

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

March 27, 1995

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Board Room, 375 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, March 27, 1995 at 8:01 p.m., with Mr. Sam P. Battaglia, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Mr. Battaglia read the following:

"According to the provisions of the 'Open Public Meetings Act' (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975), proper notice of this Regular Meeting was provided in the Annual Notice of May 2, 1994. Said Notice was:

1. Posted at the entrance to the Board Office.
2. Mailed to The Nutley Sun, the Star Ledger, the North Jersey Herald & News and the Nutley Journal.
3. Mailed to the Nutley Township Clerk.

"Formal action will be taken."

FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was opened with Mr. Kucinski leading the Board members and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

CALL OF ROLL:

The other members present at roll call were: Mr. Frank V. Hermo, Mrs. Aileen Hresko, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo, Mrs. Maria Russo and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel. Absent: Mr. Charles J. Piro. Approximately 75 citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on February 27, 1995 at 8:00 p.m. being in the hands of each member, reading of same was dispensed. Mrs. Scheckel moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Kucinski and unanimously approved by the Board.

PRESENTATION OF AWARD:

Dr. Fadule noted that tonight we have the opportunity to congratulate a young person who has distinguished herself. He then introduced Mr. John Jacone, principal of Nutley High School.

Mr. Jacone explained that two years ago the Star Ledger ran a contest for writing for young people in the state of New Jersey and a number of young people from Nutley entered. Mr. Jacone indicated that a Nutley student won at that time. He added that this year there were over 500 entries in our category, and a Nutley student won again. He noted that he was very proud of this young lady, Patricia Cole, who was the same Nutley student who had won two years ago. Mr. Jacone congratulated Patricia and her parents.

Mr. Battaglia indicated that the school district was proud of Patricia, and Mrs. Scheckel mentioned that she had enjoyed Patricia's writing.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Sincaglia presented and read the following communications:

1. Correspondence from the New Jersey School Boards Association acknowledging ten years of service as Board members for Mrs. Scheckel, Mr. Battaglia and Mr. Piro.

Mr. Sincaglia explained that in February of 1994, the Board member service survey forms were submitted to New Jersey School Boards Association, and apparently, it took over a year for the acknowledgments to be received.

2. A letter from Beulah Womack, Vice President for Legislation/Resolutions of the New Jersey School Boards Association indicating that Mr. Rusignuolo had been selected to represent our geographic region on the resolutions subcommittee of the legislative committee for calendar year 1995.
3. A Notice of Public Hearing from Reverend William Salvio, Bethel Assembly of God, asking for a rear yard set back variance and the merger of two lots into one.
4. A letter from Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Coordinator of Emergency Management, expressing appreciation for the cooperation of a great number of people, including school staff, during a "tornado" drill where Washington School was used as an emergency site.

Mr. Kucinski noted that the drill came off very well.

5. A letter to Mr. Battaglia from the Council on Compulsive Gambling of New Jersey, Inc. thanking him and the High School PTA Executive Committee for allowing the presentation they made last Wednesday evening.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of February 28, 1995. (See attached report.)

Mrs. Hresko moved that the Board accept the Report of the Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Treasurer of School Moneys as of February 28, 1995. (See attached report.)

Mrs. Scheckel moved that the Board accept the Report of the Treasurer of School Moneys, seconded by Mr. Pelaia. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Fadule presented and read the following report:

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of February 28, 1995.

"The district-wide elementary Music Program will be conducted in the high school auditorium on Tuesday, March 28, at 7:30 p.m.

"The Annual Winter Sports Awards Program will be conducted in the high school auditorium on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m.

"Testing Dates:

HSPT	- Gr. 11	-	April 4,5,6
EWT	- Gr. 9	-	April 4,5,6
TAP	- Gr. 10	-	April 4,5

"Make-up Dates:

HSPT	- Gr. 11	-	April 11,12,13
EWT	- Gr. 9	-	April 18,19,20
TAP	- Gr. 10	-	April 21

"CAT Open House - April 8, 1995

"Third quarter report cards will be distributed on Thursday,
April 13.

"Schools closed - April 14 - Good Friday

"Presentations of the 1995/1996 Budget will be made on:

Tuesday,	April 4	Radcliffe School
Wednesday,	April 5	Yantacaw School
Thursday,	April 6	Lincoln School
Tuesday,	April 11	Spring Garden
Wednesday,	April 12	Washington School

"School Board Election - April 18."

FIRE DRILL REPORT:

Fire drills held during the month of February were as follows:

Feb. 1	Franklin School	1:15 p.m.	1 min. 37 secs.
Feb. 1	Nutley High School	8:32 a.m.	2 min. 9 secs.
Feb. 1	Radcliffe School	12:53 p.m.	1 min. 37 secs.
Feb. 1	Yantacaw School	2:08 p.m.	1 min. 20 secs.
Feb. 3	Nutley High School	8:05 a.m.	2 min. 15 secs.
Feb. 8	Spring Garden School	8:37 a.m.	1 min. 45 secs.
Feb. 9	Washington School	1:59 p.m.	1 min. 15 secs.
Feb. 10	Franklin School	2:15 p.m.	1 min. 44 secs.
Feb. 14	Spring Garden School	11:23 a.m.	1 min. 25 secs.
Feb. 14	Washington School	8:40 a.m.	1 min. 25 secs.
Feb. 16	Lincoln School	1:45 p.m.	1 min. 14 secs.
Feb. 16	Nutley High School	12:43 p.m.	2 min. 11 secs.
Feb. 16	Yantacaw School	2:05 p.m.	1 min. 10 secs.
Feb. 17	Lincoln School	2:25 p.m.	1 min. 18 secs.
Feb. 17	Radcliffe School	12:45 p.m.	1 min. 16 secs.

CAFETERIA REPORT:

Mrs. Hresko presented the cafeteria report as of February 28, 1995 showing a 1994/1995 budget of \$586,900.00, contractual orders to date of \$470,587.84, leaving funds available of \$116,312.16.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that it was a busy month on the behalf of the Legislative Committee, explaining that he and Mr. Pelaia had attended legislative dinners held by the Essex County School Boards Association and the New Jersey Education Association.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that he would be attending a Legislative Committee meeting this Wednesday, and if anyone had comments on the Comprehensive Plan for Education and Financing, he would bring them to the attention of the Committee.

Mr. Kucinski mentioned that he and Mr. Sincaglia had attended a meeting on joint insurance with Commissioner Cocchiola and the Township of Nutley Insurance Committee. He explained that he was asking the Board to allow participation with South Orange, Secaucus, Cedar Grove and Verona in an exploratory survey to determine facts and figures on joint insurance for worker's compensation, property and liability and vehicle coverage.

Mrs. Hresko moved that the Board approve the exploration of the possibilities of joint insurance, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mrs. Hresko indicated that she had read the Comprehensive Plan for Education and Financing generated by the Department of Education and felt that the Board should investigate this very thoroughly. She questioned if the Legislative Committee of which Mr. Rusignuolo is a member plans to do something. Mr. Rusignuolo responded that the Legislative Committee does not have a positive feeling about the contents of the document, adding that if the Board wished to put together a position statement, he would be happy to submit it to the Committee.

Mr. Pelaia questioned if any meetings were scheduled to be held about this, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied not as yet.

Mr. Rusignuolo commented that the essence of the report is the future of education in New Jersey and is supposed to take a carrot and stick approach, with rewards and penalties. He added that as many boards as possible should submit position statements.

Mrs. Hresko indicated that perhaps the Board could put its thoughts together over the next couple of weeks.

Mrs. Scheckel questioned if this would be discussed at the Delegate's Assembly, to which Mr. Rusignuolo responded that he did not think so, adding that the Department of Education would put this out, and it will be the education bible.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that he found it interesting that with all the talk about getting away from mandates, the Department of Education seems to want to mandate the entire local school system.

Mrs. Scheckel commented that as the representative to the high school, she had attended the gambling meeting last week and was very much impressed with the qualities of the speakers and what they had to say. She added that she was disappointed that more people did not attend, noting that many attendees were high school staff and administrators.

Mrs. Scheckel stated that at the Board meeting last month a number of parents expressed concerns about the grading system and, in particular, the primary school report cards and grading standards. She noted that the Academic Committee met and discussed this. Mrs. Scheckel indicated that a staff meeting of all primary teachers was held at which Dr. Fadule requested a dialogue and at which the current and former grading systems were discussed. She noted that from her own personal experience, it was a shock to get a letter grade after three or four years of having "Satisfactory" marks. She noted that there had been a lot of misunderstandings and complaints and the parents brought this to the Board and thus, in 1982, a committee was formed to discuss this.

Mrs. Scheckel indicated that at the recent staff meeting the teachers discussed their problems with children and parents and the fact that D's and F's were very unusual in elementary schools. She noted that grades were seen not only as a measurement, but also as a diagnostic tool. Mrs. Scheckel further noted that the teachers were unanimously in favor of retaining the grading system as it is.

Mrs. Scheckel mentioned that the teachers did discuss problems with stress and self-esteem, and their recommendation was that they, as teachers, should re-double their efforts to become more aware and sensitive to the effects of grades on children and to try to increase communication with parents. Mrs. Scheckel commented that the teachers felt the current system is much better than what existed up to 1982.

Mrs. Scheckel mentioned that the Academic Committee, consisting of Mrs. Hresko, Mr. Battaglia, Mr. Pelaia and herself, had the opportunity to review not only the report of the committee that was issued in January of 1982 but also looked at a lot of background material that teachers, parents, administrators and Board members had used at that time. She noted that the recommendations at that time for the elementary report card were that there only be one report card and that letter grades be the same for the entire school system.

Mrs. Scheckel further reported that in January of 1987 another committee was formed to review the grading system and see how well it served the students at that time. She added that in the spring of 1987 the committee made the recommendation to the Board that the grading system be adjusted to include "+"s. She added that the recommendation was implemented by the Board and is the system we have now.

Mrs. Scheckel also mentioned that a few years ago another meeting was held whereby the Academic Booster Club requested Dr. McCarthy to explain the grading system and discuss it with them.

Mrs. Scheckel noted that one of the findings that the committee made in 1982 and that was made again was that our grading system is not unique; there are many different grading systems. Mrs. Scheckel also noted that in 1982 the committee surveyed colleges to determine if they were aware of the different grading systems, and the reports that came back were that the colleges found class rank more important than the grade point average or actual grades which had been gotten, and the important thing was to put the "key" on the transcript. Mrs. Scheckel stressed that Nutley students go to the best colleges and our grading system seems to have been understood by the colleges and was no detriment to the students.

Mrs. Scheckel noted that the Academic Committee recommends that there be no change in the grading system now and that any changes to be made come before the Priorities Committee later this year.

Mr. Pelaia commented that he was struck by the fact that the teachers seemed unanimous in their concerns about the confusion the prior grading system created.

Mrs. Hresko noted that with regard to the issue of self-esteem, she has collected information on what other schools do to build it. Mrs. Hresko gave booklets on self-esteem from other districts to Dr. Fadule. She also indicated that she was impressed with how much our district already does to build self-esteem.

Dr. Fadule expressed his thanks to the teachers who had attended the staff meeting and also thanked the staff members for being present tonight. He noted that the faculty is very concerned and dedicated. He indicated that at the staff meeting not a single teacher disagreed with the present system and explained that when the Superintendent makes a recommendation about a grading system, he will do so only after consulting with the people who work with it the most - the staff and principals. Dr. Fadule added that he was very pleased with the feelings of the staff towards the system, and noted that he remains convinced that what Nutley has is a very effective system which has high standards, not impossible standards, and he feels that is the best way to serve the children.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Resolutions Only):

None

CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR ACCOUNT FUND STATUS:

Mrs. Hresko presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

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BE IT RESOLVED, That, pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.13(e), the Nutley Board of Education certifies that as of February 28, 1995, after review of the Secretary's monthly financial report (Appropriations section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, to the best of its knowledge no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of NJAC 6:20-2.13(b) and that sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year. (Major accounts are General Fund and Debt Service.)

BILLS AND MANDATORY PAYMENTS:

Mr. Kucinski presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorizes the payment of bills and mandatory payments in the total amount of \$2,805,422.86 as per the attached Schedule A which have been audited by the Business Office.

REQUESTS FOR USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Mr. Kucinski presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel and unanimously approved by the Board:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the requests for the use of school buildings and grounds (Schedule B), provided they conform to the rules and regulations set by the Board of Education.

EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE -
Teacher: _____

Mrs. Diane Campanella

Mr. Kucinski presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel and unanimously approved by the Board:

BE IT RESOLVED, That Mrs. Diane Campanella be granted an extension of her childrearing leave of absence for the 1995/1996 school year with the provision that she notify the Superintendent of Schools of further teaching intentions no later than April 1, 1996.

LONGEVITY PAY:

Mr. Kucinski presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following longevity payment be authorized:

Frank Comune \$1,290 Eff. April 1, 1995 (25 years)

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

Mrs. Russo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kucinski. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following personnel be paid extra compensation in the amounts indicated for services rendered:

Central Detention Coverage - December, 1994 and February, 1995

High School

Carol Shepherd	\$134.32
Patricia Tarczynski	67.16

Franklin School

Patrick Keating	16.79
Denise Mastrangelo	16.79
Jacqueline Meloni	134.32
Jeanne Neilley	33.58
Becky Pandolfi	<u>16.79</u>

Total	\$419.75
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Saturday Morning Suspensions - February, 1995

High School

Carol Shepherd	\$70.17
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Payment for Athletic Physical Examinations - Spring Sports - February 4 and March 4, 1995

High School

Anne Marie Kowalski	\$108.40
Sharon Larcara	201.31
Patricia Scullen	46.46
Patricia Tarczynski	46.46

Franklin School

Donald Baumann	<u>92.91</u>
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Total	\$495.54
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March 27, 1995

Acting Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools

Sophie Caprio

\$11.34 per hr.
(Eff. October 17, 1994)Math Counts Competition - N.J.I.T., Newark
February 11, 1995

Evelyn McMullen

\$232.28

Intramurals - January 3-31, 1995

Laura Curry	\$ 24.01
Susan Dingwell	96.04
David D'Olivo	144.06
William Farkas	288.12
Janice Gibson	96.04
Mary Haveron	96.04
Daniel Kimberley	48.02
Edmund Olson	336.14
Howard Strouse	120.05
Diane Williams	<u>384.16</u>

Total \$1,632.68

APPOINTMENTS - Teacher Substitutes:

Mrs. Russo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kucinski. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the teacher substitutes listed on the attached Schedule C be approved for the 1994/1995 school year.

APPOINTMENT - Substitute:

Mrs. Scheckel presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Pelaia. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following substitute be approved for the 1994/1995 school year:

Secretarial/Clerical

Lisa Palestina

APPROVAL OF CURRICULUM PROGRAM:

Mrs. Scheckel presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Pelaia:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the English III and IV Curricula presented at the March 13, 1995 Conference session.

Mrs. Russo stated that she thought the Board was just going to approve revisions to the present curriculum and expressed her feeling that the resolution as written was incorrect. Mrs. Scheckel and Mr. Rusignuolo both expressed their opinions that the resolution was correct as written.

On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted.

ADOPTION OF POLICIES (Second Reading):

Mr. Pelaia presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adopts the following policies (second reading):

Schedule D-1	Special Education
Schedule D-2	Pupil Records (revisions only)

ADOPTION OF BYLAW (First Reading):

Mr. Pelaia presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adopts the following Bylaw (first reading):

Schedule E	Name and Classification
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TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

Mr. Rusignuolo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kucinski. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That transfers in the 1994/1995 General Fund budget be confirmed as follows:

March 27, 1995

<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	
Account 11-110-100-101	\$30,000	Account 11-130-100-101	\$55,000
Account 11-120-100-101	25,000	Account 11-204-100-101	1,000
Account 11-402-100-800	5,000	Account 11-204-100-106	500
Account 11-999-240-105	2,000	Account 11-205-100-101	500
Account 11-999-260-520	14,450	Account 11-213-100-101	500
Account 12-999-400-450	1,200	Account 11-217-100-101	1,000
Account 13-422-100-101	4,150	Account 11-240-100-610	100
Account 13-422-240-100	<u>200</u>	Account 11-999-213-600	800
	\$82,000	Account 11-999-218-600	4,000
		Account 11-999-230-100	3,000
		Account 11-999-230-339	1,500
		Account 11-999-230-590	12,000
		Account 11-999-240-103	900
		Account 12-999-290-730	<u>1,200</u>
			\$82,000

ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF FUNDS - Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act - P.L. 101-392 - FY95:

Mr. Rusignuolo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Kucinski. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts notice of approval of funds for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act, P.L. 101-392, for FY95 in the amount of \$20,468.

APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF AMENDED APPLICATION - I.D.E.A.-B Flow-Through and I.D.E.A. Preschool Funds - FY96:

Mr. Hermo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the submission of the amended application for I.D.E.A.-B flow-through funds for FY96 in the amount of \$178,407 and I.D.E.A.-B preschool for FY96 in the amount of \$28,080.

ESTABLISH DATE FOR REORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Mr. Hermo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel and unanimously approved by the Board:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the reorganization meeting of the Board of Education be held on Monday, May 1, 1995 at 7:30 p.m.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mr. Frank Rempusheski, 525 Kingsland Street, noted that the Nutley School District has some of the finest teachers to be had in the state of New Jersey but a lot of things have changed since 1982, and he felt more attention should be given to research and comparison. He indicated that he had done some analyses himself concerning the grading system and was shocked to find out that Nutley was much different than many local systems in the area.

Mr. Rempusheski expressed his opinion that not only is the grading system different, it is unfair and prejudicial. He commented that the major discrepancies he found affect the "C" grade students more than anyone else as a Nutley "C" student has to achieve eight points higher than someone outside the system. He noted that it is not a matter of lowering standards; the real standards that are being lowered are self-confidence and self-esteem.

Mr. Rempusheski stated that he felt this matter needs to be re-evaluated in further detail as it also has a financial impact since, in private industry, many corporations look at grades for the providing of scholarships so there is more of an impact than meets the eye.

Mr. Rempusheski stated that the matter of grading has come up time and time again but the Board rigidly adheres to the same grading system. He felt it needs to be addressed in some detail and should be looked at statistically and as to what is in the best interest of the students. He added that he was disappointed that just the teachers were polled.

Mr. Pelaia replied that this is not the teachers' decision, but the Board would be remiss if it did not have their input, adding that he felt it was a very important process.

Mrs. Joan Rubino, 48 North Road, noted that in 1982 she was on the report card committee as one of the parents and all the parents felt the outcome was predetermined. She added that she always felt it had been a complete waste of her time.

Dr. Fadule responded that he completely disagreed with Mrs. Rubino. Mrs. Scheckel commented that there was a minority report of the 1982 committee, but it was a very small minority and the committee went with the majority report.

Mrs. Gerry Nardiello, 41 Linden Place, mentioned that she teaches her children to do their best and their self-confidence and self-esteem begins with her. She added that she can not do it without the teachers, and they can not do it without her.

Mrs. Colleen Williams, 36 Newman Avenue, informed the Board that the grading system had harmed a high school student at one time because a "C" was an 84. She noted that she saw no intelligent reason not to put number grades on a transcript. She added that she had found mistakes on her children's report cards in the past and questioned what is wrong with a number grade.

Mrs. Gail Kline, 28 North Spring Garden Avenue, indicated that she appreciated the efforts made in polling the teachers and reviewing material but wondered how many teachers would disagree with the Superintendent. She noted that she had done research and has report cards from other communities such as Livingston, Short Hills, Ridgewood and Woodbridge and that 34 schools had been surveyed in one week's time. Mrs. Kline stated that this needs to be reviewed, and she distributed a statement to Dr. Fadule and the Board members. She requested that this receive an honest look.

Dr. Fadule responded that it was not simply a polling of the teachers; it was a discussion with the teachers involving the very points that were discussed tonight. He noted that the very idea these parents are espousing is something we already had before at which time there was quite a bit of parental and teacher dissatisfaction. He added that our teachers are very familiar with the system and everything the parents are saying, and the teachers favor the program we have right now, very clearly and unanimously.

Mrs. Catherine Rempusheski, 525 Kingsland Street, indicated that she is concerned about the grading from kindergarten through grade 12 and the focus has been on kindergarten through grade 3. She noted that a Nutley "C" is a "B" in most other schools. She further noted that she finds it unacceptable that 14 year old data is being used.

Mrs. Rempusheski commented that the district has available a community of very well educated, competent people, and they are not being used. She also said that they had surveyed almost 40 schools in the past five days. She commented that this situation needs to be re-addressed and perhaps stress could be alleviated instead of saying it can be handled.

Mrs. Rempusheski stated that the children are being hurt and doors are being closed. She added that she likes the teachers and administrators but this is an issue that the Board does not want to address for some reason. She again offered her personal assistance and noted that if a committee is formed it should include the people it affects.

Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio, 46 Howard Place, expressed her support for the current grading system, adding that she had moved to Nutley from a neighboring town because of Nutley's school system and indicated that she feels Nutley has a very good school system.

Mrs. Barbara Bochese, 50 Cedar Street, indicated that she was a graduate of Nutley High School and had not had a problem with the grading system, having been an "A" student, but her "average" children were having a problem with the grading system. She added that the second part of the Board's review of this policy would be to review the parents, and she again asked that there be a numbered survey done of every parent from kindergarten through grade 12. She noted that the parents present tonight had offered their time and energy and requested that a committee be formed with the parents involved. Mrs. Bochese once again offered her assistance and participation on any such committee.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that there is a basic misunderstanding here whereby people refer to this 14 year old data. At the last Board meeting some of the people in the audience were critical because the data was not available, and we have now made it available. He indicated that the grading system and students are evaluated every year; we are not just relying on 14 year old data, but last month people were acting as though we had no data or reports.

Mrs. Rempusheski questioned if Mrs. Scheckel's statement that, based on that data the current system would continue, was correct. Mrs. Scheckel responded that she had thought she had said that the Academic Committee did not recommend a change in the grading policy at this time based on the underlying reports plus the meetings with the teachers and discussions with Committee members.

Mr. Battaglia commented that this keeps coming back to the premise that if a student gets a 90 as an "A" and 50 schools around us use it, it must be correct.

Mr. Kenneth Polakowski, 66 Edison Avenue, distributed copies of a survey taken of many districts in the state and asked if the Board would use it. He then reviewed some of the statistics that had been determined by the survey and asked why, if the best districts in the state feel something works, Nutley feels it doesn't work. He added that the district's teachers and curriculum cause it to do well and if the district went to another grading system, we would still do well, if not better.

Mr. Polakowski then made reference to Board policies #513, "Grading," and #514, "Reporting Pupil Progress," paragraph a, noting that evaluating students in grades 9-12 would not be the same as evaluating those in grades K-3. He further stated that this matter does not have to go to the Priorities Committee; it could be dealt with right now, adding that he would like to see changes put in for next year.

Mrs. Eva Pfuhler, 345 High Street, indicated that she used to agree with what all the parents were saying tonight until she discussed the situation with her daughter who is an honors student. She explained that her daughter feels that the current grading system makes her work harder. Mrs. Pfuhler noted that she felt that the high school students should also be asked their feelings about the grading system.

Mr. Charles Terry, 87 Myrtle Avenue, commented that the Board's discussions concerning the grading system have been limited to personnel and the people present this evening have no other input than speaking here. He expressed his feeling that a committee involving the parents should be put together as the parents need to communicate their feelings in a closed situation. He added that the Board should listen to the parents and not just talk to the teachers and among themselves.

Mrs. Rempusheski asked when the parents could expect a committee to be formed. Mr. Battaglia responded that the parents' comments would be taken under consideration and the parents would hear if something would be done.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

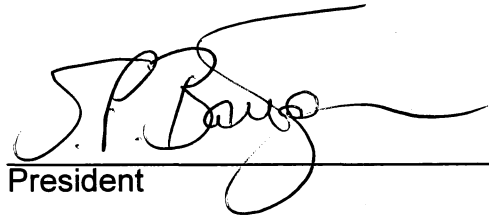
NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Pelaia noted that he had attended a New Jersey School Boards Association meeting on shared services and an interim report is expected in June and a full report will be forthcoming at the end of the year. He indicated that he would report back to the Board at that time.

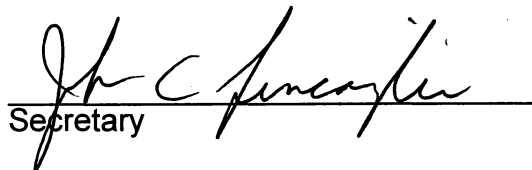
Mr. Pelaia further indicated that the Lincoln School children have a wonderful presentation which can be seen at the Nutley Library.

ADJOURNMENT:

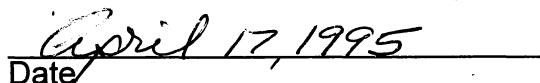
There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Mr. Rusignuolo, seconded by Mr. Pelaia, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.



 President



 Secretary



 Date