

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on November 2, 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
Nancy Szaroleta
Linda Bond-Nelson

A quorum was established

Also present were Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Yamna Anwar, Student Representative and approximately 29 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 October 19, 2011.

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the executive session minutes of October 19, 2011.

Comments from the Public

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

Student Representative Report

National Honor Society held its first meeting with all members, current and new inductees. New members received the NHS pins, membership cards, and induction certificates. All members coordinated to create a tutoring schedule for after-school tutoring in the guidance office.

Interact held a meeting on Tuesday, November 1st during which students created posters for our upcoming blood drive and posted them throughout the school. Also, homerooms have been diligently collecting items for the ongoing food drive.

Fall sports are nearing an end with the winter sports schedule to due begin. The Varsity Girls Tennis team, coached by Lauren Paich, had a very successful season. The team was 5-5 in their division and 7-8 in their conference. The team included seniors and captain Marissa Sarfati, Angela Ho, Saray Orozco, Antonella Urtecho, Elizabeth Lombardo, juniors Megan Hynes, Shanice Mendoza, and sophomore Shelby Watters.

The Canuckling team has decided on this year's theme: Born this Way: Identity, which was suggested by editor Yamna Anwar and arts editor Chris Wong. Main goals dicussed during the last meeting included avoiding cliché topics such as “emo” work, love/betrayal, and getting access to work that was unable to make the deadline last year. The team is also brainstorming subcategories.

Girls' Soccer played their last game today, November 2nd. The team lost a state game today, but had their first ever scored goal in a state game. The record was 6-10 which is an improvement from previous seasons.

Today, a one man show was held at the high school for all grades. The show focused on tolerance and the evils of bullying and isolation, especially from the eyes of students and people who experienced it. The show was widely loved by students, and many of them were heard say “you are beautiful” to each other throughout the day.

The Spanish Honor Society has had empanada and Hispanic food fundraisers. They have planned a bake sale for the upcoming week.

The HOPE club will meet on Friday, November 4th and will be planning a trip to the Lakota Wolf Preserve on December 2nd.

On Monday, November 7th at 6:30 in the high school cafeteria, the 5th annual Spanish College Night will be held where we will discuss in Spanish the college process and financial aid.

There will be a junior class meeting on Friday, November 4th immediately after school.

Homecoming dance will take place on Friday, November 18th. The cost of ticket is \$15.00 and will Monday, Tues, and Wednesday of next week in room 143. The Halloween dance that was to be held on Friday has been cancelled.

Presentations

There were none.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students

The following juniors and seniors were inducted into the National Honor Society on October 18, 2011.

Fernanda Altamirano	Maria del mar Molina
Vanessa Castillo	Jennifer Nunez
Kevin Cevallos	Rodrigo Pacheco
Kaylen Chamorro	Sikander Raja
Timothy D'Armiento	Ashley Ramirez
Manuela Diaz	Jorge Regalado
NiaDove	TraceyRodriguez
Didia Fajardo	Tiana Rosa
Emily Garces	Kevin Sani
Katherine Guarnizo	Michael Sani
Stephanie Hatala	Shyla Shulca
Keith Jeffries	Kathleen Ventura
DayanaLedezma	Shamay Wiggin
Ethan Mamuric	Chloe Williams
David Martinez	Jihad Womack
CamiloMarulanda	

NHS Members (currently seniors) Inducted 2010

NourAbraham	Marissa Sarfati
Yamna Anwar	William Stevens
LisetteEspinal	Maximiliano Torres
Jeffrey Gugliotta	Jonathan Vargas
Zachary Joback	Jacob Watters
Jessica Jordan	Shannon West
Salvatore Mastrobattista	David Zhu
Zonia Menendez	

October WE Celebrate Award Assembly: Second grade teacher **Patricia Russell** and special education teacher **Angela Roman** nominated **Adam Stevens** and **Arzu Malik** for their outstanding effort during writing. Both students stay on topic, add details and adjectives, follow directions well, and edit their work.

Third grade teacher **Alison Clark** and student teacher **Meghan Pittenger** nominated **Nahun Gallegos** stating that "he is a great student and a great classmate who always tries his best. He has encouraged his fellow students by saying positive words and giving high fives when others give answers and try their best." According to his teachers he brings a great positive energy into the class.

The band nominations for instrumental music include fourth graders **Thy Nguyen** for trumpet and **James McGovern** for baritone.

Schools

East End School

Twenty five teachers have volunteered to join Ms. Herrmann at lunchtime to study **Gail Boushey and Joan Moser's Daily 5: Fostering literacy independence in the elementary grades**. The Daily 5 is a program that supports balanced literacy and engages students in meaningful independent work while the teacher works with small groups. Students will read to self, read to a partner, write, complete word work and listen to books on tape. "We are very excited to study this philosophy and program together. Some teachers are using the program at East End, but they too are joining the study group because we all feel that having meaningful discussions is another way to learn from each other. A few years ago, we gathered together and studied **Lucy Calkins** and it is quite successful at East End School. We will have two different study groups and they will be held during both lunch periods. We are very excited!" remarked Ms. Herrmann.

October 17 through October 21 was **Violence Prevention Week**. Throughout the week, **guidance counselor Jacqueline Spaventa** and **library media specialist Allison Longley** collaborated and taught lessons in the media center and engaged the students in read-alouds focusing on kindness and respect. Ms. Spaventa also designed a tree and each time a staff member recognized a student for demonstrating an act of kindness, the student was handed a paper leaf with his/her name on it, and the leaf was hung on the tree. By the end of the week, the tree was filled with leaves which emphasized the importance of showing kindness and respect to others. A picture of the tree can be found on the East End School's website. "Violence Prevention Week had a positive impact on the school community and each day it served to educate the students on the six pillars of character education and also served to educate and prevent bullying," commented Kathleen Herrmann, principal.

Kathleen Porter's fourth grade class was learning how to write a **persuasive letter** and used their newly learned skills and composed a letter to Ms. Herrmann requesting a carpet for the classroom. The class wrote the letter together on large poster size paper and delivered it to her office. "When I read the letter, I was amazed at how well the students used persuasive language to convey their message to me. I visited the classroom a few days later and announced to them that they successfully persuaded me to purchase the carpet for the classroom. It was a wonderful moment for me and for the class," stated **Ms. Herrmann**. The carpet will depict the solar system and be used for sitting and listening to instruction, as well as for science lessons.

Stony Brook School

Stony Brook's Star Lab: "Star Light, Star Bright in the Star Lab we see many astrological and spectacular sights!" Once again, Stony Brook School's students, staff and families were fortunate to spend a few days under the stars, studying the constellations in the portable planetarium rented from Raritan Valley Community College. A medium-sized fan was used to inflate the dome structure holding up to thirty visitors at a time. Once inside, images of constellations and the evening skies were projected on the inside walls of this dome by a small projection canister. **Michele Motichka** and **Gretchen Jacot** were the two Star Lab Leaders, who led Stony Brook students, teachers and parents on guided tours of the night sky. They also hosted a "Starry, Starry Night Family Event" on Tuesday, October 11, 2011. The Stony Brook multi-purpose room was transformed into a virtual star center, with the Star Lab at the center of our universe. Families visited the lab and while waiting were invited to view books on stars, color constellations or visit the Stony Brook Theatre which featured video streaming clips on stars and constellations of the night sky. "Thank you, Ms. Motichka and Mrs. Jacot for an experience that, once again, left us star-struck!" exclaimed **Cathy Kobylarz, principal**.

Safe Routes to School – Walking Wednesday Program: The North Plainfield School District has continued, for a second year, its efforts to establish safe walking routes to school for the elementary students. This year the Shoe Awards have been added as an incentive for all students. Awards will be given out on a monthly basis to the classes with the three highest walking participation rates: Golden, Silver and Bronze Shoe Award. The winners for October 2011 at Stony Brook School: **Golden Shoe Award – Marina Heller's Second Grade Class with 83% participation; Silver Shoe Award – Sharon Switek's First Grade Class with 74% participation and the Bronze Shoe Award – Kathleen Willwerth's Second Grade Class with 68% participation.**

West End School

FAST Spaghetti Dinner and Study Skills Event: On October 20, 2011 West End families attended the first Family and Schools Together Work (FAST) event. During the first part of the evening families were treated to a spaghetti dinner. The tables were covered with table clothes and centerpieces which were prepared by second grade teachers **Christine Birnbaum** and **Patty Russell**, and the melodies of Frank Sinatra sang in the background which was provided by music teacher **Jon Scott**. **Third grade teacher Alison Clark** introduced the goals of the FAST committee and **NPEA vice president Anthony DellaRosa**, spoke to the audience about taking advantage of this opportunity to meet and learn from other families in our community. After the dinner, families moved into the gym for a presentation on study skills. The children sat at tables in the back where they created a "study zone" sign that they could post wherever they study at home to ensure a quiet work environment. **Special education teacher Rob Meringolo** and **second grade teacher Lisa Cirillo** and **her daughter Meghan Cirillo** made sure everyone got stickers and crayons to decorate. Meanwhile, parents were given many useful tips to help their child with homework and study skills presented by student liaison

Marilyn Pinto, which included many visuals and handouts. **English as a Second Language teacher Mariluz Torres** provided translation to our Spanish speaking families. Additional staff members who helped make this evening possible are: **Kourtney Karl, Marianne Harris, Taryn Buffolino, Melissa DeCosPalma, Veronica Quick, Michelle Tafuri, Sara Gagliano, Nancy Schreck, Miriam Andrews, Buzzy Durkin, Angela Roman, Vicki Mendes, Megan Pittenger, Chris Sepesi, Paula Lemos, Theresa Knauer, Tara Venturino, Lisa Cerulo, Angel Lopez, Wendy Alvarez, Paula Lemos, Kelli Dunston, Megan Pittenger, Angela Roman, Nicole Rivlin, Debbie Lysicatos, Vicki Mendes and Brian Bigden** and volunteers **Felicity Rivlin, Marilyn LaMarca, and Casey Apisa**. “Thank you to **DiMola’s** for their assistance with our event,” commented **Beth Sobel, principal**.

October BoxTops: For October, West End students collected 1,890 BoxTops for \$189.00. Classroom winners include 3rd place with 140 BoxTops - **Tara Venturino's** kindergarten class; 2nd Place is a tie with 150 BoxTops each both 2nd grade classes – **Jason Lilly and Lisa Cirillo**; 1st place with 250 BoxTops - **Michelle Tafuri's** 4th grade class.

Elementary Schools

To commemorate **International Literacy Month**, every **third grade student** in West End School, East End School, and Stony Brook School received the gift of a dictionary from the **Plainfield/North Plainfield Rotary Club**. Distributed by Rotarians **Mary Forbes, borough council member; Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, school superintendent; and Linda Persichino, officer, Valley National Bank, Rock Avenue; as well as Mayor Michael Giordano, North Plainfield Borough; and Russ Flynn, sergeant, North Plainfield Police** -- the dictionaries were purchased by Rotary through The Dictionary Project, a South Carolina-based nonprofit organization.

Somerset School

Somerset School has two upcoming programs planned: On November 3, the students and their families are invited to attend the “**Hispanic Parent Night**” from 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. in the community room. There everyone can enjoy some delicious food while learning about Somerset School’s curriculum, school activities, services available in the district and how to help their children succeed. The program will be presented in Spanish and all are welcome!

On November 14, a **Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk for Education** will be held. Participants are invited to join in the fun as they Run/Walk around Upper Krausche Field and raise money to support the Somerset School Enrichment Program.

NPMS

“Citius, Altius, Fortius”: Eighth grade students participated in an interdisciplinary project entitled *Mini Olympics*, which utilized a cross-curricular design to foster a greater appreciation and understanding of the contributions of ancient Greece, especially with the modern applications of the metric system in mathematics and science. Facilitated by math teacher **Jennifer Riolo**, students became familiar with metric units of volume, area, and length, by estimating and measuring in an “Olympic” setting, whereby students competed in such games as the “paper plate” discus, “paper straw” throw, “right hand marble” grab, and the “cotton ball” shot-put. Social studies teacher **Roger Graubard** introduced the unit by reviewing the history of ancient Greece and the modern Olympiad. Science teacher **Deanne D’Armiento** taught the students the scientific methods of experimentation and the recording of data, while reading teacher, **Mary Ann Reilly**, and language arts teacher, **Christine Colonel**, prepared a selection of readings and writing responses to conclude this educational and fun-filled day.

New Jersey Migrant Workers: Despite being viewed as an urban state, New Jersey is the third largest producer of cranberries in the nation. In addition, it is believed that there are currently twenty thousand farm workers in the state. In a joint English and reading unit, facilitated by **Jerome Pocius and William Saccardi**, students are reading and responding to the life of a migrant worker. Students are reading selected chapters from the *Circuit*, the real-life story of a migrant worker, who fulfills the American dream and became a college professor. In the open-ended format, the students are gaining practice for the NJ ASK test.

Middle School Planning Team: On Friday, October 14, members of the NPMS Planning Team met to discuss and evaluate the four domains of performance (Curriculum & Instruction, Assessment, School Community, and Communication & Community Relations) which the middle school is implementing in its periodic review of current practices and procedures. The NPMS Planning Team currently has twenty-one members, made up of administrators, teachers, and parents dedicated to the improvement of the middle school by examining best practices utilized by schools nation-wide and backed by current research.

Partnership Food Drive: The middle school will join as “partners” with Somerset School and the high school to participate in the 8th Annual Student Council Food Drive. Students and staff are encouraged to collect food and toiletry products. Donated items will benefit the Somerset County Food Bank Network and the North Plainfield Food Pantry. Heading up this worthy effort to support our local community are **Danielle Fauci, representing the Jr. National Honor Society, and student council advisor Theresa Zimmerman**. Donations will be accepted through December 1.

NPHS

Michael Fowlin Show: On Wednesday, November 2, NPHS will be hosting “**You Don’t Know Me until You Know Me,**” a program by an amazing performer, Dr. Michael Fowlin, actor - psychologist – poet. This is a one man show that deals with issues of race, discrimination, violence, personal identity, suicide, homophobia, gender equity and pain felt by all types of children. Dr. Fowlin slips in and out of nine different characters, both male and female, who share their stories. “This performance is riveting and unforgettable,” exclaimed **Ann Caruso, counselor,** who arranged for the program.

Dr. Michael Fowlin (a.k.a. Mykee) has assembled exciting programs on the issues of race, discrimination, violence prevention and personal identity. His original and powerful presentations, now seen by over a million people, will bring a heightened awareness of these issues to our students, faculty, administrators and parents. They also suggest **SOLUTIONS!** Dr. Fowlin is no stranger to the stage. He has been formally acting since the age of 11, but started creating voices at age nine (via prank calls). Dr. Fowlin earned his undergraduate degree in psychology from Springfield University and his Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Rutgers University in 2001.

Each performance will be 75 minutes in length. The performances are scheduled as follows:

7:50 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. Grades 10 & 12 including and AM & PM Vo-Tech students
10:08 a.m. – 11.35 a.m. Grades 9 & 11.

USSBA Band Competition, October 30, 2011: *In spite of a freak October snowstorm that rendered hundreds of thousands of homes in the tri-state area without electric power, myriad road closures due to downed trees and power lines, and a football field covered with ice-encrusted snow, the return of a USSBA Marching Band show to North Plainfield in over 20 years was an undeniable success. Although three high school bands were unable to make the competition because of the storm, it is noteworthy that the other eight schools still managed to overcome the obstacles, accept the fact that the performances were to be held indoors, and present a genuinely musical event. “The band directors were impressive in the command they demonstrated with their students, and likewise the students were striking in their focus, respectfulness and extraordinary good behavior,” stated Tom **Mazur, supervisor of fine, practical, and performing arts.***

As the hundreds of student performers gathered in the gymnasium filled with parents for the award ceremony, the power company at that very moment made a switch in their grid which temporarily cut the lights off and the gymnasium went dark for several minutes. Until the switch was completed and the lights came back on, the occurrence only underscored the exceptional training and comportment of the many marching band students.

*“It is with enormous pride that I thank **Mrs. Heather Fencik, NPHS Band Director** and the **North Plainfield Music Parents Association** for their*

*indefatigable enthusiasm; to the custodians and maintenance staff with **Ed Ostroff** that day; and to **Dr. Birnbaum**, **Dr. Rich** and the **Board of Education** who supported this effort, exclaimed Mr. Mazur.”*

NPBS Field Trips: Two proposed field trips for NPBS students will help them make career decisions. **Teresa Thompson, NPBS math teacher**, will accompany about 20 students to **NJIT** for Engineering Day, where they will learn about six different types of engineering. **Anthony Della Rosa, computer teacher for NPBS and NPMS** students, is planning with **Johnson & Johnson** personnel to develop a two-day symposium at J&J headquarters in Raritan. Students will tour the facilities, and listen to speakers from J&J, Google and Microsoft, before participating in a task modeled after real-world work experience in the field of technology and marketing.

On October 13, the school counseling department hosted **Junior/Senior Parents Night**, a program that is presented yearly by the junior and senior school counselors. This year’s counselors are **Diane Signorelli (11th grade school counselor)** and **Christine Cascione (12th grade school counselor)**.

The program begins by addressing the needs of juniors and a “Checklist for College Planning” is discussed. Junior parents are encouraged to begin to visit college fairs and college campuses with their child. The discussion continues with the importance of grades, Scholastic Aptitude Tests (SATs) and future scholarships. The importance of good attendance is touched upon as well as taking challenging courses. Parents are advised when SATs should be taken. National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility is explained and what guidelines should be followed in pursuing an athletic scholarship.

The second half of the program is directed toward senior parents. The topics covered during this half are: selection of a reach, match and safety school, letters of recommendation, financial aid, registering for Selective Service, Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA) forms, portfolios, and keeping track of important college application deadlines.

The balance of the event discusses the importance of the High School Proficiency Assessment (HSPA). The Alternative High School Assessment (AHSA) is also explained to parents. At this point in the program, the school counseling website is shown to parents. They are shown the areas that can help parents and students with the college application process. Parents are asked to encourage their child to use the school counseling website as a tool and to visit the school counseling bulletin board often for important current information.

“The program was well received and attended by 35 parents—almost five times more than when we had our first program. I believe that this increase in attendance is due to the continuous improvement and expansion of the program. The commitment and diligence on the part of the counselors has resulted in an increase in parental involvement. Kudos to them for a job well done!” remarked **Linda Remolino, director of school counseling**.

Alternative Programs

Students at the alternative program had the opportunity to have school pictures taken at Somerset School on Monday, October 17. Students are excited to have their pictures included in the high school yearbook. "I want to thank Ms. Rosen and the yearbook company for making a special trip to the Alternative Program, commented John Tarnofsky, assistant principal.

On the evening of November 2nd, a representative from **Raritan Valley Community College** will be visiting to meet with students from both the Alternative Program and the Bridge Program. Students are encouraged to invite their parents to this event to learn about the college and how to apply. **Melissa DeCos-Palma, parent outreach liaison**, will be available to translate for Spanish-speakers.

District

Vantage Learning: On October 14 and 17, additional training sessions for Vantage Learning products were held at NPHS. The first session focused on the use of MyAccess. Teachers learned how to assign prompts and view initial reports. They entered the program as students to experience the program firsthand. The Student Progress Monitoring System was the topic for the second session, and will focus on students' test results. Additional training sessions are scheduled for December.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic. The safety topic for October was "Electrical Safety and Lock Out/Tag Out." Staff members who were assigned this training are on target for a timely completion. 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. Update: Operations staff, including van drivers, has now successfully completed several 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. Ed Ostroff, director of operations, continues to receive very positive feedback regarding this new system and the vast array of courses that are available.

Anti-Bullying Training: An Anti-Bullying Training Session for all operations employees and associated paraprofessionals to be held on November 10, 2011 at the high school.

HEALTH & SAFETY SECURITY DRILLS

The security drill for October was an "Off-Site Evacuation." All schools, including the alternative program at Somerset, 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 Governors' 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 scheduled for October 24, 2011 in Hillsborough.

CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

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

- Replacement of bulbs and one ballast for the Upper Krausche Field.
- Assembly of benches and tables for the greenhouse at the Harrison Building.
- The start-up and operation of all district boilers.
- Completion of *electrical work for the greenhouse at the Harrison Building.
*This work is scheduled for completion on or about November 2.

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 the Harrison Building in preparation of the chiller project. See additional project information below.
- Electrical upgrades for the Harrison Building.
- Restoration of hot and cold water mixing at a number of areas at the high school.

Listed below are improvement projects that have been approved, utilizing ARRA Funds, at the Harrison Building. 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 BUILDING

The installation of a chiller, piping and associated controls to air condition the entire building: This project will be partially funded by a Rod Grant. This project is currently being advertised and a project walkthrough was held on October 18, 2011. There were five qualified contractors at the walkthrough and as of this date, nine sets of drawings have been picked up by contractors for review. Given the interest in the project, we expect the bids to be competitive. Bids are currently due on November 2, 2011.

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. This project is currently being advertised and a project walkthrough was held on October 18, 2011. There were five qualified contractors at the walkthrough and as of this date, nine sets of drawings have been picked up by contractors for review. Given the interest in the project, we expect the bids to be competitive. Bids are currently due on November 2, 2011.

DISTRICT-WIDE

Solar Energy Grant. UPDATE: 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. 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 March 9, 2012 through May 12, 2012:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Ryan Van Name	Physical Education	Somerset	Donna Patton
Kenneth Walker	Physical Education	West End	Wendy Alvarez
Thomas Allen – Aye		Kathleen Mullen – Aye	
David Branan – Aye		Nancy Szaroleta – Aye	
Sandra Dodd – Aye		Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye	
Thomas Kasper – Aye			

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education grant Marlene Yoskowitz, teacher of French at NPHS, a twelve-week unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective November 5, 2011 through January 29, 2012.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the following staff be appointed to the co-curricular coaching positions listed below, at the 2010-2011 stipends indicated, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

David Hooker	Basketball-Boys' Head Coach	\$8,876
Greg Kilmer	Basketball-Assistant Coach	\$6,689
Edison Torres, Jr.	Basketball-Assistant Coach	\$6,689
Charles Jiardullo	Basketball-Girls' Head Coach	\$8,876
Kathleen Dailey	Basketball-Assistant Coach	\$6,689
James Miller*	HS Wrestling-Head Coach	\$8,877
John Vogel	MS Wrestling Coach	\$5,515
Charles Henriques	MS Boys' Basketball Coach	\$5,515
Renee LaGala	MS Girls' Basketball Coach	\$5,515
Louis Pulcrano*	Cheerleading Advisor: Winter	\$4,885

(*district substitute)

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the following teachers be appointed to work on curriculum projects or school-based planning activities at the school/department as indicated, at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$49.74, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

Mathematics*

Michele Cruz	\$497	(Geometry Benchmark Tests)
Michelle Motichka	\$497	(Grades 3 Benchmark Tests)
Camille Ragin	\$497	(Grades 6 Benchmark Tests)
Mary West	\$497	(Grades 4 Benchmark Tests)

*funded with Title I FY'12 monies

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education adjust the leave of absence previously granted to Sonya Larado, teacher of art, as follows:

Leave of absence under Disability period using accrued sick days:

From: December 5, 2011 – January 11, 2012

To: October 17, 2011 – December 5, 2011

Unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act:

From: January 12, 2012 – February 16, 2012

To: December 6, 2011 – February 15, 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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

Garrett Brook Gianneschi
Emanie Jean-Louise
Priscilla Flores

Sam Stancheck
Gertrude K. Thompson

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Renee LaGala, teacher of health and physical education at NPHS, to serve as the Coordinated School Health Wellness Team Leader as required through the Empower Somerset Coordinated School Health Grant, at the stipend of \$1,000, to be paid through the grant fund allocation.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve a temporary increase in hours for Shantal Sanchez, paraprofessional at East End School, from 1.5 hours per day to 4.5 hours per day, effective October 3, 2011 through November 2, 2011.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Carolann Kiss as a temporary teacher of French at NPHS, at the 2010-2011 BA/Step 7-8(7) annual salary rate of \$52, 815, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, and effective November 14, 2011 through January 27, 2012. (Ms. Kiss will temporarily replace Marlene Yoskowitz.)

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve the appointment of Lianne Pellegrino as a substitute school van driver at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$30.28, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective November 3, 2011.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education grant Timothy Mentone, elementary teacher at Somerset School, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act effective November 9, 2011 through November 27, 2011.

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

Kathleen Mullen – 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 Mary Castro, elementary teacher at Somerset School to substitute in the Somerset School morning breakfast program on an as-needed basis, at the rate of \$16 per day.

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

Kathleen Mullen – 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 an increase in hours for Nancy Lasluisa, paraprofessional at East End School, from 2.5 hours per day to 4.5 hours per day to assist in a kindergarten class, effective November 3, 2011.

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

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

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2011-2012 school year, and in compliance with the Department of Education requirements, the Board of Education approve the attached Nursing Services Plan.

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

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve classified student NEU-03-11-12 undergo a neurological evaluation to be provided by Dr. Kavita Sinha at the cost of \$325.

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

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-09-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey staff at the cost of \$55 per hour, effective October 19, 2011.

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

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-10-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective October 15, 2011.

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

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-11-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective October 20, 2011 through November 2, 2011.

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

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-12-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective October 26, 2011 (pending placement in an out-of-district program).

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

Kathleen Mullen – 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 out-of-district placement of classified student KKKKK-11-12 at the Cranford Alternative Program at the cost of \$44,780 a year to be prorated effective October 27, 2011.

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

Kathleen Mullen – 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 use of Educational Based Services, Inc. to provide specific educational services such as speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy to North Plainfield students at the cost of \$85 per hour.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-08-11-12 undergo a psychiatric evaluation to be provided by Dr. Nancy Durant for up to four hours at the cost of \$150 per hour.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-13-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective date pending programming and psychiatric evaluation.

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

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

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the contract for transportation services for the 2011-2012 school year with Amaker & Porterfield Bus Company at the rate of \$390.00 for the first four hours and \$85.00 each additional hour, not to exceed \$10,000 for the year. Their services will be required on an as needed basis.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the following special education transportation jointure with the Union County Educational Services Commission for the 2011-2012 school year:

Route No.	Contractor	Destination	NP Pupils	Daily Per Pupil	Annual Cost
CS017	By Faith Transportation	Westlake School	1	\$ 56.16	\$10,108.80*
CS019	J&J Transportation	Cranford Achieve. Prog	1	\$ 36.23	\$ 6,521.40*
CS032	Amaker & Porterfield	Westbridge	2	\$ 64.94	\$23,371.20*
CS066	Kensington Bus Co.	Deron II	3	\$ 63.18	\$34,117.20*
CS074	J&J Transportation	Deron I	3	\$ 52.64	\$28,425.60*
CS088	J&J Transportation	CPC Highpoint	1	\$ 144.56	\$26,020.80
CS112	J&J Transportation	Crossroads	4	\$ 36.57	\$26,326.80*
CS150	Vogel Bus	Lamberts Mill Academy	2	\$ 64.48	\$23,212.80
CS159	Vogel Bus	Newmark High School	2	\$ 53.00	\$19,080.00*
CS171	Aldin Trans Corp.	Banyan	1	\$ 156.00	\$28,080.00
CS199	Golden Arrow	First Children	2	\$ 61.36	\$22,089.60
CS274	Breza Bus Service	ARC Kohler	2	\$ 45.05	\$16,218.00*
			Total		\$263,572.20

*aide

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	11/21/11 12/12/11	Career and Technology	Johnson & Johnson Raritan, NJ	\$0.00	District
HS	12/9/11	Students will attend Engineering Career Day	NJIT Newark, NJ	\$0.00	District

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve that Nancy Rodino, library media specialist at Somerset School, apply for a grant from Walmart in the amount of \$1950 for the purpose of purchasing books for all students.

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows:

Thank you from Sharon Beim

Thank you from Mary Sommers

National Honor Society Induction Program

Letter from Jonathan Scott

Middle States Planning Committee Visitation Schedule

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Finance & Facilities – no meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – Mr. Branan mentioned NJSBA - policy committee to consider.

Negotiations – no meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – Mrs. Dodd mentioned upcoming program which will conflict with board of education meeting. Two board members will attend – Sandy Dodd and Tom Kasper.

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.

Current Events in Education

NPHS Drama Club presents *A Christmas Carol*, December 1-3

Screening of Dr. Anthony Mussari's film, *Shanksville: A Place of Transformation*,
December 6th

November 2, 2011

Comments from the Public

Mr. Fellin thanked the Board of Education and Staff members for all the assistance in making the band competition a success.

Roger Graubard commented about the need to update athletic field signage.

Future Agenda Items

Student Health Study

Introduction of New Staff & Milestone Awards – Dec 7th - Dr. Marilyn Birbaum

HIB Report

NPMS Initiatives – Nov. 16th – Mr. John Ferguson

NP Education Foundation Mini-Grant Awards – Nov. 16th – Mr. Robert Goellner

Joint meeting with the Borough of North Plainfield – January 25, 2012.

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on November 16, 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 at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Sternberg

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg