

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

September 23, 1996

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, September 23, 1996 at 8:01 p.m. with Mr. Robert J. Rusignuolo, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Mr. Rusignuolo 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 April 29, 1996. 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. Williams 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. Vincent Moscaritola, Mr. Franklin J. Patterson, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mrs. Maria Russo, Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr. and Mr. Louis F. Williams. Thirty-seven citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 26, 1996 at 8:05 p.m. being in the hands of each member, reading of same was dispensed. Mr. Kucinski 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 to Dr. Votto and Members of the Board of Education from Ron Bonadonna and family for the Board's expression of sympathy on the loss of his wife.
2. Two notices from the Essex County Educational Services Commission regarding changes of meeting dates; one change was from August 22, 1996 to August 28, 1996 and the other from September 19, 1996 to September 26, 1996.
3. A letter from Bernardo J. Giuliana, Board Secretary, East Brunswick Board of Education, regarding an enclosed, approved resolution opposing the Comprehensive Plan for Educational Improvement and Financing and Bills S-40 and A-20.
4. A notice from the Essex County School Boards Association of a Dinner/Workshop Program to be held on September 26, 1996.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of August 31, 1996. (See attached report.)

Mr. Kucinski moved that the Board accept the Report of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Pelaia. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Sincaglia remarked that the bookkeeper, Beverly Nazare, had recently suffered a heart attack which caused havoc in the office. He noted that with the help of Nancy Greulich, Roz Fuller, Jean Unglaub, himself and our software consultant, the bill list was properly compiled. He thanked his three staff members for their assistance, adding that he hoped to see Mrs. Nazare back at work soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Treasurer of School Moneys as of August 31, 1996. (See attached report.)

Mr. Kucinski 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. Votto presented and read the following report:

"The 1996/1997 school year started in a positive and efficient manner. Please remember the following dates:

Wednesday,	September 25		Rotary Reception 7:00 p.m.
Thursday,	October	3	Radcliffe School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday,	October	8	Spring Garden School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday,	October	9	Franklin School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Thursday,	October	10	Lincoln School PTA Open House - 7:30 p.m.
Monday,	October	14	Columbus Day - Schools Closed
Tuesday,	October	15	Nutley High School College and Career Fair 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Wednesday,	October	16	Nutley High School Open House - 7:30 p.m.

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of September 13, 1996."

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that the Personnel Committee had met four or five times in the last couple of months and a lot was accomplished. He noted that over the summer the Priorities, Negotiations and Public Information Committees had also met as well as others and now that Fall is here, Board representatives will be attending PTA meetings and other Board committees will meet. Mr. Rusignuolo thanked all the committee members who had met during the summer.

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

Mrs. Joan Rubino, 48 North Road, with regard to resolution #12, Extra Compensation, questioned why Mr. Zarra was receiving the same amount of compensation as last month. Dr. Votto explained that this was for the second half of the ten days he was allotted during the summer for his Athletic Director's duties.

#### CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR ACCOUNT FUND STATUS:

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, pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.13(e), the Nutley Board of Education certifies that as of August 31, 1996, 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. 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 authorizes the payment of bills and mandatory payments in the total amount of \$2,217,617.48 as per the attached Schedule A which have been audited by the Business Office.

#### REQUESTS FOR USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Mr. Moscaritola 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 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.

#### RETIREMENT - Teacher:

Miss Andrea Zak

Mr. Moscaritola 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 Board of Education accepts the retirement of Miss Andrea Zak, effective December 1, 1996.

#### RETIREMENT - Transportation:

Mrs. Elizabeth J. Pellnitz

Mr. Moscaritola 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 Board of Education accepts the retirement of Mrs. Elizabeth J. Pellnitz, bus driver, effective December 1, 1996.

RETIREMENT - Secretary/Switchboard Operator:

Mrs. Claire Redmond

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 Board of Education accepts the retirement of Mrs. Claire Redmond, secretary/switchboard operator, effective January 1, 1997.

RESIGNATION - Custodian:

Mr. Joseph Esposito

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 Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mr. Joseph Esposito, part-time custodian, effective September 13, 1996.

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:

Mrs. Rosa Santoriello

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 Board of Education appoints Mrs. Rosa Santoriello as teacher for the 1996/1997 school year, effective September 1, 1996, at the annual salary of \$35,189, B.A.-6, in accordance with the 1996/1997 Teachers' Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENTS - Permanent Unassigned Substitutes:

Mr. Williams 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 1996/1997 school year at the rate of \$65 per day and fringe benefits which include State Health Benefits and dental plans:

Susanne Baker  
Donna Cocco  
Laura Curry  
Carlos Folleco  
Marie Forgino  
Jill Freedman

Tracy Kempczynski  
Victoria Chalk Little  
Christopher Masullo  
Rosann Rizzuto  
Lisa Rossi  
Gerald Ryan

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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. Williams 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 1996/1997 school year.

APPOINTMENTS - Substitutes:

Mr. Williams 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 1996/1997 school year:

Secretarial/Clerical

Josephine Calafiore  
Celeste DeCotiis  
Kate Hutcheon  
Joan Klatsky

Cafeteria

Donna Marie Cavallaro

Custodial

Scott Behan  
Allan Heinis

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

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

Summer Employment - August 26 thru August 30, 1996

Joseph Zarra	\$1,939.25
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Summer Employment - August 22, 26, 27, 29 and 30, 1996

Suzanne Peters	\$766.10
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Summer Employment - Attendance Coordinator - July 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 31 and August 27, 28, 29, 1996

Gregory Catrambone	\$3,308.20
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Summer Employment - Guidance Coordinator - June 28, July 8, 15, 22, 30 and August 5, 12, 26, 27, 28, 1996

Judith Hubert	\$3,914.30
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Summer Employment - Music Coordinator - July 19, 26 and August 2, 1996

John Vitkovsky	\$1,073.97
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Summer Band Camp - August 19-23, 1996

Peter D'Angelo	\$1,146.48
Kelly Wisneski	1,034.08
Sheri ReHill	1,034.08
Peter ReHill	<u>1,034.08</u>

Total	\$4,248.72
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Payment for Summer Statewide Systemic Initiative (SSI) Workshop - IKE Grant - July 8-26, 1996

Carol Perrone	\$1,500.00
Valerie Sautter	<u>1,500.00</u>

Total	\$3,000.00
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Summer Employment - Guidance Counselors - August 29 and 30, 1996

Kathryn Comune	\$ 643.92
Mary Jane Emde	740.42
Judith Hubert	790.42
Susan Scerbo	740.42
Anne Starace	<u>740.42</u>

Total	\$3,655.60
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Summer Employment - July 7, 24, August 26,  
27 and 30, 1996

JoAnn Tropiano	\$1,693.70
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Summer Employment - Librarians - August, 1996

Beverly Apple	\$ 640.64
Mary Austin	711.44
Maria Gernitis	505.08
Camille Lofrano	574.76
Susan Rooney	711.44
Zelda Walch	<u>602.12</u>

Total	\$3,745.48
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Computer Workshops - August 21 and 22, 1996

Beverly Apple	\$ 247.76
Rosemary Clerico	247.76
Maria Gernitis	123.88
Camille Lofrano	247.76
Stephen Parigi	247.76
Lorraine Restel	247.76
John Schwarz	123.88
Carol VanWagenen	247.76
Zelda Walch	<u>247.76</u>

Total	\$1,982.08
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QBASIC Computer Workshop - September 7, 1996

Toby D'Ambola	\$ 77.43
Rosemary Vivinetto	<u>77.43</u>

Total	\$154.86
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Summer Weightlifting Program

Richard SanFillipo	\$ 432.18 (6/26/96-8/13/96)
Christopher Strumolo	<u>720.30 (6/24/96-8/21/96)</u>

Total	\$1,152.48
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LONGEVITY PAY:

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 following longevity payments be authorized:



Salvatore DelMauro	\$ 435	Eff. Oct. 1, 1996 (10 years)
Lorraine Restel	1,260	Eff. Oct. 1, 1996 (15 years)
Andrew Retz	3,870	Eff. Oct. 1, 1996 (25 years)
John Vitkovsky	3,870	Eff. Oct. 1, 1996 (25 years)

### TUITION STUDENT:

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 approves enrollment of a student, on a tuition basis, pursuant to existing employment agreements:

<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Grade Level</u>
1	11

### SPECIAL CLASS PLACEMENT - Educationally Disabled Students:

Mr. Schweikert 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 attendance of students at Special Education classes for the 1996/1997 school year as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Banyan School North Caldwell, NJ	1	NI	9/4/96	\$19,612.75
Forest Glen School Bloomfield, NJ	1	PI	9/9/96	14,749.41

### TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT:

Mr. Schweikert 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 Nutley Board of Education approves a transportation contract with a parent to provide transportation for one Special Education student from Nutley to the Bleshman School, Paramus, NJ effective September 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997 at a cost of \$20 per day. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:

Mr. Schweikert 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 Nutley Board of Education approves the following Joint Transportation Agreements with the Bloomfield Board of Education to provide transportation for Special Education students from Bloomfield to various schools, effective September 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

<u>Nutley Route No.</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cost Per Diem</u>
12	3	Children's Institute Livingston, NJ	\$49.00
14	2	Windsor School Pompton Lakes, NJ	67.00

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:

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 Nutley Board of Education approves a Joint Transportation Agreement with the Lyndhurst Board of Education to provide transportation for one Special Education student from Lyndhurst to the Banyan School, North Caldwell, NJ on Nutley bus route #8, effective September 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997 at a cost to the Lyndhurst Board of Education of \$38 per day. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:

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 Nutley Board of Education approves the following Joint Transportation Agreements with the Passaic Board of Education to provide transportation for Special Education students from Passaic to various schools, effective September 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

<u>Nutley Route No.</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cost Per Diem</u>
3	1	Spring Garden School Nutley, NJ	\$20.00
6	1	Romaine School Hackensack, NJ	26.00

#### TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

Mr. Patterson 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 1996/1997 General Fund budget be confirmed as follows:

<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	
Account 11-999-290-290	\$2,800	Account 11-220-100-800	\$ 800
Account 12-999-220-730	<u>100</u>	Account 11-999-290-241	2,000
	\$2,900	Account 12-999-100-730	<u>100</u>
			\$2,900

#### ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING - Chapter 193 - 1996/1997 School Year:

Mr. Patterson 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 Board of Education accepts notice of additional funding for Chapter 193 for the 1996/1997 school year in the amount of \$2,776.

#### MEMORIAL:

Miss Denise Mastrangelo

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

WHEREAS, it is with a sense of deep sorrow and regret that the Nutley Board of Education records the death of Miss Denise Mastrangelo on September 9, 1996, and

WHEREAS, Miss Mastrangelo was employed in September, 1993 as an English teacher in the Nutley Public Schools and had a distinguished educational career, and

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WHEREAS, Miss Mastrangelo won the admiration and respect of her fellow teachers and the friendship of pupils who came under the influence of her understanding and capable teaching,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley extends deepest sympathy to the members of her family, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be made a part of the minutes of this meeting and a copy sent to the members of her family.

Dr. Votto stated that Miss Mastrangelo would be sorely missed, adding that it was a sad time for all of us.

Mr. Rusignuolo thanked the administrators, staff members and Board members who went to the funeral parlor. He noted that a wonderful service was put on by members of the school district which made the family very happy and he thanked all who participated.

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:

Mrs. Virginia Reilly

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 appoints Mrs. Virginia Reilly as teacher for the 1996/1997 school year, effective September 24, 1996, at the annual salary of \$17,595 (prorated), B.A.-6 (.5), in accordance with the 1996/1997 Teachers' Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENT - Custodian:

Mr. Dennis Buesing

Mr. Moscaritola 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 Board of Education appoints Mr. Dennis Buesing as a part-time custodian for the 1996/1997 school year, effective September 24, 1996, at the annual salary of \$12,056 (2-3) plus \$1,073 night stipend (prorated), in accordance with the 1996/1997 Buildings and Grounds Salary Guide. (Hired on a 90-day probationary period.

APPROVAL OF AGREEMENT - Nutley Red Cross:

Mr. Patterson presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Moscaritola and unanimously approved by the Board:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the agreement concerning use of facilities as mass care shelters with the Nutley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mrs. Rubino noted that at last month's meeting she had questioned the amounts received for summer employment by Mr. SanFillipo and Mr. Zarra and she mentioned her unsuccessful quest to find out what these men did for the money they had received. Dr. Votto explained that as long as he and the Board members were satisfied with the work done, that was all that was needed. Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that Mrs. Rubino had met with Dr. Votto at length on this subject. Mrs. Rubino stated that Dr. Votto had not answered her questions and thus, she is now asking the Board.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that the administration is well respected and well regarded and the terms and conditions of employment are up to the Superintendent. Mrs. Rubino asked if Mr. Rusignuolo knew what Mr. Zarra and Mr. SanFillipo did for the money they were paid, to which Mr. Rusignuolo replied that he did not but could get back to her. Mrs. Rubino questioned how the Board is representing the taxpayers if they voted for extra compensation without knowing what they were voting on.

Dr. Votto indicated that Mr. SanFillipo was involved with planning the intramural program for next year and an entire series of planning activities was approved by Mr. Jacone and of which Dr. Votto was also aware. He added that under advice of counsel he was not at liberty to show the information to Mrs. Rubino as it is not a public document.

Mrs. Rubino mentioned her disappointment that this Board and previous Boards allowed this sort of thing to take place, adding that taxpayers' money should be spent with accountability. Mrs. Rubino also expressed her opinion that from April to June Mr. SanFillipo certainly has time during the school day to get this scheduling done. She further commented that the Board should reconsider what it is negotiating for.

Mrs. Russo noted that she respects the administration and staff and expects that work which is supposed to be done has been done, but adding that recently she suggested that we look at a lot of our programs and make people more accountable for a few more tasks and then, possibly, there would be money available for additional programs. Mrs. Russo further indicated that the Board has to be frugal and this is the time for the Board to work together. She added that she had requested a Policy Committee meeting in order to make this Board more accountable and that she looked forward to being productive and accountable to the public.

Mr. Rory Moore, 12 Essex Street, asked how many sick days employees receive. Mr. Sincaglia replied that, by law, all employees receive at least ten sick days per year while twelve-month employees receive 12 by contract. He added that employees are allotted personal days and if they are not all used, they are added to the unused sick days with a maximum number of 15 days that can be accumulated.

Mr. Moore then asked why the Board pays employees for unused sick days since this is not required by law. Dr. Votto replied that it is a contractual item. Mr. Moore indicated that he had been told by Dr. Votto and Mr. Sincaglia that this was required by law. Mr. Sincaglia, however, noted that Mr. Moore, at last month's meeting, had asked Dr. Votto whether the law required someone to be able to accumulate sick days, not whether someone would be paid for them upon retirement. Mr. Sincaglia noted that the law was very clear that employees must receive sick days which can accumulate without limits.

Mr. Moore asked if teachers are paid for the two days the district is closed during the teachers' convention even if they do not attend the convention, to which Dr. Votto replied in the affirmative, adding that it is a local option. Mr. Sincaglia added that teachers are paid for 185 days per school year.

Dr. Steven Greco, 248 Vreeland Avenue, expressed his outrage at comments attributed to Mr. SanFillipo in an interview he had given to the Nutley Journal regarding the football season. Dr. Greco quoted from the newspaper article and said that if true, it was unconscionable for him to make such remarks. Dr. Greco also expressed his opinion that the athletic department is not doing enough in helping athletes be accepted at colleges, as well as helping them receive athletic scholarships.

Mrs. Rubino asked who prepared the new handbook which The Nutley Sun mentioned had been distributed. Dr. Votto replied that a committee of teachers had prepared the handbook. Mrs. Rubino questioned if they had been paid for this, to which Dr. Votto replied in the affirmative. Mrs. Rubino remarked that this is a waste of money, adding that principals and Board members could have prepared the handbook and saved money. Dr. Votto noted that the administrators were involved as they reviewed the handbook for a number of days.

Mrs. Sera Shuster, 462 Chestnut Street, indicated that someone had mailed her a copy of an article which had appeared in Family Circle magazine dealing with the gambling problem at Nutley High School last year, adding that Nutley is still receiving publicity from this and there is a lot that needs cleaning up.

Mrs. Gail Kline, 28 North Spring Garden Avenue, indicated that she is delighted to see Mr. Walker in his new position. Mrs. Kline referred to Dr. Greco's comments concerning the coaches not doing enough to help athletes get into college and added that with regard to the grading system, not enough is being done district wide so that our students have every opportunity to get into the college of their choice. She noted that being part of the Curriculum Committee did not demonstrate that the grading system has any value in helping our students.

Mrs. Kline commented that the world has changed and our students need different things. She indicated that she had informed Dr. Votto of her continued conversations with college admissions personnel and added that the district really needs to look into what college admissions personnel look at and she hopes that some effort will be put into really addressing the issue.

Mrs. Fleitell asked Mrs. Kline if she was aware of any programs that have been initiated this school year. When Mrs. Kline replied in the negative, Mrs. Fleitell suggested that Mrs. Kline contact Mrs. Hubert who would apprise her of many new programs coming into effect this school year. Mrs. Fleitell noted that our high school counselors work very diligently to get students into college. Mrs. Fleitell indicated that she is a guidance counselor in an urban district and has seen many students come into her school from districts with many different grading systems and many students have had grading systems similar to Nutley's.

Mr. Pelaia indicated that Mrs. Hubert, Guidance Coordinator, has issued a new newsletter and he is looking forward to the next issue.

Mrs. Fleitell mentioned that a new PSAT and SAT preparation program is being started in the high school, and the Board will pay for every junior to take the PSAT as a practice test. She added that many things are happening.

Mr. John Buttacavoli, 45 Wilson Street, noted that in his 67 years of living in Nutley, tonight is only the second Board meeting he has attended and he is very disappointed at the defensive attitude of Board members when citizens ask questions. Mr. Rusignuolo commented that Board members spend countless hours trying to do a service that this town needs, adding that a lot is accomplished for the good of our students and town. He noted that many people coming to Board meetings have attended them for 20 years and ask the same questions at every meeting.

Mr. Buttacavoli asked that the Board be more receptive to the public, adding that the public is encouraged to attend Board meetings and participate but he does not feel the Board really welcomes this participation.

Mrs. Rubino noted that she has been attending Board meetings longer than anyone in the town and if the same questions are always asked, that is because answers are not given.

Mrs. Shuster stated that she has been attending Board meetings for 25 or 26 years and questions are never answered, adding that when the Board and administration do not like the questions asked, they pick on the children.

Dr. John Kelly, 255 Rutgers Place, stated that he is a member of the Executive Board of the Nutley Red Cross and questioned why an announcement of a CPR course for students was not allowed to be mentioned at the PTA meetings. Dr. Votto responded that it was solely the decision of the Superintendent, asking if Dr. Kelly was aware that

the principals spoke to that issue for approximately five minutes at the open houses. Dr. Kelly indicated that it was the concern of the Red Cross that the principals are not as familiar with the program as the Red Cross so it would be best to have a Red Cross speaker. Dr. Votto replied that all the literature is available and the person is available after the meeting with whom interested parents can speak.

Mr. Rusignuolo noted that the district does not normally have people from outside agencies come before the open houses and arrangements were made for a presentation to be made on behalf of the Red Cross. He added that the people received the message and could call the Red Cross for further information.

Dr. Greco, referring to page 85, paragraph 3 of the minutes, asked what media named Mr. SanFillipo and Mr. Gargiulo "Coaches of the Year." Dr. Votto replied that it was one of the local press. Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that Dr. Votto would be in touch with Dr. Greco with that information.

Mr. Schweikert asked, as a director of the Red Cross, why the district does not allow other organizations to speak at PTA meetings. Dr. Votto responded that only the Academic Booster Club is allowed to speak at PTA meetings since they are part of our system. He further explained that back to school night is for the parents to meet the teachers and he would have a concern with any deviation from this practice.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Pelaia read the following statement:

"I want to take just a minute to recognize and thank the Drug Awareness Committee of the Nutley Elks and its Chair, Mr. Lloyd Monterosa, who, for the 11th consecutive year, have provided anti-drug theme coloring books to the Nutley School System for all of the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade students in the District. The Committee also conducts an anti-drug coloring contest with small cash prizes for the winning students.

"This program makes quite a positive impact on the children of the district and I hope it is one that the Elks will continue in the future."

Mrs. Russo remarked that she values the administrators' opinions since she is a Board member and not an administrator, adding that the Board is to make policy, not administer how the district is run. She noted that she does have questions regarding district policies and that is where she is starting since the policy manual has many inaccuracies. Mrs. Russo indicated that the policy book should be kept current and Board members need to be aware of the policies of the district, adding that this is what she hopes the Board will work on since that is what will make the Board effective.

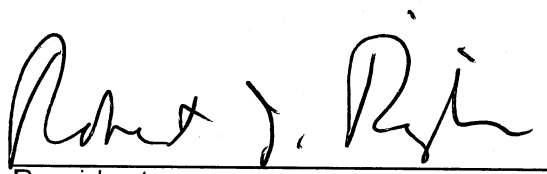


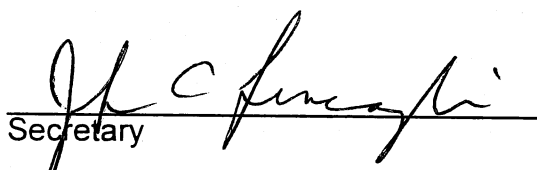
NEW BUSINESS:

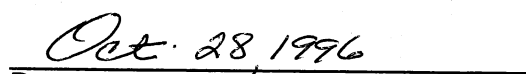
None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board,  
on motion made by Mr. Kucinski, seconded by Mr. Pelaia, the meet-  
ing was adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

September 23, 1996