

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

September 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 Wednesday, September 27, 1995 at 8:02 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 Notice of September 12, 1995. Said Notice was:

1. Posted at the entrance of 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. Schweikert 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: Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Charles W. Kucinski, Jr., Mr. Franklin J. Patterson, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo, Mrs. Maria Russo, Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel and Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr. Approximately 40 citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 28, 1995 at 8:08 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. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Sincaglia presented and read the following communications:

1. A thank-you note from the family of Mary Tippenreiter for the Board's expression of condolence.
2. A notice from the Essex County School Boards Association regarding its 1995-96 calendar of meetings.
3. A notice from the Essex County School Boards Association regarding its General Dinner Meeting held on September 21 dealing with the topic, "Technology".
4. A letter from Marie Greiner, Secretary, The Van Riper Trust, expressing appreciation for the Board's help in making the 1st Annual Nutley Street Fair a success.
5. A notice of a public hearing from the Department of Education on what is essential to providing a "thorough and efficient" education.
6. A notice of public testimony from the Department of Education on the state Special Education Code.
7. A thank-you letter from Commissioner Cocchiola for the complimentary football tickets.
8. Mr. Kucinski read the following letter signed by 16 parents in support of the music program:

"The purpose of our letter is to inform you of our support of the Nutley Music Program and its staff. The series of events that had taken place on Saturday have left us feeling upset and very concerned. We are appalled at the public display of disrespect and negativism directed at the staff at Saturday's football game, and what followed afterwards in the band room.

"We are very concerned about the negative effect this behavior conveyed to the students. We are concerned that some students, upset by this scene, may consider withdrawing from the band, flag, and twirling units. No student should have to drop an activity because of intimidation!

"There is a proper way of conducting oneself and resolving an issue. Two sides must sit down and discuss in a rational manner, to come to an agreement.

"We wish to voice our opinion to make you aware that not all parents express the views represented by those few who behaved in the manner in which they did on Saturday. There are many parents who do support the school, its staff, and who teach our children to respect authority. We believe that it is imperative to resolve matters in an appropriate fashion.

"Because we wanted to express our feelings to you at this Board Meeting, we were unable to contact more parents who share our views. However, we feel quite confident that the vast majority of parents have the overall best interest of the students in desiring a cohesive marching band in which they can take pride.

"Thank you for your kind attention to this matter."

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of August 31, 1995. (See attached report.)

Mrs. Scheckel moved that the Board accept the Report of the Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Russo. 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 August 31, 1995. (See attached report.)

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

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Fadule presented and read the following report:

"The 1995/1996 school year started in a positive and efficient manner. Please remember the following dates:

Thursday,	October 5	Radcliffe School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Monday,	October 9	Columbus Day - Schools closed
Tuesday,	October 10	Spring Garden PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday,	October 11	Franklin School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday,	October 12	Lincoln School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday,	October 17	Nutley High School Higher Education and Career Fair - 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Wednesday,	October 18	Nutley High School Open House - 7:30 p.m.

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of September 15, 1995."

Dr. Fadule introduced Mrs. JoAnn Tropiano, high school librarian, indicating that she was asked to explain resolution #14, Agreement to Participate in the Regional Union Catalog and Inter-library Loan System.

Mrs. Tropiano noted that the district has participated in the library network in cooperation with Hudson and Essex Counties, sponsored by the state of New Jersey, since 1987. She explained that this was free as long as we agreed to maintain it, use it and abide by its rules. The network now includes Middlesex and Union Counties and is known as INFOLINK, so she noted that a new resolution was needed. Mrs. Tropiano further explained that we will put our records on the Internet and on a CD-ROM catalog, and we will be able to borrow from all larger libraries in our area. She indicated that this works to our advantage as we had slightly under 200 interlibrary loan of books and many more magazine articles.

Mrs. Tropiano also noted that eight students and a parent wish to set up an Internet link for our school. She indicated that there are eight terminals available for students with a terminal in the history and science departments and further noted that E-Mail is available to department heads on a trial basis this year. Also, TCI cable company offered to provide free connection to their "ingenious" service and Nutley will be one of the test sites.

Mrs. Fleitell asked, with regard to Mrs. Tropiano's statement concerning the availability of terminals in the social studies and science departments, if this means people can do research without leaving their departments, to which Mrs. Tropiano replied in the affirmative.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

#### HEARING OF CITIZENS (Resolutions Only):

None

#### CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR ACCOUNT FUND STATUS:

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 pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.13(e), the Nutley Board of Education certifies that as of August 31, 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 overexpended 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 \$2,260,206.00 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.

#### RESIGNATION - Part-Time Aides:

Mr. Schweikert 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 the resignation of the following part-time aides:

Michele Berardi	- eff. June 30, 1995
Kathy Ann McGuire	- eff. September 15, 1995

#### APPOINTMENTS - Permanent Unassigned Substitutes:

Mr. Schweikert 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 be approved as permanent unassigned substitutes for the 1995/1996 school year at the rate of \$65 per day and fringe benefits which include State Health Benefits and dental plans:

Theresa Barbagallo  
Rosann Capalbo (9/7/95)  
Laura Curry  
Nicole Errante  
Michael Fetherman  
Marie Forgino

Thomas Grant  
Tracy Kempyszynski  
Donna MacDonald  
Jennifer Neri  
Rosa Santoriello  
Phillip Siculietano

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That these candidates met the district's requirements for the permanent unassigned substitute position of a County Substitute certificate.

APPOINTMENTS - Teacher Substitutes:

Mr. Schweikert 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 1995/1996 school year.

APPOINTMENTS - 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 following substitutes be approved for the 1995/1996 school year:

Cafeteria

Christine Rizzi

Clerical/Aide

Kathleen Gabriele

APPROVAL OF SALARIES - Buildings and Grounds Employees - 1995/1996:

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, in accordance with the Agreement between the Board of Education and the Education Association of Nutley Buildings and Grounds Employees Group, the salaries listed on Schedule D for buildings and grounds employees for the 1995/1996 school year be approved.

CHANGE IN TRAINING LEVEL:

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 employee be advanced to the proper level of the salary guide in accordance with Board of Education Regulations, said teacher having completed the necessary college courses to qualify for such advancement, to be retroactive from September 1, 1995:

<u>To B.A.+15</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Deborah Pastena	8	\$38,017

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

Mr. Patterson 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 personnel be paid extra compensation in the amounts indicated for services rendered:

Summer Employment - August, 1995

Joseph Zarra	\$1,933.75 (5 days)
Suzanne Peters	<u>742.73 (5 days)</u>
Total	\$2,676.48

Summer Employment - August 28 thru September 1, 1995

JoAnn Tropiano	\$1,600.50
Linda Layden	<u>337.74</u>
Total	\$1,938.24

Summer Employment - Guidance Counselors - August 31 and September 1, 1995

Mary Jane Emde	\$ 714.84
Judith Hubert	714.84
Susan Scerbo	714.84
Anne Starace	<u>714.84</u>
Total	\$2,859.36

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Computer Network Workshop - August 22 and 23, 1995

Denise Cleary	\$ 247.76
Rosemary Clerico	247.76
Stephen Parigi	247.76
Lorraine Restel	247.76
Carol VanWagenen	<u>247.76</u>

Total	\$1,238.80
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Fall Sports Physical Examinations  
August 4, 23 and September 9, 1995

Donald Baumann	\$201.31
AnneMarie Kowalski	270.99
Sharon Larcara	<u>286.47</u>

Total	\$758.77
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Summer Employment - Librarians - August, 1995

Beverly Apple	\$ 618.70
Mary Austin	671.84
Maria Gernitis	459.74
Camille Lofrano	554.74
Susan Rooney	671.84
Zelda Walch	<u>581.60</u>

Total	\$3,558.46
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LONGEVITY PAY:

Mr. Patterson 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 payments be authorized:

Charles Dunscombe	\$ 900	Eff. Oct. 1, 1995 (10 years)
Malcolm Neptune	435	Eff. Oct. 1, 1995 (10 years)
Linda Scarpa	1,125	Eff. Oct. 1, 1995 (10 years)
Russell Stevens	622	Eff. Oct. 1, 1995 (12 years)
Patricia Wowkanyn	1,680	Eff. Oct. 1, 1995 (16 years)

SPECIAL CLASS PLACEMENT - Educationally Disabled Student:

Mr. Patterson 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 attendance of a student at Special Education classes for the 1995/1996 school year as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Banyon School North Caldwell, NJ	1	NI	9/7/95	\$19,612.75

PLACEMENT OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS:

Mr. Pelaia 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 approves the placement of out-of-district special education students from the following districts in the following classifications for the 1995/1996 school year:

<u>District</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>School</u>
Belleville	1	MRE	Lincoln
East Newark	1	Pre-Sch.Hdcp.	Lincoln
Irvington	1	MRE	Lincoln
	1	MH	Lincoln
	1	MH to attend NI program at	Washington
	4	NI	Spring Garden
	1	NI	Franklin
	1	PI to attend NI program at	Spring Garden
Lyndhurst	2	PI	Nutley High
Newark	1	MRE	Lincoln
Passaic	1	NI	Washington
South Orange/ Maplewood	1	MRE	Lincoln
Weehawken	1	MRE	Lincoln
West Caldwell	1	MRE	Lincoln
West Orange	1	MH	Lincoln

AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE REGIONAL UNION CATALOG AND INTERLIBRARY LOAN SYSTEM:

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

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BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nutley Board of Education approves the participation of the Nutley High School Library in the Regional Union Catalog and Interlibrary Loan System of INFOLINK, The Eastern New Jersey Regional Library Cooperative, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Nutley High School Library agrees to abide by the policies and procedures established by INFOLINK for the system.

#### APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT FOR NURSING SERVICES:

Mr. Rusignuolo 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 an agreement with the Township of Nutley, Department of Public Affairs, Nutley Health Department, for the 1995/1996 and 1996/1997 school years to provide nursing services for all eligible children enrolled in non-public schools in the school district pursuant to Chapter 226, P.L. 1991.

#### JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:

Mr. Rusignuolo 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 Nutley Board of Education approves a Joint Transportation Agreement with the East Newark Board of Education to provide transportation for one Special Education pupil from East Newark to Lincoln School, Nutley, NJ on Nutley bus route #1, effective September 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996 at a cost to the East Newark Board of Education of \$45 per day. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

#### JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS:

Mrs. Fleitell 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 Nutley Board of Education approves the following Joint Transportation Agreements with the Belleville Board of Education to provide transportation for Special Education students from Nutley, effective September 1, 1995 through June 30, 1996. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

<u>Belleville Route No.</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Out-of-District School</u>	<u>Cost Per Diem</u>
2200	1	Lake Drive School Mountain Lakes, NJ	\$30.00 (one way)
2202	1	Felician School Lodi, NJ	14.00
2204	2	Banyon School No. Caldwell, NJ	34.75
2205	1	Calais School Whippany, NJ	50.00

#### TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

Mrs. Fleitell 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 transfers in the 1995/1996 General Fund budget be confirmed as follows:

<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	
Account 11-190-100-610	\$1,000	Account 11-240-100-640	\$ 300
Account 11-190-100-800	500	Account 11-401-100-800	1,500
Account 11-240-100-610	300	Account 11-999-218-105	1,000
Account 11-999-240-105	1,000	Account 12-204-100-730	<u>550</u>
Account 12-212-100-730	<u>550</u>		
			\$3,350
	\$3,350		

#### AMENDING RESOLUTION - Acceptance of Notice of Revised Allocation - Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program - P.L. 103-382 - 1995/1996 School Year:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education amends the resolution adopted on August 28, 1995 regarding the notice of revised allocation for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Professional Development Program, P.L. 103-382, for the 1995/1996 school year to reflect an amount of \$10,166 (Public - \$9,035.62, Nonpublic - \$1,130.38).

#### ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF ALLOCATION AND APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION - Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) - FY 96:

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

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BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts notice of allocation and approves submission of application for Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) for FY 96 in the amount of \$16,077 (Public - \$14,289.37, Nonpublic - \$1,787.63).

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:      Miss Cynthia Liebowitz

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education appoints Miss Cynthia Liebowitz as a teacher for the period of September 28, 1995 through February 29, 1996 at the annual salary of \$34,197 (pro-rated), at B.A.-6, in accordance with the 1995/1996 Teachers' Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENTS - Part-Time Aides:

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 part-time school aides listed below be appointed for the 1995/1996 school year at the salaries and on the dates indicated in accordance with the hourly rate established by the Board of Education:

<u>Name</u>		<u>Step</u>	<u>Hourly Rate</u>
Maureen Callaghan	(9/6/95)	1	\$9.53
Nancy Cascarano	(9/5/95)	1	9.53
Karen Greco	(9/28/95)	1	9.53
Barbara Gumeny	(9/28/95)	1	9.53

APPOINTMENT - Cafeteria:      Carol Follet

Mr. Schweikert 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 appoints Carol Follet as a general cafeteria worker for the 1995/1996 school year, effective October 2, 1995, at the hourly rate of \$8.74 (1-1) in accordance with the 1995/1996 Cafeteria Salary Guide.

ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF APPLICATION - Title 1  
Program - FY 96:

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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 Board of Education accepts notice of approval of application for the Title 1 program, FY 96, in the amount of \$134,845 and \$8,113 for carry-over funds.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mrs. Gail Kline, 28 North Spring Garden Avenue, expressed her approval that a committee had been formed to study the grading system for K-3 but added that the committee will have only four community members and this, together with 11 staff members and one administrator, means that 14 committee members will represent the status quo against two of the community members who were willing to study alternative methods. She further noted her disapproval that so few public members were appointed to the committee as well as the fact that the committee will function as a curriculum workshop. Mrs. Kline also stated that she expects the chairperson of the committee to produce a report which can be reviewed by all interested parties and would like detailed minutes of each committee meeting.

Mrs. Kline indicated that she was very disappointed that the grading situation for grades 4-12 was not being considered as a priority for this year since there is no reason to believe that this review will occur. She also noted that if the status quo is maintained, her privately formed ad hoc committee would expect detailed findings of why. Mrs. Kline also made mention of the lower SAT scores, adding that it is unacceptable to wait another year to find out if the lower score was an anomaly.

Mrs. Pat Dyer, 414 Chestnut Street, stated that she wished to make the Board aware of the problems the band parents have with the staff including the fact that the written guidelines were not followed for tryouts last May, there were no outside, impartial judges which was past practice, and with regard to the band camp, that officers of the Music Boosters had to visit the camp to review the facilities for cleanliness and safety. Mrs. Dyer further noted that the grading system for band students starts every student with a 75, and they must work up to an "A" and this sends a message of failure to the hard working students.

Mrs. Dyer also related problems with the pep rally, football breakfast and uniforms. Mrs. Dyer further requested that the band trip function be taken over by the parents since nothing has been approved for the proposed trip and she assumed the Board had decided not to allow it.

Mr. Kucinski remarked that there are some concerns which should be approached and dealt with and he suggested that he and the officers of the Music Boosters, together with Mr. D'Angelo, some members of the administration and some band parents meet and try to solve these problems. He added that there are some major concerns and our children are suffering and no one wants that to happen.

Mrs. Donna Stremlo, 30 Blum Lane, related some of the problems she had witnessed at the band camp as well as a problem which had occurred concerning two students and a tape recorder and the fact that they were to be suspended from the twirling squad tomorrow. Mr. Kucinski noted that those concerns could be addressed at the meeting.

Mrs. Diane Lewis, 39 Church Street, stated that she had been a teacher of early childhood education for six years at a private nursery school in Nutley. She asked who the members of the grading committee were and how they were selected. Mr. Battaglia replied that the selection was made by the Superintendent.

Dr. Votto remarked that the committee consists of 11 teachers and one administrator, all of whom were highly certified and qualified. He added that there also were four parent volunteers. He noted that each elementary school would be represented.

Mrs. Lewis expressed her opinion that the entire grading system should have been studied. She also indicated that she felt the Superintendent should not have made the selection of committee members as he would be leaving at the end of January. She further expressed her outrage at the School Board's unwillingness to address the present grading system.

Dr. Fadule responded that there will be a very serious evaluation by the committee. He added that the teachers have been using the present system for a long time and he had not heard any complaints about it. Dr. Fadule also indicated that the grading committee is basically a curriculum committee and there is no reason to think the members of the committee can not make proper decisions.

Mrs. Kline questioned how it was determined to have a curriculum development committee instead of a public advisory committee. Dr. Fadule noted that district policy is very clear about what has to happen before the grading system could be changed.

Mrs. Kathleen McBride, 158 Coeyman Avenue, questioned whether numerical grades had ever been considered. Dr. Votto commented that they had always accompanied the letter grades. He added that there are pitfalls associated with numerical grades because, in the absence of a legend, there is a vacuum so a numerical grade would have to be applied to some kind of legend.

Mrs. Colleen Williams, 36 Newman Avenue, expressed her wish for a numerical grade for the higher grades as she feels this is critical for the students who will be going out into the world and there should not

be any room for misunderstanding. She added that the grades should be clear to every single college admissions office.

Mrs. Williams then questioned why Nutley did not appear in the magazine article regarding outstanding public schools and noted that no Nutley senior was attending an Ivy League school this year.

Mr. Bimalendu Dasmahapatra, 322 Grant Avenue, urged the Board to take the time to initiate a numerical grading system.

Mrs. Sera Shuster, 462 Chestnut Street, related an incident which occurred where the numerical grade made a difference between acceptance and rejection to a college. She indicated that she felt grades should be able to be understood by everyone.

Mrs. Kathy Rempusheski, 525 Kingsland Street, indicated that she attended a Board meeting last November just to ask why Nutley's grading system is so unique and to ask for copies of the Board's research, but to date she had received nothing. She added that the information on grading that she received from Mrs. Kline's ad hoc committee contained some very interesting information. She also noted that Nutley is supposed to be a community that works together.

Mrs. Rempusheski further indicated her displeasure with the number of teachers on the grading committee, adding that she had volunteered her time to be on the committee. She also mentioned that no one was ever notified about what was going on.

Mr. Kucinski indicated that he had been a Board member for 13 years and the grading issue was reviewed several times. He noted that, being elected officials, Board members had spoken with a great many people and have not found the level of concern over the grading system that could be expected from the comments made by citizens attending Board meetings. He added that hopefully this committee will look at everything with an open mind.

Mrs. Rempusheski mentioned that no one from the Board of Education or administration had answered her request for a formal written report on the grading system as to why it is beneficial for our children.

Mrs. Barbara Zaccone, 28 Colonial Terrace, with regard to the band situation, stated that she would like to see a meeting take place before the students have to perform on Saturday. She asked why the new twirler uniforms have to be stored in the Band Director's closet since the parents pay to have them cleaned. Mr. Battaglia replied that this would be addressed at the meeting. He noted that these are the Band Director's set of rules, but hopefully these issues will come out at this meeting and some logic will come out of this.

Mrs. Zaccone then mentioned that classrooms were to be provided in which the students could change into their uniforms and this did not happen. She also noted that the headpiece provided does not at all match the military style of the uniform. Mr. Kucinski

responded that a meeting would certainly be set up before Saturday. Mrs. Zaccone then made reference to an incident which occurred, indicating that she did not like the manner in which the drum major had spoken to her daughter.

Mr. Sam Zaccone, 28 Colonial Terrace, indicated that the bylaws for the twirlers state that they are to be judged by professionals or qualified teachers or instructors and this did not happen. He then gave his opinion of the selection process. He also elaborated on the incident between his daughter and the drum major.

Mrs. Stremlo questioned why the Board does not want parental involvement when people in education recognize that this is necessary. Mr. Kucinski stated that a meeting would be held to try to solve the problems but the problems could not be solved this evening. He added that no one would be suspended tomorrow.

Mrs. Shuster commented that such problems never occurred with Mr. Hrbek as Band Director. She then expressed her opinion concerning the parking of the school buses at Radcliffe School.

Mrs. Theresa Wojcik, 48 Funston Place, noted that the parents went through the proper channels but their concerns were not addressed and that is why the band parents came to this meeting. She added that the parents want to see things resolved and go forward.

Mrs. McBride questioned when the next meeting to discuss the grading issue would take place. Mr. Battaglia stated that a committee meeting would take place this Saturday and is not a public session. He noted that Mr. Frank Hermo, former Board of Education member, is a member of the committee and his opinions will be heard. He added that people need to let the process begin.

Mrs. Fleitell noted that if there is a problem, the method by which this district's program is evaluated is the curriculum workshops which are run every year. She indicated that there is a five-year plan but the grading issue is coming up earlier because parents raised this issue. She stated that new parents come in who are not acquainted with the program and they raise the issue of grading. Mrs. Fleitell further urged anyone who has serious problems with the grading issue to attend the College Fair on October 17 and ask their own questions.

Mrs. Fleitell also noted that she had read all of Mrs. Kline's report on grading but that once it expressed opinions, the report became skewed. She added that everyone should come to Saturday's meeting with an open mind. She explained that parents were invited on a small scale because it is a school activity. She also said that if people do not get the answers they want, they should look at what recommendations are actually made and try to build on that. She further noted that everyone here wants the best for the children.

Mrs. Russo stated that the Board has confidence in the administration to review this carefully and efficiently. She noted that there have been many requests for priorities and that is why



the Priorities Committee had to decide what the priorities are for this year. She noted that this is not to say that others will not be looked at in the future. Mrs. Russo also explained that the priorities are broken down in order to be thorough and efficient for the students. She further noted that the district's teaching staff are professionals and to say they will not come with an open mind is not fair to our teachers. She indicated that a report would be forthcoming.

Mrs. Russo stated that the people have to have faith that this material will be thoroughly covered along with other priorities which will be addressed. She stressed that the district is looking at the best interests of the students.

Mr. Walter Sautter, 126 Coeyman Avenue, commented that he had been teaching for almost 30 years and has never seen a student humiliated or destroyed. He added that he had sent his children to Nutley schools and was satisfied with the system.

Mrs. Lewis stated that she is not a parent but she criticized the attitude Dr. Fadule projects to the public. Dr. Fadule expressed his total disagreement with Mrs. Lewis' statement.

Mr. Zacccone noted that the teacher said he had never heard of any student being humiliated, but the parents are telling you there is trouble in Nutley.

Mrs. Lee Sarnelli, 43 Highfield Lane, stated that there is trouble and it should be investigated.

Mrs. Rempusheski indicated that she has the utmost regard for and confidence in the teachers in the school system but she strongly suggested that in the best interest of the students and the community, a consultant should be brought in to evaluate the system.

Mrs. Williams remarked that she is glad the Board will address the band situation but would also like it to look into a numerical grading system. She then added that no one had replied to her question as to why Nutley was not mentioned in the list of best schools in the state. Mr. Battaglia responded that the Board is disappointed that we were not named in the list but he was certain the negative publicity of last year did not help us. He added that the district has addressed that issue. He added that the Board was also not happy about the SAT scores, adding that it will do the best it can do.

Mrs. McBride questioned if outside consulting firms had been contacted to see what the cost would be, to which Mr. Battaglia responded that the committee could make that recommendation.

Mrs. Kline commented that with a numerical system of grading you must know what the numbers mean. She read from a paragraph in her committee report whereby the College Board had recommended the dropping of alpha grades entirely and just using numeric grades.

Dr. Votto replied that is one man's opinion and more than half the districts have alpha grades. Mrs. Kline mentioned her inability to trust the process with 14 of the committee members committed to upholding the status quo.

Mr. Patterson indicated that as an adult he would accept any criticism, but when attacks are made against his son, he had to respond. He explained that the incident which took place was witnessed by James Weber, one of the members of the staff. Mr. Patterson further indicated that he looked into the matter and was assured that no foul language was used. He stated that he found it despicable and reprehensible that a child is mentioned by name when the Board has gone to great lengths to protect the integrity of the children.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Rusignuolo raised the issue of a potential conflict for the band on Sunday, October 15. He explained that that is the date of the Columbus Day Parade and there is also a band competition. Mr. Rusignuolo requested that clarification be gotten regarding this within the next day or two since it is his understanding that if the band does not participate in a certain number of competitions, they would not be permitted to participate in competitions for the remainder of the season.

Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that if the band had entered enough competitions, it was his feeling that they should march in the Columbus Day Parade since it is important for the band to participate in community events and this would be the first year in 13 years that either the Belleville or Nutley bands would choose not to participate in the parade. Mr. Rusignuolo further indicated that he would ask for the support of the Board that if the band has met the criteria for participation in competitions, the Board support a motion that the band participate in the Columbus Day Parade.

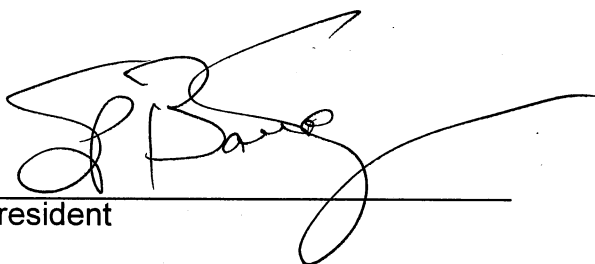
Dr. Votto indicated that this would be investigated.

Mr. Kucinski noted that he agreed with Mr. Rusignuolo and that this would be looked at and if the situation could be resolved in our favor, it should be.

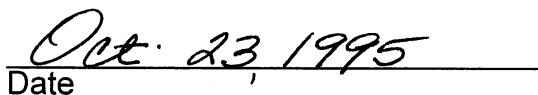
Mr. Rusignuolo noted that he would like the pulse of the Board because he understands some misinformation has been disseminated. Mr. Kucinski stated that there would have to be a meeting with the Band Director to determine what is going on. Mr. Battaglia indicated his feeling that the emphasis should be that the community comes first.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Mr. Kucinski, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel, the meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

  
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President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

September 27, 1995