

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on September 21, 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 Branan
Sandra Dodd
Thomas Kasper

Kathleen Mullen
Nancy Szaroleta
Linda Bond-Nelson

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Dr. Robert Rich, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Yamna Anwar, Student Representative and approximately 3 members of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to accept the public session minutes of September 7, 2011.

No Executive session was held on September 7, 2011.

Financial Report

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated July 31, 2011 in the amount of \$2,609,245.78 and August 31, 2011 in the amount of \$3,466,523.19.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Mr. Branan 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 months of June 2011 and July 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 Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

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

Comments from the Public

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

Student Representative Report

Interact had its second meeting and members have been coming up with fundraising ideas. The first blood drive is scheduled for November 18th and possibly a second one in April 2012. Interact leadership workshop will be held on October 12th and the Rutgers games are expected to begin near the end of October. Students will be volunteering at the concessions stands as they did in previous years.

National Honor Society distributed letters to prospective students who might be inducted as new members this year. Current members are expected to tutor after school in the guidance office soon. Officer elections were held and Marissa Sarfati was elected President for this year. A meeting is being held for new inductees today.

Tunlaw held its first meeting and plans for the year and the first issue were discussed.

Canuck Mentors' "Freshman Day" was a huge success, especially since it began to rain. Mentors and students collaboratively participated in team-building and problem-solving exercises. Mentors and freshman familiarized with each other and discussed academic, extracurricular, and other interests. Mentor training, which happened the day prior with Mr. David Gonzalez, was also a success.

The NPHS Drama Club has been holding auditions and call-backs for their upcoming performance, "A Christmas Carol." The Drama Club also held the officer elections.

Girls Soccer record is currently 3-1 for the season. The team successfully outscored Vo-Tech by a score of 9-1 and the game against Bound Brook was also a victory.

Boys Soccer team is also having a strong season with record of 4-1. Their only loss coming from Del Val. They too were successful in beating Bound Brook with a score of 6-1.

A ceremony was held on Monday, September 16th in honor of those who gave their lives in the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Yamna Anwar and Ms. Joelle Bruno followed with the singing of God Bless America, followed by several other ceremonial contributions.

The SAT is scheduled to be held in North Plainfield in November. Registration will be accepted via College Board online by October 7th.

Presentation

Mrs. Linda Remolino, director of guidance, provided the Board with an overview of the new HIB (Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying) laws and mandated programs.

Superintendent's Report

RECOGNITION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Students

The **NPHS Marching Canucks**, under the direction of **Heather Fencik, music teacher**, got off to a splendid start at their first competition at Scotch Plains HS on Saturday, September 17. They took first place in every category: Best Visual; Best Music; and Best Overall Effect. Comments from the USSBA judges included: "well prepared" and "well designed show."

Staff

Dr. Hope Blecher-Sass, supervisor of language arts, literacy, social studies and media services, and Diana Sefchik, director of academic support, world languages, and ESL/bilingual, published "Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of 9/11: Including ELLs," on Colorin Colorado! – "Helping children read and succeed," a bilingual website for families and educators of English language learners: "As we observe the 10th anniversary of 9/11 this year, it's important to remember that our commemoration is more than a moment of silence — it's an important educational opportunity for students, including English language learners (ELLs). In North Plainfield, NJ, a school district where half of the population speaks a language other than English, we have successfully integrated ELLs into a pilot program introducing a curriculum and discussion about 9/11 in the classroom. What follows are some of the lessons we learned from our experiences, as well as ideas for engaging ELLs in discussions about 9/11 and related issues." As noted in the comments section, "Dr. Blecher-Sass and Diana Sefchik have presented a wealth of ideas and activities that do more than simply address the remembrance of a tragic and pivotal day in American History. They provide stimulating courses of action that affords educational opportunities for all students, encourage awareness and offer solutions in response to occurrences that affect world events."

As a result of this article, Myra London, the new chairperson of the Bergen Passaic Chapter of NJTESOL-NJBE asked Dr. Blecher-Sass and Ms. Sefchik to present the curriculum on ELLs inclusion in observations like 9-11 at their workshop on March 24 at Bergen Community College. In requesting their participation, Ms. London remarked, "We are looking for someone to present a topic that will appeal to a great range of ages and interests, and I found your article to be both interesting and immediately useful."

Linda Remolino, director of school counseling and anti-bullying coordinator, led a workshop session at the **School Counseling for the 21st Century Conference**, held at Rutgers University, Graduate School of Education, New Brunswick, New Jersey on September 16, 2011. **This professional**

development program is geared for school counselors who supervise counseling interns. North Plainfield has four interns this year.

Kristyn Rosen, English/art teacher, attended the English Literature Summer School, 2011 held at **Exeter College, Oxford**, July 10-30, 2011 and studied Shakespeare—Sources to Stage and Modernism.

Schools

West End School

West End hosted its annual **PTA-sponsored “Welcome New Parent Breakfast”** again this year. **Kindergarten parents** were welcomed in to their child's kindergarten classroom from 8:25 to 9:00 a.m. to assist their child in becoming acclimated to their new classroom. At 9:00 a.m. parents were directed to the community room for a light breakfast and a new parent orientation. Topics included an overview of the school, the role of the PTA at West End, and introductions along with roles and responsibilities of the school counselor/ anti-bullying specialist and student liaison coordinator. Moreover, there was an overview of the character education program, building objectives, the new HIB policy and various projects that will be sponsored throughout the year.

Parent Outreach: On September 13, the kindergarten children brought their families back to school for **West End's Kindergarten Family Night/Back to School Night**. Along with going to their child's classroom, parents visited with representatives from the PTA, local Girl Scout troop, and N.P.E.A. who provided educational pamphlets and voter registration. On September 20, children in grades 1-4 will bring their families back to school for their Back to School Night.

Service Learning: West End will continue to be a **Smile Train School**. Thus far they have changed the lives of 192 children around the world who needed cleft palate repair by providing them the necessary surgery giving them a new smile. Put **March 29, 2012** on your calendar for the annual Smile Train Show.

Character Counts! West End will continue its **character education objective**, which reinforces the six pillars of character education. Each grade level focuses on one trait, does a character education project based on their trait, and participates in a service learning project. The character trait “Respect” will be especially emphasized this school year. West End will be continuing their project **WE Go Green!** as they participate in environmental awareness programs that will include reduce, reuse, and recycling efforts.

WE Celebrate Assemblies: WE Celebrate will also be continued this school year. West End will have a school assembly monthly where students and staff are recognized for their accomplishments. The first assembly will be held on September 30.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS “C.H.E.E.R.”™ CHALLENGE Winning the game in school and in life — “C.H.E.E.R. For Character” assembly: Friday, September 23 is West End’s first School Pride Day. To celebrate West End School, they will be having a very special assembly program, developed by the Globetrotter organization with the help of the US Department of Education. This free program was initiated by **West End parent and reporter for WPIX in New York City, Lisa Mateo**, who referred West End School to **Eric S. Nemeth, Senior Director of Live Event Publicity Harlem Globetrotters International, Inc.**

Harlem Globetrotter, Handles Franklin, will present the “C.H.E.E.R.™ For Character” program which is for 6-12 year-old students. As stated in the Globetrotters press release: “The program focuses on Cooperation, Healthy mind & body, Effort, Enthusiasm, and Responsibility, using the acronym “C.H.E.E.R.”™ The program involves the player incorporating their signature ball handling skills with a “C.H.E.E.R.”™ basketball. The basketball includes each of the character traits printed on the outside of the ball. The player will expand on each character trait and use examples the kids can relate to. For example: “COOPERATION means working together and helping each other. You can achieve COOPERATION in class by helping the teacher pass out assignments, raising your hand when you have a question, or being quiet and listening while your teacher is talking.” He will also touch on setting goals, keeping violence out of schools and staying physically active.”

East End School

East End School staff welcomed students and parents on September 8 as the new school year began. The PTO displayed large welcome signs around the building which added a sense of warmth to the grounds. “Students in grades first through fourth entered the building like troopers and were excited to meet their new teachers and make new friends, while the Pre-K and kindergarten students had a wide-eyed sense of curiosity and a little apprehension as their teachers walked them into the school,” remarked **Kathleen Herrmann, principal**. “Nothing can replace the excitement and joy of the first day of school and after twenty six years, it still feels like that September day way back in 1973,” Ms. Herrmann further stated. East End School looks forward to a year filled with fun, motivation, and academic rigor.

On September 12, the entire school community came together to listen to Ms. Herrmann welcome the new staff members to the school. She introduced **Pre-K teacher Ashley Gutowski; first grade teacher Ridhima Bajaj; maternity leave replacement teachers Alyssa Robak, Jenna Rogers, and Priya Doshi; special education teachers Regina Revich and Sandy Deller, as well as physical education teacher Corrine Cecala**. Ms. Herrmann then proceeded to discuss the **Citizen of the Month** initiative which is based on the six pillars of character education. “The students are always excited to receive this award and they work very hard throughout the month to do their best,” remarked Ms. Herrmann. Finally, Ms. Herrmann discussed the rules of the school and emphasized that East End School is a NO BULLY ZONE and reminded the students to “be a buddy and not a bully.”

Congratulations East End Mustangs! East End School Wins the Summer Reading Contest for the third year in a row! There were seventy-eight East End readers participating in the North Plainfield Public Library's summer reading contest, reading a total of 59,349 minutes. This is the third year that the library has held the contest and the third time that East End has taken the lead. The library will present a Winning School trophy and a Top Reader trophy at East End School on September 20. East End students also submitted their reading logs to **Alison Longley, library media specialist**, and the participants will receive certificates and be invited to the **Build-a-Book Summer Reading Party**.

The **East End School Based Planning Team** worked endlessly during the summer to ensure that the school's building objectives were ready for implementation. Team members **Angela Phillips, Lisa Gabriel, Rachel Padian, Francesca Cardona, Alexis Holbrook**, and **Kathy Herrmann** presented both objectives at the building meeting on September 12. The first objective continues to focus on improving student achievement in language arts and math. NJASK and NJPASS scores, along with district assessments, DRA2 and writing scores are being analyzed in order to provide students with intervention and targeted instruction. The second objective continues to focus on the history of North Plainfield. Classes will continue to communicate with their adopted North Plainfield business, and all classes will visit the historic **Drake House** where they will see firsthand many of the historic artifacts and other documents that will bring the past to life. Also, the team has designed lessons and projects that are based on the 21st century skills and the infusion of the four C's (creativity, collaboration, communication, critical thinking) into all lessons. A huge celebration is planned for the end of the year that will showcase projects from the students.

East End School's first **PTO meeting** was held on September 13. Advertised on the school's website, the meeting was very well attended with individuals signing up to work on various committees throughout the year. A strong message was conveyed to the parents that their involvement is essential to student success and that working together will make a difference. Special Education teachers **Sharon Egan** and **Alexis Holbrook** presented an overview of **Families and Schools Together (FAST)** which is being made possible through a grant given to East End School from the NJEA. Ms. Egan and Ms. Holbrook explained to the audience that FAST is an after-school enrichment program that pairs parents and teachers and is designed to enrich and support the curriculum. Several teachers have already volunteered to work in the after-school program.

Somerset School

Math + Fun + Arithmetickles: *On September 15, Somerset School kicked off their math school goal with an interactive assembly called Arithmetickles. As noted in the brochure, Arithmetickles is a one-of-a-kind, interactive, math game show school assembly that involves students in the learning process. Many youngsters have difficulty identifying the connection between classroom math and their daily lives. This may cause them to view math as irrelevant, too difficult, or just plain boring. But*

Arithmetickles school assembly math shows shatter this notion with fun-filled math games that provide examples of how to use textbook math in everyday situations.

Through a skillful blending of audience participation, comedy, mime and theatrical effects, Somerset students experienced fast-paced math games and skits. Arithmetickles game show captured the attention of the 5th and 6th grade students. Age-appropriate material was set in a “kid-friendly” math show format of games, puzzles, scenarios and storytelling, affording students a chance to explore and resolve math problems creatively. By using elements of highly creative children’s theater and encouraging students to succeed on stage in front of their peers, Arithmetickles also helps increase overall confidence and self-esteem and demonstrates how cool math can be.

Original, thought provoking, and always spontaneous, Arithmetickles, is a cultural arts, enrichment based, school experience based on a game show. Somerset students’ realized that math is nothing to be afraid of and that learning math (through math games) can be fun!

Getting to Know Yourself, Grade 5 Writing Project: Fifth grade students at Somerset School started the year living a “Writerly Life.” Students prepared a collage within the confines of a bubble letter of their first initial. Students used pictures, words, magazine clipping, and drawing to tell about themselves. Students wrote a paragraph describing their interests at home and at school. They also had an opportunity to write about their families. Each essay was attached to the bottom of their poster. The posters are displayed outside their classrooms as a welcome for their parents at Back to School Night on September 19.

NPHS

School Meeting: On September 13, NPHS students attended an assembly with the principal. As in past years, **Jerard Stephenson, principal**, discussed the school objectives for the year and explained the action plans. A power point presentation, created by **Edison Torres**, was used to show students the objectives, test results, pertinent information and the new school expectations chart. The students were also given information pertaining to the new HIB law and how the students can access assistance if they have been, are being or have seen someone being bullied. The student body was also introduced to Edison Torres, the new student liaison; **John Tarnovsky**, the new assistant principal for alternative programs; and **Ann Caruso**, the anti-bullying specialist. The meetings were conducted every period throughout the day.

Freshman Experience: To help students understand and grow during their high school years, NPHS ninth graders participate in the freshman experience. All 240 freshmen and their “Canuck” **mentors** (45 students) participated in five activities designed to improve leadership skills, enhance communication, build confidence and self-esteem, manage conflict and stress, teach how to target and achieve goals, and enhance teamwork skills. Developed and implemented by **Optimal Performance Associates (OPA) LLC**, this full-day event took place right on the NPHS campus on September 20, 2011. During and after the training, the certified and trained OPA staff debrief the students and make connections on applying the lessons/skills

learned. "The workshop not only benefits the students involved in the activities but also benefits the total school program and community. When the students return to the school they will be better prepared to face the academic rigors and social situations that make up their day" stated, Principal Stephenson, cheerleader and event organizer.

Middle States: The **Middle States internal coordinators** met throughout the summer preparing for the Middle States validation visitation tentatively scheduled for the **week of November 14, 2011**. Middle States committee members were asked to complete their portion of the school's self-assessment of the 12 Middle States standards for accreditation.

The Middle States committee is also be identifying action plans related to the school's Middle States goals of improved learning, improved school climate and preparedness for post-secondary goals.

Cheerleaders: The cheerleaders were the **Grand Marshal for the 2011 Fourth of July parade**. This honor was bestowed upon them for their continuous commitment to community service. The cheerleaders also made their annual pilgrimage to **Montoursville** to pay tribute to the high school students that perished in the crash of TWA Flight 800. This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the crash and the cheerleaders participated in a memorial service and 5K run.

HOPE Club & NJROTC: During the summer, members of the HOPE Club and NJROTC came in twice a week to water the school's gardens. This annual community service is organized by **Dr. Sarah O'Donnell, biology teacher**, who is being assisted this year by **LTC Hansen**.

Stony Brook School

Stony Brook's Newest Families Welcomed at a Parents' Tea: The doors of Stony Brook School opened on September 8 with special thought given to the newest family members attending for the first time. Each new family received an invitation to join **Principal Kobylarz** and key staff members at the "New Parents' Tea" held in the multi-purpose room. In attendance were over forty families with children attending Stony Brook from grades K-4. The theme this year was "Joining the School Family," with special emphasis placed on the many ways that family members could form a strong partnership between home and school. The PTA president, **Kim Wilson-McKay** and treasurer, **Nicole Hubbard** were also in attendance and supplied the hospitality table for the welcoming.

Happy New School Year: On September 9, 2011, Stony Brook's staff and students gathered for the first all school assembly for the 2011-2012 school year. The theme was "Happy New School Year" and included introductions of all new staff members and a welcoming to all of the new students. New staff members welcomed were **Doreen Humiston**, the new school nurse; **Andrew Taylor**, the new physical education and health teacher, and **Leanne Borbely**, the new special education teacher. Paraprofessionals welcomed back to Stony Brook included **Donna Adams**, **Denise Cruz**, and **Rose Landis**, while the new paraprofessional welcomed was

Cynthia Fitzpatrick. Introductions were followed by a talk on academic excellence, audience and lunchroom etiquette, peacemaking skills and then **Principal Kobylarz** led the student body in the annual Stony Brook School Learning Pledge. During the pledge, everyone promised to work together academically and socially in order to make learning the number one priority at Stony Brook School.

Stony Brook's Parent Teacher's Association: Stony Brook's first PTA meeting was held on Tuesday, September 13 in Stony Brook's multi-purpose room. The highlight of this first meeting was the induction of the new officers. The following members were inducted into Stony Brook's executive board: **president, Kim Wilson-McKay; vice-president, Michelle Wallace; treasurer, Nicole Hubbard; recording secretary, Leslie Castillo; corresponding secretary, Kim Rix; and teacher/staff representative, Kelly Feeney.** Congratulations and special thanks to the new officers and members!

Middle School

Student Expectations Assembly: On September 9, all middle school students met with Assistant Principal John Ferguson and Student Liaison Edison Torres to welcome them to a new year and review the middle school's goals and objectives. Particular emphasis was placed on discussing strategies for successfully transitioning from intermediate level education to middle school education.

Grade Level Team/Student Assemblies: To bolster the effectiveness of teaming in the middle school and to introduce students to their teachers, the six teams met individually in the auditorium with their core teachers. Through use of power points, songs, and various handouts, teachers previewed the curriculum and activities that the students would experience throughout the year.

PTO: On September 12, NPMS hosted its first PTO of the year. This well attended event allowed parents the opportunity to hear about the new initiatives planned for the year. Parents were informed about the role and purpose of the Middle School Planning Team, expansion of the community service opportunities for students, the commitment of greater career exploration and higher education through Rutgers University. Representing the faculty, teachers Theresea Zimmerman and Stephanie Meyers shared with the parents the various up incoming events planned for the school. At the end of the meeting, Mr. Ferguson announced "Let me take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Ms. Veronica Knight and Ms. Linda Pompey who have graciously agreed to chair the positions of PTO President and Vice President. "

Character Education Assembly: The year's first Character Education Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 20. After welcoming remarks by Mr. Ferguson, social studies teachers Danielle Fauci and Theresa Zimmerman, introduced to the students the purpose of the year-wide program when they stated, "Character Education challenges you to be a

better person. What decides the path of your life, and the quality of our communities, is what kind of person you are.” Each month, teachers will select two students who demonstrate the character trait for the month. In addition, teachers will be looking out for students who show the character trait and award them with an “Awesome Act.” This month’s trait is *Citizenship*. Supervisor Dr. Hope Blecher-Sass defined the concept of citizenship and patriotism with reference to the district’s continuing remembrance of 9/11.

NPMS Canuck Pride: NPMS student council is currently conducting their “NPMS Canuck Pride” T-shirt fundraiser and hosting with the PTO a NPMS Back to School Night Pizza Party Fundraiser for parents and students attending the Back to School Night on October 6.

District

Induction: Induction programs were attended by over 50 teachers this summer. Under the direction of **Patricia Marseglia, supervisor of math and science**, **Induction I** was held August 22-26, and included sessions related to lesson planning, literacy across the curriculum, technology program, assessment, and working with ELL and special education students. All sessions are designed to help teachers new to North Plainfield become familiar with the expectations of the district, and to increase their comfort level in beginning a new position. Teachers became familiar with administrators, met their mentors and enjoyed lunch together. During **Induction II and III**, held July 5-6 and July 8, programs related to classroom management, differentiated instruction and the Understanding by Design model of instructional planning were presented. Induction II and III programs were opened to all staff members, and, indeed, were attended by several experienced staff members.

Vantage Learning: On August 30, Vantage Learning came to North Plainfield Middle School to allow 30 staff members to experience the value of the “**My Access**” program firsthand. This program, which provides immediate feedback on the quality of a user’s writing, also includes an instructional component that allows the student to strength their writing through a variety of guiding questions and graphic organizers. Teachers from all district schools and from several content areas at the middle and high school levels were able to view specific prompts that could be used immediately in their classes. District administrators also attended. On August 31, a second session introduced Vantage Learning’s “**Student Progress Monitoring System (SPMS)**” to an even larger group of approximately 55 teachers and administrators. Through this system, the district will be able to develop pre- and post-tests for language arts literacy, math and science, as well as formative marking period tests. This program will replace “Learnia,” and also features multiple reports through which teachers will be able to target students’ needs and analyze programmatic strengths and weaknesses. More training sessions are schedules for the fall. Many thanks to **Patricia Marseglia, math and science supervisor; Dr. Hope Blecher-Sass, language arts/literacy, social studies, and media services supervisor; and Ron Fisher, director of technology and information services** for arranging the change-over and training.

9/11 Ceremony of Remembrance and Respect: It was a chilly Friday morning at the end of a rainy week, the first full week of school. However, at 7:00 a.m. the crowd that gathered in front of the high school gym filled the air with such warmth; it will not soon be forgotten.

On September 16, 2011, we, the people of North Plainfield, were united by the ceremony of Remembrance and Respect that began with a greeting from Dr. Marilyn Birnbaum, superintendent. For the next forty minutes the crowd watched as 23 American Flags were placed along the sidewalk by members of the NJROTC as part of the Avenue of Flags. The last flag was accompanied by SGT Adam Albarran, NYPD, an alumnus of NPHS. Mr. Albarran later spent the day speaking with students about his experiences as a first responder on 9/11/01.

Thanks to the generous donations of members of the community, the program was distinguished by two unveilings: T. J. Johnson of Weldon Materials donated the boulders upon which Scott Lamperti placed the refurbished September 11th plaques. Mr. Lamperti, an alumnus of NPHS and resident of North Plainfield, also donated his time and labor to refurbish the monument to salute service personnel. The students in Robert Lake's sociology class supplied the wording that was literally etched into stone. Thomas Kasper, Board member, provided the closing remarks.

The 10th Anniversary of 9/11 Committee, chaired by Dr. Hope Blecher-Sass, supervisor of language arts/literacy, social studies, and media services, and MaryBeth Winsor, social studies teacher, plans to continue to provide professional development and educational opportunities throughout the school year.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & AUXILIARY SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY TRAINING

Safety Topic: The safety topic for September is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Related safety training is being provided via our new on-line training system. See below for updated information.

Safe Schools On-Line Training: We have now rolled out our new web-based training program from Safe Schools. This new program allows employees to log into the training site and complete courses that have been assigned to them by their supervisor or other administrator. We are initially targeting our Operations team and hope to bring the entire district on board later this year. The entire program is provided to the district through our Joint Insurance Fund at no cost to the district.

HEALTH & SAFETY SECURITY DRILLS

Security drills for September are currently being conducted and will be completed before month's end. The security drill for September is an Evacuation-Non Fire.

FEMA SUBMISSION #1

We are still waiting for the remaining funds to be released for the flooding that occurred in March of 2010. Two partial payments for our submitted expenses have been received to date. 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. An initial information and submission meeting was scheduled for September 15, 2011 in Somerville.

TRANSPORTATION

Our van drivers have been assigned a transportation related course through our Safe Schools Training Program.

CURRENT MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

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

- Installation of a new water storage tank and mixing valve at the field house to restore hot water to both shower areas.
- Concrete repairs and replacement at Harrison School related to the electrical upgrade project.
- Refinishing of the floor in the multi-purpose room at Harrison School.
- Electrical upgrades in the multi-purpose room at Harrison School.
- Construction of the Greenhouse at the Harrison School. The remaining utility work is being completed at this time.

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:

- Electrical upgrades for Harrison School.
- Closing of all boilers once inspections have been completed.
- Repairs of various roof leaks throughout the district.
- Restoration of hot and cold water mixing at a number of areas at NPHS.
-

Listed below are Improvement Projects that have been approved, utilizing ARRA Funds, at Harrison School. 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. Specifications for this project are currently being finalized. We anticipate soliciting for bids in October. This project will be partially funded by a Rod Grant.

STONY BROOK SCHOOL

The installation of two package air conditioning units for the multi-purpose room. Specifications for this project are currently being finalized. We anticipate soliciting for bids in October. This project will be partially funded by a Rod Grant.

DISTRICT WIDE

Solar Energy Grant: This grant will provide rooftop solar energy panels on a number of our buildings. UPDATE: Sunlight General Capital, the selected contractor, was in district on September 14, 2011 to complete additional survey work. We anticipate this project to start up in early spring of 2012.

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.

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

The district has now completed its annual inspections for fire safety, playground safety, fire suppression, fire alarm and pressure vessel compliance. The district has also completed and posted the Annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Notification and the Asbestos Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Six Month Surveillance Notice.

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

WHEREAS Robert Zetlin, teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that he wishes to retire on September 1, 2011, and

WHEREAS he has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately twenty-three years with dedication to the highest standards of education, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Mr. Zetlin its thanks for the service he has given and best wishes for his future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on September 21, 2011, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Mr. Zetlin

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

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

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 adjust the guide and salary of Kyle Skrivanek, teacher of instrumental music at NPMS, from the BA Guide to the MA Guide/Step 9 (12-13/13) at the 2010-2011 annual salary rate of \$59,190, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, to reflect his attainment of a Master's degree, effective September 1, 2011.

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

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

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 adjust the guide and salary of Jennifer Riolo, teacher of mathematics at NPMS, from the Bachelor's Guide to the MA Guide/Step 10 (14-15/14) at the 2010-2011 annual salary rate of \$62,340, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, to reflect her attainment of a Master's degree, effective September 1, 2011.

Further, that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education adjust the rate to be paid to Ms. Riolo for teaching a sixth class of mathematics from \$9,890 to \$10,390, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

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

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

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 **adjust** the Step of Barnali Dasgupta, teacher of chemistry at NPHS, **from** MA/Step 9 **to** MA/Step 8 (9-11/10) at the 2010-2011 annual salary rate of \$57,390, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

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

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

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 the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

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 Ronit Moritz as a speech language specialist in the district at the 2010-2011 MA/Step 10 (14-15/14) annual salary rate of \$62,340, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective September 22, 2011, and that a Letter of Intent to employ be issued.

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 adjust the unpaid leave of absence granted to Rita (Martins) DaFonseca under the Federal Family Leave Act from effective September 12, 2011 through December 5, 2011 to September 1, 2011 through November 23, 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 following transfer of teachers:

| | <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Richard Beck | Somerset Special Ed | Somerset/WE Special Ed |
| Frank Calabrese | Somerset Special Ed | Somerset/HS Special Ed |

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 an increase in hours for the following paraprofessionals to include bus duty, effective September 9, 2011:

| | | <u>FROM</u> | <u>TO</u> |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Nicholas Psillos | West End | 3.25 hrs/day | 4.25 hrs/day |
| Harry Hooker | West End | 3.50 hrs/day | 4.25 hrs/day |
| Rosalie Gargano | NPFS | 3.75 hrs/day | 4.25 hrs/day |
| Geraldine Burns | OOD Bus Aide | 3.00 hrs/day | 4.00 hrs/day |

| | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|
| Beatriz Murillo | East End | 1.50 EE | 2.50 EE&SB (breakfast & lunch) |
|-----------------|----------|---------|-----------------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 employment of Christy Thomas, as an instructional kindergarten paraprofessional at East End School for 3.75 hours per day, at the 2010-2011 hourly rate of \$20.61, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective September 12, 2011, and that a Letter of Intent to employ be issued. (Ms. Thomas will replace Nancy Saltz.)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 Patricia Lukacs-Cox be assigned to one additional period of instruction of Algebra I at NPHS, at the rate of \$33 per period, effective September 12, 2011 through October 3, 2011. (Ms. Lukacs-Cox will cover that class while Theresa Luu is out on sick leave.)

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 appointment of the following NPMS teachers for the middle school after-school detention program at the rate of \$25 per hour:

| | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Jerome Pocius | William Saccardi |
|---------------|------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 Sonya Larado, teacher of art at Stony Brook and West End Schools, a leave of absence as follows:

December 5, 2011 – January 11, 2012 – Disability period using sick days

January 12, 2012 – February 16, 2012 – Unpaid Leave of Absence under the Federal Family Leave Act

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 **temporary** employment of Angelina Lowder as a paraprofessional working in the office at NPHS for 4.0 hours per day, effective September 22, 2011 through October 31, 2011, at the 2011-2012 hourly rate of \$20.61, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, and that a Letter of Intent to employ be issued.

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 Maria Orejeula, teacher of Spanish at NPHS, to supervise SIT and Saturday Detention at NPHS at the rate of \$80 per session.

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 following co-curricular appointment at the 2010-2011 stipend rates indicated, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

| | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|
| Jewel Crenshaw | Somerset School | Drama Club Advisor | \$1569 | |
| Jewel Crenshaw | Stony Brook School | Choral Advisor | | \$1856 |

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 staff members indicated on the attached list be appointed to teach after-school professional development courses at the rate of \$30 per hour, to be funded with NCLB FY'12 and/or local funds as indicated, to be paid at the conclusion of each course.

Thomas Allen – Aye
 David Branan – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye
 Nancy Szaroleta – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the summer of 2011, the Board of Education approve ROTC instructors Michael DeJean and Eric Hansen be paid for working 25 hours each during the summer of 2011, at the rate of \$49.74 per hour, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement.

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

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

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve Lisa Marie Gabriel as a Kean University administrative intern for a total of 150 hours, ten hours per week at East End School, with Kathleen Herrmann serving as the on-site supervisor.

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

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

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 the employment of Giovanna Quartarolo as a paraprofessional in the autistic class at West End School for a total of 3.25 hours per day at the hourly rate of \$20.61, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, and that a Letter of Intent to employ be issued, effective September 22, 2011.

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

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

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the appointment of the following individuals as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Arithia FurQaan
Tania Haslam-Bruff

Claire Philistin

Thomas Allen – Aye
David Branam – 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 employment of Lynn Schiavo as a temporary special education teacher at West End School at the 2010-2011 6YR/Step 12 (18-19/18) annual salary rate of \$72,240, effective September 26, 2011 through November 4, 2011, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement and that a Letter of Intent to employ be issued. (Ms. Schiavo will temporarily replace Michelle Onofri.)

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, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-02-11-12 for up to five hours per week to be provided by Educere, Inc., effective September 8, 2011.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve classified student SP-04-11-12 continue to receive specialized speech therapy provided by Dr. Sheree Reese for one session per week for up to 40 sessions at the cost of \$125 per session.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve classified student ATE-01-02 receive an assistive technology evaluation to be provided by Bergen County Special Services at the cost of \$850 plus up to \$50 per hour for travel.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve the purchase of an FM system for classified student MISC-01-11-12 at the cost of \$2415.17 for a receiver and transmitter.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve classified student NURS-01-11-12 receive hourly nursing support for five days per week, eight hours per day at the cost of \$40 per hour, effective July 1, 2011, to be provided by Try Us Health Care Services in Montclair, NJ.

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve classified student PSY-

04-11-12 undergo a psychiatric evaluation be provided by Dr. Nancy Durant at the cost of \$350.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-03-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Embrace Kids Learning Center at the cost of \$39 per hour, effective September 8, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-04-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective September 19, 2011 through September 23, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for classified student HI-05-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by district staff, effective September 5, 2011 through October 17, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for identified student HI-06-11-12 for up to ten hours per week to be provided by Middlesex Regional Education Services Commission at the cost of \$63 per hour, effective September 8, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved, with Mr. Allen abstaining, that the Board of Education approve home instruction for non-classified student HI-07-11-12 for up to five hours per week employing Educere, Inc., effective September 26, 2011.

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and unanimously approved, to approve recommendations C-1 through C-4.

Mr. Allen moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen to separate motion C-4 from the preceding motion. A call for a vote on the separated motion had the motion pass by a vote of 7 to 0.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the participation in the Alliance for Competitive Telecommunications (ACT) with the Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission (MRESC) providing administrative services/bidding and the New Jersey Association of Business Officials (NJASBO) as co-sponsors for the period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 for the purpose of providing the most cost-effective telecommunications pricing made available to the district.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education accept donations of up to potentially \$2,000.00 from schoolstore.com a web-based intermediary who works with major retailers to offer a percentage of sales

to local school. Funds will be used to support various student activities throughout the school year, such as guest speaker programs, equipment, and supplies.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated June 30, and July 31, 2011.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Mullen and approved by a roll call vote of 6-1 that for the 2011-2012 school year, the Board of Education approve tentative field trips for the students in NPMS/HS, Somerset School, Stony Brook School, East End School and West End School, as per the attached list.

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

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

Correspondence

Mrs. Bond-Nelson discussed a petition that was received regarding naming of the high school auditorium. Mr. Kasper commented that a naming opportunity should not be given up without compensation and suggested a plaque. Various comments along with general discussion was held and Board decided to examine further and respond to the 3 requests that were received.

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 – no meeting scheduled at this time.
Negotiations – next meeting tentatively scheduled for October 10, 2011.
NJSBA – no meeting scheduled at this time.
SCSBA - no meeting scheduled at this time.
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.
Alumni Hall of Fame Dinner – October 15, 2011

Current Events in Education

Mr. Allen commented on school lunch issues currently being brought to light in other districts.

Comments from the Public

Mary Forbes mentioned conducting interviewing for rotary students scholarships.
Mr. Fellin commented on October 30th band competition.

Future Agenda Items

Student Health Study

Assessment/Testing Report – October 5 – Dr. Robert H. Rich

Violence & Vandalism Report – October 19 – Dr. Robert H. Rich

Introduction of New Staff & Milestone Awards – Dec 7 – Dr. Marilyn E. Birnbaum

HIB Report

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved to hold an executive session on October 5, 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 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg