESL, academic support and world languages, and Melissa DeCos-Palma, family resource coordinator,** attended to offer support, chat with families, and provide additional ideas. "It was a wonderful evening and the community room was filled with such an aromatic aroma. The staff is excited to embrace this program and has great events planned. Survey were distributed to the families and the committee is in the process of analyzing the surveys to see how they can begin assisting parents, as well as forming a network so that families can connect with each other and find additional support. The staff is working very hard on this endeavor and the evening was very successful and quite enjoyable," remarked Ms. Herrmann.

**Veterans' Day:** Veterans' Day was celebrated on November 9 in the community room and was facilitated by teacher **Alexis Holbrook**. The entire school community gathered together and students led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance

and the singing of patriotic songs. Ms. Holbrook also used videostreaming and everyone enjoyed watching an informative visual depicting what Veterans' Day is all about. "It was a very touching morning and the assembly raised awareness of how important our military and veterans are to this country. Everyone learned a great deal," said Ms. Herrmann.

### Stony Brook School

**Annual Harvest Festival:** The story of *Charlie Brown and the Great Pumpkin* by Charles Schultz has always been the inspiration for Stony Brook's Harvest Festival. Thanks to the combined efforts of **Patricia Klatt, academic support teacher**, the PTA and veteran teachers **Gail Murray, Josephine Hazzard and Andy Stout**, the students and staff were once again treated to the Harvest Festival. The biggest challenge this year was the weather. Who would have guessed that an October snow storm would force the pumpkin patch indoors? In spite of the challenges, students and staff members arrived to school on Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> to find the front hallway of Stony Brook School magically converted in a "Pumpkin Patch." Students were invited to select and decorate their own pumpkins, visit the story corner and enjoy the fall festivities. At 1:30 they all gathered in costumes for a costume parade followed by classroom parties. "Parents joined the classes throughout the day and it was so much fun having everyone together. Thanks to all for a great fall celebration!" remarked **Cathy Kobylarz, principal**.

**Family Fun Night:** On October 28, Stony Brook's families and friends gathered for a night of fun and games, known as "Family Fun Night." PTA officers, **Kim Wilson McKay, Michelle Wallace and Nicole Hubbard** organized a fun-filled night by transforming the multi-purpose room into a giant playground filled with a giant bouncy house, a limbo competition, rock-wall climbing activities, various game centers and a hula hoop contest. Refreshments included snow-cones, cotton-candy, popcorn, pretzels and two-hundred homemade cupcakes baked by Michele Wallace. Staff members that evening included **Andrew Taylor- Rock Wall Rocker; Anne Corkery - the reigning Hula-Hoop Queen; Kelly Feeney - Cotton Candy Captain and Leslie Castillo - Welcoming Greeter**. Family Fun Nights are held periodically throughout the school year to give the Stony Brook Families a chance to meet and mingle, while enjoying each other's company.

### West End School

**A New Look at Lunch and Recess: Marilyn Pinto, student liaison**, has designed and implemented a new lunch behavior system. The goal is to proactively use lunch time to improve behavior by motivating positive interactions among students. Through the use of a green, yellow, and red "light" behavior system, this is being achieved. As a reward for classes getting the most greens per grade level, students receive a special lunch invitation to dine on the stage. At the end of each month the stage is decorated with tables complete with tablecloths, balloons, and centerpieces. Musical accompaniment is also part of the experience provided by **Jon Scott, music teacher**. For dessert students will be rewarded with ice pops, sponsored by the West End PTA. In October, they had their very first lunch

celebration. The following classes were recognized for meeting their good behavior expectation:

**Fourth grade classes: Dina Diaz and Michelle Tafuri**

**Third grade classes: Alison Clark and Nancy Schreck**

**Second grade class: Christine Birnbaum**

**First grade classes: Theresa Knauer**

**Kindergarten classes: Buzzy Durkin, Marlo Matthews and Tara Venturino**

In addition, in an effort to create a healthy indoor and outdoor recess environment that promotes positive student behavior and appropriate activity, West End has purchased outside sports equipment as well as inside playing cards and board games for students to use during recess. The purchase of the equipment was sponsored by the West End PTA.

**School Violence Awareness Week:** During the week of October 17 through October 21, 2011, West End School recognized School Violence Awareness Week. **School Counselor, Taryn Buffolino** gave lessons in all classrooms about bullying and violence in schools. The message "*See It, Say It, Stop It*" was spread across the school to encourage bystanders to become "*upstanders*." Classroom and specials teachers also integrated activities and lessons related to anti-violence into their instruction. Quotes about non-violence were read over the loudspeaker during morning announcements each day. Finally, they welcomed an assembly performed by cast members of The Surflight Theatre. The play, ***Magee McGee and the Good Character Bandwagon*** received great reviews from students and staff. "We would like to thank the West End PTA who sponsored this wonderful experience and important message for our students. Also, next time you visit West End, you will see that the halls have been named and decorated with Character Counts Pillars of Character street signs (i.e. Caring St., Respect Rd.) to keep the importance of good character in the forefront of our students' minds," stated **Principal Beth Sobel**.

**Third Grade Visits Wrightsman's Farm:** The third grade classes took a field trip to Wightman's Farm located in Morristown, New Jersey. Wrightsman's is a family owned farm growing and selling fruits and vegetables since 1922. At the farm, the third graders went on a hay ride, picked pumpkins, had cider and donuts, and explored a hay maze. There were many lessons that integrated literacy, math, science and social studies leading up to and after the trip. Before going on the trip, the students studied the life cycle of the pumpkin. The book *How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin* was read aloud and discussed. The students used the facts from the read aloud for their math and science lessons that were done as a follow-up activity after pumpkin picking. They had learned that the amount of seeds inside of a pumpkin is not determined by size, but rather by how dark the pumpkin is and how many lines it has on the outside. As an experiment to prove this fact the students took two different colored and sized pumpkins and made predictions about which would have more seeds. Then the pumpkins were cut open and the students grouped seeds in order to count them quicker. After counting the seeds, data was recorded onto a bar graph. It was found that their predictions were correct. The darker pumpkin had many more seeds. The third graders wrote a personal narrative about their

experience at Wightman's farm. **Third grade teacher, Alison Clark** stated, “The students loved the "hands on" type of activities we did together and really enjoyed the trip to the farm. Many of the third graders had never been to a farm making this a very special learning experience for our students.”

### Somerset School

“This evening is for you!” affirmed **Reginald Sainte-Rose, principal of Somerset School**, as he welcomed families to Somerset’s Second Annual Hispanic Parent Night. The community room was alive with nearly 70 guests, but that’s not all; there was an abundance of delicious food that parents and North Plainfield staff brought for all to enjoy.

**Raul Sandoval, Jr.**, the liaison coordinator for Somerset School, introduced the administrators, staff members and PTO parents who were in attendance:

- Reginald Sainte-Rose, principal
- Tom Mazur, supervisor of fine and performing arts
- Raul Sandoval, Jr., student liaison coordinator
- Sarah Tanne, school counselor
- Martha Schulz, world language teacher
- Alicia Sosa, social studies and robotics teacher
- Leslie Castillo, school counselor (Stony Brook)
- Melissa DeCos-Palma, family resource coordinator
- Bettina Bergamo, fifth-grade teacher
- Leah Glicksman, fifth-grade teacher
- JoAnn Myer, fifth-grade academic supporter teacher
- Evin Aksay, fifth-grade academic supporter teacher
- Caroll Canales, chairperson for the diversity committee
- LaKiesha Mendez, co-chairperson for the Somerset PTO

The parents’ attention was then turned toward a presentation by Mr. Sandoval, which provided information, in Spanish, about Somerset’s curriculum, activities, important dates, and how parents can help their child succeed. The Spanish-speaking staff members from the various departments also spoke about their roles and how they are involved in the students’ education.

After the brief PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Sandoval led an extensive “Q&A” session. Many parents’ questions pertained to medical insurance, counseling services, school uniforms, tutoring, special education, after school programs, and school safety. All questions were fielded and answered by the staff members and the administrators on hand. Several parents also shared positive experiences they’ve had with the district, specifically with special education. One particular mother was very grateful for how much her son has grown academically. She credits the wonderful teachers he’s had and the services that the Special Education Department have provided.

After the discussion, parents and staff helped themselves to a cornucopia of Latin American dishes. As the families enjoyed the food, staff and administration made

themselves available to address further concerns. Parents were eager to engage and expressed how thankful they were that the school was holding this event. Many parents also insisted that Somerset School hold more events in Spanish.

### **NPHS**

The **NPHS Marching Canucks** took fourth place in the State Competition last Saturday, November 5, while our **Color Guard** secured another first place State Championship. The Marching Canucks took tenth place in the National Competition this past Sunday.

### **NPMS**

**Hobgoblins, Angels and Elvis:** Middle school students celebrated “Fright Night” on Friday, October 29 at the annual Halloween dance. With the lunchroom eerily transformed into a haunted house, the PTO and student council co-sponsored this event, which provided snacks and refreshments to over 150 students. Music, activities, and a costume contest made for a devilish good time.

**A Caring Community:** After hearing about a local family that recently experienced a financial setback, **counselor Lindsey Ciarrocca** was instrumental in gathering donations from the middle school community. In a note to the staff, she stated, “With your help, we were able to give the family a \$300 gift card for groceries and \$150 gift card for clothing. The family wants to thank you all for your kindness and generosity.”

**Writing With a Purpose:** In an effort to show students how effective writing is utilized across many professions, **Kate Friedman, English teacher**, invited Sgt. Russell Yeager of the Fanwood Police Department to speak with her classes about the importance of details in narrative writing. Future guest speakers include a published poet, a song writer, and a journalist.

**Anti-bullying Assembly:** On November 4, **Dana Smith, district counselor** and anti-bullying specialist, held an HIB forum for middle school students explaining the new legislation and ways to prevent and eliminate bullying. In addition, she informed the students on the HIB procedures in place at NPMS.

## **DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES**

### **EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING**

**Safety Topic:** The safety topic for October was electrical safety and lock out/tag out. All staff members completed their training as required. The safety topic for November is confined space awareness. Related safety training is being provided via our new on-line employee training system.

**Safe Schools On-Line Training:** Operations staff, including van drivers, continue to complete related courses utilizing our on-line training program. It should also be noted that a number of our employees have completed additional courses available through the training site.

**Anti-Bullying Training:** An anti-bullying training session for all operations employees and associated paraprofessionals was held on November 10, 2011 at the high school. Additionally, all North Plainfield borough crossing guards will receive this training.

## **HEALTH & SAFETY SECURITY DRILLS**

The security drill for October was an off-site evacuation. All schools have completed their off-site evacuations. The security drill for November is a lock down drill.

### **FEMA SUBMISSION #1**

Pending. No further information is available at this time.

### **FEMA SUBMISSION #3**

The Governor's declaration for Hurricane Irene clears the way for us to apply for reimbursement of reasonable expenses related to the storm. UPDATE: An intake conference was held on October 24, 2011 in Hillsborough. We are now in the process of scheduling an on-site visit for representatives of FEMA to finalize our application.

### **FEMA SUBMISSION #4**

As requested, a preliminary cost estimate has been forwarded to our borough OEM coordinator for the snow storm that began on October 30. The Governor declared a State of Emergency for this event that could result in reimbursable expenses. The President must also declare this storm for us to be eligible to file an application with FEMA for reimbursement.

## **CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS**

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

- Collection and staging of all district surplus phones and equipment.
- Assembly of numerous items for DPS at several locations.

## **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:

- Installation of a concrete pad and fence modifications at Harrison School in preparation of the chiller project. See additional project information below.
- Electrical upgrades for Harrison. Scheduled for completion 10/14/11.
- Restoration of hot and cold water mixing at a number of areas at the high school.
- Repairs and restoration to the high school running track caused by Hurricane Irene. This project will be paid for through our Joint Insurance Fund.

Listed below are improvement projects that have been approved, utilizing ARRA Funds, at Harrison. Both projects are currently in progress:

- Installation of a fully functional greenhouse teaching package.
- Installation of new technology and related equipment in the multi-purpose room.

### **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 are currently being reviewed for compliance and amount.

#### **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.

#### **DISTRICT WIDE**

**Solar Energy Grant.** Sunlight General Capital, the selected contractor, was in district again this past week to finalize building lay outs and to formulate 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. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve an increase in hours for East End School paraprofessional Shoma Kar, from 3.5 hours per day to 4.5 hours per day, effective November 7, 2011, to include the breakfast program.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
David Branam – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Richard Testa as a custodian at the 2010-2011 annual salary rate of \$36,857, to be prorated effective December 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as part-time probationary transportation drivers, effective December 1, 2011 through February 28, 2012, at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$30.28, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (These individuals will replace Lianne Pellegrino.)

Timothy Brennan

Amanda Perez

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, 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/School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Elizabeth Lafferty	Elementary/East End	Lynnelle Thomas

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 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  
 David Branan – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve an adjustment of hours for the following NPHS paraprofessionals, effective November 8, 2011:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Magda Aguilar	3.00 hrs/day	4.00 hrs/day
Victoria Tarquino	3.00 hrs/day	3.25 hrs/day

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve up to eight hours each for the purpose of training for the following paraprofessionals, effective November 17, 2011:

Autistic Class

Maria Flores  
 Patricia Chwialowski  
 Giovanna Quartarolo  
 Pamela Lefanto  
 Wendy Gaetan

Pre-School Class

Agustina Rodrigues  
 Pamela Strickland  
 Gretchen Long-Munoz  
 Irene Kakas  
 Dawn Fellerman

Behavior Class

Maritza Barreto  
 Alexandra Vergara

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve Dennis Passe as a volunteer assistant to the coach in the varsity wrestling program.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individual(s) as K-12 substitute teachers in the district:

Brianna Eckhard                      Yuri Urrutia  
 Joyce Lembo

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education employ the following staff members to teach in extended-day mentoring programs at the rate of \$35 per hour, funded with NCLB Title I FY'12 monies as follows:

West End School

Kourtney Karl	82 hrs
Wendy McClellan	81 hrs
Nicole Rivlin	81 hrs
Angela Roman	81 hrs

Thomas Allen – Aye  
David Branán – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote 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 rate of \$49.74 per hour, 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:

West End School-Based Planning

Taryn Buffolino	\$1,244
Kourtney Karl	\$1,244
Theresa Knauer	\$1,244
Wendy McCellan	\$1,244
Marilyn Pinto	\$1,244
Christopher Sepesi	\$1,244
Michelle Tafuri	\$1,244
Mariluz Torres	\$1,244

Thomas Allen – Aye  
David Branán – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Michael Lim as a part-time teacher of mathematics in the Alternative High School Program at the rate of \$30 per hour for a total of 20 hours a week, effective December 1, 2011 through June 22, 2012.

Thomas Allen – Aye  
David Branán – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Jennifer Sloan as a teacher of English at NPHS at the 2010-2011 BA/Step 1 (1-2/1) annual salary rate of \$50,615, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective November 28, 2011 through June 30, 2012. (Ms. Sloan will replace Travis Smith.)

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education adjust the guide and salary of Sara Gagliano, academic support teacher at West End School, to reflect her attainment of a Master's degree, from the BA Guide to the MA Guide at the 2010-2011 annual rate of \$55,815, effective November 1, 2011, and to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Yuri Urrutia as an assistant wrestling coach at the 2010-2011 stipend of \$6,689, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Beatriz Murillo as a breakfast/lunch paraprofessional at East End and Stony Brook Schools, effective December 2, 2011. (Ms. Morillo will remain a substitute paraprofessional.)

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education extend the temporary employment of Eileen DeMeo as an elementary teacher at Somerset School **from** effective October 14, 2011 through November 23, 2011 **to** October 14, 2011 through December 7, 2011. (Ms. DeMeo is temporarily replacing Mary Imperato.)

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen 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 November 7, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-15-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Education, Inc./Summit Oaks Hospital at the cost of \$45.50 per hour, effective October 26, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student ATE-02-11-12 receive assistive technology training to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$552 for two sessions (a total of four hours).

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-09-11-12 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Nancy Durant at the cost of \$350.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Dr. Elisa Dulay to provide psychiatric evaluations on an as-needed basis, at the cost of \$800 per evaluation.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-10-11-12 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Elisa Dulay at the cost of \$800.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-11-11-12 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Nancy Durant at the cost of \$350.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen 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 BMW Enterprises, LLC at the rate of \$52.24 per hour, effective November 8, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve Invo HealthCare Associates, Inc. to provide specific educational services such as speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy on an as-needed basis, at the cost of \$85 per hour.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

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

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
HSI	11/30/11 - 12/02/11	Intervention and Team Building skills	Fairview Lake Camp Newton, NJ	\$2400.	District Bus
MS	Multiple	Expose 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Students to Higher Education	Rutgers University Piscataway, NJ	\$0.00	2 Dist. Buses

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated November 16, 2011.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated September 30, 2011.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the district's Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2011-2012 School Year:

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting "required" maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of North Plainfield School District are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

Continued.....

Continued

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Plainfield School District hereby authorize the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the North Plainfield School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

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

Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Nancy Szaroleta – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Correspondence**

Letter was received as follows from Adam Liss regarding Technology.

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Communications – discussed meeting with NP ROTC regarding honoring military  
Curriculum – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
Finance & Facilities – next meeting scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm  
Policy Meeting – next meeting scheduled for November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 pm  
Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.  
SCSBA - no meeting scheduled at this time.  
SCESC - no meeting scheduled at this time.

**Old Business**

Dr. Birnbaum reminded the Board about the Christmas Carol production on December 1 – 3.

Showing of “Shanksville: A Place of Transformation” on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Ron Fisher, director of technology, will discuss technology on 12/21/11

**New Business**

New items requested to be placed on the Agenda –

Mr. Kasper mentioned the Boy Scouts would like to present a program to our students. Will present on 12/7/11.

A joint meeting will be held with the Borough of North Plainfield on January 25, 2012 at the Vermule Center beginning at 7:00 pm.

Dr. Birnbaum discussed the Somerset County Awards on November 19, 2011.

**Current Events in Education**

There were none

**Comments from the Public**

Mary Forbes congratulated the district on the Diversity award and asked to share it with the council

Alex Gardner asked about televising board meetings, the extended day program, and the teachers contract. Dr. Birnbaum mentioned a mediator has been assigned and a date for the first meeting will be coordinated and assigned shortly.

**Future Agenda Items**

Student Health Study

Introduction of New Staff & Milestone Awards – December 7, 2011 – West End School Community Room – Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum

HIB Report

Public Access TV

**Adjournment**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on December 7, 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. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn to executive session at 9:10 pm for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn to public session at 9:55 pm

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg