

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

December 22, 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 Friday, December 22, 1995 at 6:32 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 December 19, 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 Mrs. Russo 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 and Mrs. Rosalie C. Scheckel. Late: Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr. (6:42 p.m.). Eleven citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 27, 1995 at 8:08 p.m. being in the hands of each member, reading of same was dispensed. Mr. Kucinski moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel and unanimously approved by the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Sincaglia presented and read the following communications:

1. A thank-you note from Juanita Boutin for the Board's expression of condolence on the loss of her mother.
2. A thank-you note from Rita Alfaro for the Board's expression of condolence on the loss of her father.
3. A note of appreciation from high school student Caryn Jones for the award she received from the Board for her second year in the All-State Chorus.
4. A letter and resolution from the Tenafly Board of Education regarding forced regionalization.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of November 30, 1995. (See attached report.)

Mr. Kucinski 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 November 30, 1995. (See attached report.)

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Votto presented and read the following report:

"Schools will be closed through Monday, January 1, 1996 for the Christmas recess. Sessions will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 1996.

"Nutley High School Financial Aid Program -  
January 2 - 7:30-9:00 p.m.

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of November 30, 1995."

FIRE DRILL REPORT:

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

December 22, 1995

|         |                      |            |                 |
|---------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Nov. 2  | Radcliffe School     | 2:25 p.m.  | 1 min. 25 secs. |
| Nov. 6  | Franklin School      | 10:15 a.m. | 1 min. 57 secs. |
| Nov. 6  | Franklin School      | 1:20 p.m.  | 1 min. 49 secs. |
| Nov. 6  | Lincoln School       | 1:25 p.m.  | 1 min. 19 secs. |
| Nov. 6  | Spring Garden School | 2:08 p.m.  | 1 min. 45 secs. |
| Nov. 6  | Washington School    | 2:30 p.m.  | 1 min. 20 secs. |
| Nov. 6  | Yantacaw School      | 2:29 p.m.  | 1 min. 40 secs. |
| Nov. 7  | Nutley High School   | 8:32 a.m.  | 2 min. 12 secs. |
| Nov. 13 | Nutley High School   | 8:33 a.m.  | 2 min. 10 secs. |
| Nov. 20 | Radcliffe School     | 11:05 a.m. | 1 min. 25 secs. |
| Nov. 20 | Yantacaw School      | 10:31 a.m. | 1 min. 45 secs. |
| Nov. 22 | Spring Garden School | 8:40 a.m.  | 1 min. 50 secs. |
| Nov. 27 | Lincoln School       | 1:14 p.m.  | 1 min. 8 secs.  |
| Nov. 27 | Washington School    | 2:07 p.m.  | 1 min. 22 secs. |

#### CAFETERIA REPORT:

Mr. Kucinski presented the cafeteria report as of November 30, 1995 showing a 1995/1996 budget of \$613,621.00, contractual orders to date of \$243,432.86, leaving funds available of \$370,188.14.

#### 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. Russo. 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 November 30, 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. Russo. 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 \$2,912,872.44 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.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE - Teacher:

Mrs. Ellen Wolf

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 a childrearing leave of absence for Mrs. Ellen Wolf, elementary teacher, effective December 4, 1995 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.

RESIGNATIONS - Athletic:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the following athletic resignations:

|                     |                                    |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|
| Mr. John Calicchio  | - Assistant Football Coach         |
| Mrs. Sharon Larcara | - Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach |

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:

Mr. Phillip Siculietano

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 appoints Mr. Phillip Siculietano as a teacher for the 1995/1996 school year, effective December 4, 1995, at the annual salary of \$34,197, B.A.-6, in accordance with the 1995/1996 Teachers' Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENT - Permanent  
Unassigned Substitute:

Mrs. Donna Cocco

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 Mrs. Donna Cocco be appointed as a permanent unassigned substitute for the 1995/1996 school year, effective December 20, 1995, at the rate of \$65 per day and fringe benefits which include State Health benefits and dental plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this candidate met the district's requirement for the permanent unassigned substitute position which is the possession of a County Substitute certificate.

APPOINTMENTS - Teacher Substitutes:

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 teacher substitutes listed on the attached Schedule C be approved for the 1995/1996 school year.

APPOINTMENT - Substitute:

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 following substitute be approved for the 1995/1996 school year:

Secretarial/Clerical

Norma Cuozzo

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

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 following personnel be paid extra compensation in the amounts indicated for services rendered:

Curriculum Development Committee MeetingsScience - IKE Grant - November 18, 1995

|                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Kerry Bowes         | \$ 123.88     |
| Kathleen Cullity    | 123.88        |
| Laura Curry         | 123.88        |
| David D'Olivo       | 123.88        |
| Janice Gibson       | 123.88        |
| Patricia Griffin    | 123.88        |
| Tracy Kempczynski   | 123.88        |
| Victoria Latka      | 123.88        |
| Joan Lightfoot      | 123.88        |
| Florence Meyers     | 123.88        |
| Lorraine Milunaitis | 123.88        |
| Melissa Palm        | 123.88        |
| Becky Pandolfi      | 123.88        |
| Sally Ann Ryder     | 123.88        |
| Deborah Schop       | 123.88        |
| Carol VonAchen      | <u>123.88</u> |

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| Total | \$1,982.08 |
|-------|------------|

A.P. U.S. History - November 7, 28, 1995

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Edward Annett      | \$116.14      |
| Gregory Catrambone | 116.14        |
| Raymond Chapman    | <u>151.01</u> |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | \$383.29 |
|-------|----------|

Vector - October 17, 1995

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Donald Baumann  | \$ 46.46     |
| Dianne DeRosa   | 62.81        |
| Loretta Douglas | 46.46        |
| Barbara Hirsch  | 20.73        |
| Deborah Pinto   | 46.46        |
| Harriet Sabates | 46.46        |
| Ciro Violante   | 62.18        |
| James Vivinetto | <u>23.32</u> |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | \$354.25 |
|-------|----------|

SAT Review Classes - November 4, 18 and  
December 2, 1995

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Miriam Kirsten | \$278.73      |
| John Suffren   | <u>278.73</u> |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | \$557.46 |
|-------|----------|

CAT Program Payroll for Fall 1995 Session

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Edward Annett        | \$ 1,471.08 |
| Amy Cerisano         | 1,238.80    |
| Rosemary Clerico     | 1,238.80    |
| Michael Fetherman    | 1,641.41    |
| Hillary Hill Trovato | 1,083.95    |
| Barbara Hirsch       | 1,610.80    |
| Paula Kasner         | 1,269.77    |
| Frank Libert         | 1,641.41    |
| Camille Lofrano      | 1,331.71    |
| Carmen Mancuso       | 1,409.14    |
| Denise Mastrangelo   | 1,269.77    |
| Mary Peele           | 1,114.92    |
| Harry Reddington     | 1,563.99    |
| Louis SanGiovanni    | 1,269.77    |
| Sherrie Tolve        | 1,300.74    |
| Robert Topolski      | 1,409.14    |
| Ciro Violante        | 1,579.47    |
| Frank Zintl          | 1,362.68    |

Substitutes

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Susanne Baker  | 247.76        |
| Gail Kahn      | 123.88        |
| Miriam Kirsten | <u>371.64</u> |

|       |             |
|-------|-------------|
| Total | \$25,550.63 |
|-------|-------------|

Winter Sports Physical Examinations  
October 28 and November 15, 1995

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| AnneMarie Kowalski  | \$108.40     |
| Sharon Larcara      | 185.82       |
| Patricia Scullen    | 92.91        |
| Patricia Tarczynski | 46.46        |
| Norma Rivera        | <u>61.94</u> |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | \$495.53 |
|-------|----------|

Central Detention Coverage - November, 1995High School

|                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Michael Fetherman  | \$ 16.79 |
| Miriam Kirsten     | 33.58    |
| AnneMarie Kowalski | 16.79    |
| Carol Shepherd     | 151.11   |

Franklin School

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Rosann Capalbo     | 134.32        |
| Denise Mastrangelo | 33.58         |
| Jennifer Neri      | <u>100.74</u> |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | \$486.91 |
|-------|----------|

Saturday Morning Suspensions - November, 1995High School

|                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Tracy Albanese | \$ 70.17     |
| Carol Shepherd | <u>70.17</u> |

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Total | \$140.34 |
|-------|----------|

Intramurals - September 19, 1995 - November 1, 1995

|                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| Mary Balitsos  | \$ 24.01      |
| Chris Chern    | 168.07        |
| Laura Curry    | 96.04         |
| Susan Dingwell | 96.04         |
| David D'Olivo  | 264.11        |
| Janice Gibson  | 120.05        |
| Edmund Olson   | 240.10        |
| Diane Williams | <u>312.13</u> |

|       |            |
|-------|------------|
| Total | \$1,320.55 |
|-------|------------|

LONGEVITY PAY:

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 following longevity payments be authorized:

|                  |        |                              |
|------------------|--------|------------------------------|
| Patricia Fischer | \$ 840 | Eff. Jan. 1, 1996 (15 years) |
| Sally Magin      | 840    | Eff. Jan. 1, 1996 (15 years) |
| Jean Unglaub     | 1,700  | Eff. Jan. 1, 1996 (21 years) |

PLACEMENT OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT:

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 approves the placement of an out-of-district Special Education student from the following district in the following classification for the 1995/1996 school year:

| <u>District</u>            | <u>No. of Students</u> | <u>Classification</u> | <u>School</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| South Orange/<br>Maplewood | 1                      | MRE                   | Lincoln       | 1/2/96                |



ADOPTION OF POLICY NO. 424 (4219) - Commercial Driver Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use Testing (Second Reading) and REGULATION NO. 4240 (4219) - DOT Alcohol and Drug Testing:

Mrs. Fleitell 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 adopts Policy No. 424 (4219), "Commercial Driver Controlled Substances and Alcohol Use Testing" (second reading) as per Schedule D, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adopts Regulation No. 4240 (4219), "DOT Alcohol and Drug Testing" as per Schedule D-1.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

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

| <u>From</u>            |              | <u>To</u>              |              |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Account 11-999-100-566 | \$3,800      | Account 11-204-100-101 | \$3,000      |
| Account 12-999-400-450 | <u>1,850</u> | Account 11-204-100-106 | 500          |
|                        |              | Account 11-999-222-100 | 300          |
|                        | \$5,650      | Account 12-999-260-730 | <u>1,850</u> |
|                        |              |                        | \$5,650      |

ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF GRANT AWARD - Title VI - Innovative Education Program Strategies - 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:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts notice of approval of grant award for Title VI, Innovative Education Program Strategies, for FY 96 in the amount of \$17,185.

AUTHORIZATION FOR SALE OF PUPIL TRANSPORTATION VEHICLE:

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 Secretary/Business Administrator be authorized to offer for sale a 1984 Chevrolet Type I school vehicle.

ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF APPLICATION -  
I.D.E.A.-B FY 95 Carry-Over Funds:

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 accepts notice of approval of application for I.D.E.A.-B FY 95 carry-over funds in the amount of \$7,876.

ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF GRANT AWARD - Eisenhower Professional Development Program (IKE) - 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:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts notice of grant award for Eisenhower Professional Development Program (IKE) for FY 96 in the amount of \$10,166.

RETIREMENT - Teacher:

Mr. William Osborn

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the retirement of Mr. William Osborn, high school teacher, effective March 1, 1996.

Mr. Kucinski noted that Mr. Osborn was a very exciting, dynamic teacher and coach and would be missed.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING  
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS:

Dr. Frank T. Votto

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 appoints Dr. Frank T. Votto as Acting Superintendent of Schools for the 1995/1996 school year, effective January 1, 1996.

Mr. Schweikert entered

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mrs. Gail Kline, 28 North Spring Garden Avenue, read the following statement:

"Regarding my October 3rd memo to the chairperson of the Saturday Curriculum Development Workshop on K-3 grading, I have received answers to procedural questions about members, agendas, sources of documentation and minutes. I have received no response concerning any of the policies, standards, and practices outlining the 'process' used for Saturday Curriculum Development Workshops.

"I have received 12 letters (12-14 years old) written to Dr. McCarthy from various college admissions personnel on attitudes pertinent to the atypical Nutley grading system. Requested documentation still not provided includes:

- Nutley High School profiles (past and present)
- 'Specially developed notification of our grading system'
- Minority report mentioned in John DeCesare's memo of January 27, 1982
- Supporting documentation from the 1986-87 grade reporting review committee, including minority report
- Statistics from the '94-95 school year regarding the distribution of alpha grades given to all students in grades 1 through 3 in the district

"It was my understanding that my requests for information and documentation would be honored. However, waiting for this data is like waiting for Godot!

"Clearly, recommendations from previous grade review workshops have been made to the Superintendent and full Board. Since Board minutes are required by statute (the Open Public Meetings Act) to be retained, I am entitled by law to obtain all Board minutes, including executive sessions, addressing any of these committee reports.

"When can I expect to receive copies of all relevant minutes and the documentation originally requested in my memo?"

Dr. Votto responded that Mr. Sincaglia would work with her regarding the Board minutes. He added that he would like to make an appointment with Mrs. Kline and the chairperson of the committee in his office on January 2.

Mr. Sincaglia indicated that with regard to minutes and executive minutes, since he has been Board Secretary they have been synopses of what has occurred, and he doubted Mrs. Kline would find a definitive report of a grading committee that met in 1982 since we do not do that with our curriculum approval.

Mrs. Kline stated that she would take what information is available to which Mr. Sincaglia replied that she was welcome to come in and see what information is available.

Mrs. Joan Rubino, 48 North Road, commented that on several occasions she had said that the previous report card and curriculum committees were pretty much of a joke and last month's meeting was proof of that where teachers were applauding wildly when Gail Kline was asked to be removed from the committee. Mrs. Rubino noted that 25 people spoke at that meeting in favor of retaining the grading system as is and 17 of those people were district employees or relatives. She added that she finds it disturbing that every teacher seems to be a clone of Dr. Fadule with all of them thinking the same way on these matters of importance. She further noted that she has never heard any teacher speak a word in disagreement.

Mrs. Rubino asked why thousands of taxpayer dollars were being spent on this committee since it is a waste of time and money and should be dissolved. Mrs. Rubino then asked how much Dr. Fadule's leave of absence was costing Nutley taxpayers. Mr. Battaglia indicated that the committee will not be dissolved; it will review the entire program as charged and will report to the Board in the spring.

Mr. Kucinski noted that Dr. Fadule's salary is status quo; it will continue until he retires in July. Mrs. Rubino asked what Dr. Fadule will be receiving when he leaves. Mr. Battaglia and Mr. Kucinski both stated that if that is a matter of public record she would be given that information.

Mrs. Aileen Hresko, 50 Valley Road, stated that she had read the Star Ledger article regarding enrollment projections if the ITT property is developed. Mr. Battaglia explained that the Board reviewed the proposal that was put forth, and using basic numbers and probability, the Board developed a round-house number of approximately 230 - 275 students.

Mrs. Hresko questioned if the plan was to do something before the housing is built. Mr. Sincaglia noted that the article made it seem the Board just came up with the report, but it is a month old. He added that the report was provided to Commissioner Smith and has been available for some time. Mr. Sincaglia further explained that the Ad Hoc Enrollment Committee appointed by Mr. Battaglia spoke with our long-range planning consultant and some people visited Ramsey. He indicated that the numbers are just a projection and the Board considered some possible options should the project become a reality.

Mrs. Fleitell commented that she had read the article and felt it was misleading since we, as a Board, have not made a stance on this issue. She added that the Board did a study on the impact if the development should become a fact but made no statement on it and took no position on it.

Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that the girl who wrote the article had called him for his reaction to the project but it seemed she did not know very much about the entire situation. He added that he had explained to her what we had just mentioned but she put in one statement which was his personal observation.

Mr. Rory Moore, 12 Essex Street, mentioned that the report given to Commissioner Smith was not available at town hall and he would like to have a copy of this report. Mr. Sincaglia responded that Mr. Moore could receive a copy tonight.

Mrs. Sera Shuster, 462 Chestnut Street, questioned why Monday night's scheduled Board meeting had been changed. Mr. Battaglia explained that he had made a request that the date of the meeting be changed.

Mrs. Shuster observed that Mr. Osborn was a gentleman and a good teacher. She noted that her copy of the Star Ledger contained an insert, "React", for the week of December 11-17 and on page 12 Nutley's gambling situation was mentioned.

Mrs. Shuster noted that she sees that the Board is selling a bus and questioned how many miles it had. Mr. Sincaglia replied that it is in the six figures and beyond its life span by law and can no longer be used as a school bus.

Mrs. Rubino questioned if it was a state mandate for a district to have an assistant superintendent to which Dr. Votto replied in the negative. Mrs. Rubino then commented that she felt the district should eliminate the position as it would save a lot of money. She also suggested that the new Superintendent not be furnished a Board car.

Mrs. Rubino further mentioned that she felt that when the new administrators' contract is negotiated payment for any Saturday meeting attendance should be eliminated as they are receiving fantastic salaries.

Mr. David Grossman, 410 Prospect Street, commented that there is no overwhelming evidence that the grading system and standards should be lowered as the trend is to raise standards and ask students to perform better. He added that in October Montclair announced they would be raising their standards and the article in the Star Ledger was very precise in what they would be doing. Also, Mr. Grossman indicated that several weeks later New York City announced they would be raising standards and if Nutley bows and lowers standards, we would be doing a great disservice to our children. He then presented a book by Charles Sikes, "Dumbing Down our Kids" to the Board for its information.

Mrs. Barbara Bochese, 50 Cedar Street, wondered if anyone could explain what a standard is since a lot of facets and variables are involved. She noted that the only way we will lower standards is if we lower the quality of what we teach our children.

Mr. Battaglia indicated that for the record, this committee is only reviewing K-3 and that is the committee's charge. He added that after the committee reports to the Board, if the Board chooses, standards could be reviewed.

Mrs. Bochese stated that she felt a lot of smoke is being blown over the entire issue as the committee is supposed to be evaluating the primary grades K-3. She added that if changing the grading to a numerical system is only changing a procedure, she does not understand why we must wait for a committee review. She asked why the Board could not simply address the procedure.

Mrs. Bochese commented that she does not understand why this situation has become completely adversarial. She added that in Nutley when you don't go with the status quo it can be a difficult thing. She further noted that she felt last month's meeting was a very well planned and controlled meeting and she came away from the meeting very upset as she doesn't know what we are doing or where we are going. She added that this will make our community worse than it needs to be. Mrs. Bochese also wondered why the transcripts could not be changed.

Mr. Walter Sautter, Coeyman Avenue, stated that he has been a high school teacher for 30 years and in that time has heard very few teachers be concerned or negative about the system and has heard very few students complaining about it.

Mrs. Kline noted that if anyone had read the paper written by herself and Mrs. Concetta Celli and looked at the 15 report cards submitted which were from the best districts in the state, these report cards were not at all vague or confusing in any way. She further indicated that the "S-I-N" system in effect in 1975 is not the system that exists in the best districts in the state. She added that those people talking about lowering standards are people who do not understand what is being discussed.

Mrs. Rubino stated that she did not believe it is true that no one is complaining about the system, adding that she feels cheating is rampant in Nutley and wonders if the grading system might be conducive to cheating. Mrs. Rubino further noted that the students doing the cheating are very good students. She also remembered that about a year ago a letter was written to the school paper by a student complaining about the cheating at Nutley High School.

Mr. Pelaia noted that he has no problems with educators speaking, in fact, he finds it natural that they did since they have expertise in the area and do not check their rights at the door just because they are employed by the Board. He added that he had found the comments very illuminating.

Mrs. Scheckel indicated that she has been listening to the comments and finds some of them are asking the Board to take action that the Board can not do since these are administrative prerogatives and the Board sets policy. She explained that the Board can not tell teachers how to teach or administrators how to manage but hires them to do the best job they are capable of doing. She added that it would be improper for a board to do those kinds of things.

Mr. Moore asked what, then, is the need for the Board. Mrs. Scheckel replied that the Board sets policy.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Kucinski indicated that he would like to plan a Budget Committee meeting and suggested Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Pelaia mentioned the need for an Athletic Committee meeting.

Mr. Battaglia noted that the January 8 Conference Meeting will be moved to January 9 at 7:30 p.m., adding that the Athletic Committee meeting could precede that. Mr. Battaglia also noted that the general Board meeting would be moved to January 29.

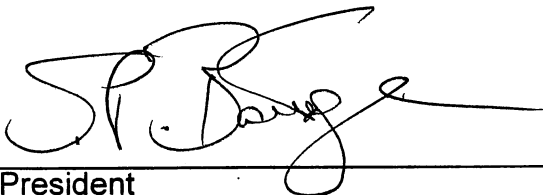
Mrs. Scheckel commented that people have been questioning whether she would run for re-election to the Board of Education this April. She noted that at that time she will have completed 12 years on the Board and has decided not to run for re-election.

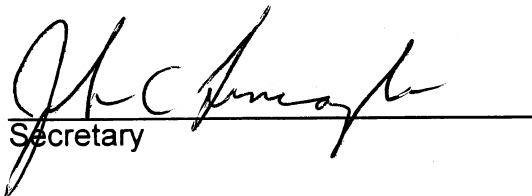
Mrs. Russo commented that she had attended the annual Yuletide observance at the high school and all the students who participated should be commended. She also noted that with regard to the comment about procedural changes, out of the Priorities Committee a procedural change was already being looked into regarding the transcripts. She added that she was gathering information to see if it is strictly an administrative change.

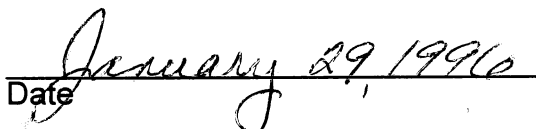
Mr. Battaglia wished all a happy holiday.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Mr. Kucinski, seconded by Mrs. Scheckel, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

  
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 President

  
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 Secretary

  
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 Date