

Board of Education  
Nutley, New Jersey

November 25, 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, November 25, 1996 at 8:02 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. Kucinski leading the Board members and citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

CALL OF ROLL:

The other members present at roll call were: 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. Approximately 50 citizens were present.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

Dr. Votto noted that tonight we are bestowing pridelful recognition of the high school's All State Chorus members who were selected to the prestigious group after undergoing a very rigorous assessment process. He added that they were chosen from among many of their peers and we are very proud of them and congratulate them and their parents for a job well done.

Dr. Votto also indicated that he had heard the Chorus at Columbia High School and they were superb, adding that John Vitkovsky's name appeared as an adjudicator. He added that it is nice to see we are performing on an all-state level.

Dr. Votto thanked Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Vitkovsky and Mr. Cocchiola for their efforts and then introduced Mr. Mario Cocchiola, Acting Principal of Nutley High School.

Mr. Cocchiola thanked the Board of Education for taking the time and making the effort to honor these outstanding music students and helping to celebrate their achievements in the musical arts. Mr. Cocchiola then introduced Mr. John Vitkovsky, Music Coordinator.

Mr. Vitkovsky outlined the procedure used for selection to the All State Chorus, adding that 300 students were chosen from throughout the state. Mr. Vitkovsky noted that the All State Chorus had performed at the New Jersey Education Association convention in Atlantic City and had also performed yesterday at Columbia High School. He thanked the parents for all they do in the support of music in the school system. Mr. Vitkovsky also thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Votto, Mr. Walker and Mr. Cocchiola for their sponsorship and support of the All State students. He then introduced Mrs. Kathryn Peterson, Director of the Choralettes.

Mrs. Peterson congratulated the three students on their outstanding performance yesterday. Mrs. Peterson and Mr. Kucinski then presented awards to the following students for selection to the 1996 New Jersey All State Chorus:

Kristen Jones	1st year	(10th grade)
Ashley Price	1st year	(10th grade)
Cynthia Tomm	2nd year	(12th grade)

Mr. Rusignuolo extended the sincere best wishes and congratulations of the Board of Education to the students and their families. He also thanked Mr. Cocchiola, Mr. Vitkovsky and Mrs. Peterson for their participation in tonight's presentation.

#### RECESS MEETING:

Mr. Rusignuolo recessed the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

#### RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 8:14 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 28, 1996 at 8:03 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 letter from Mary Louise Malyska, Ph.D., Essex County Superintendent of Schools, acknowledging receipt and acceptance of the Quality Assurance Annual Report and finding it to be consistent with the requirements of the Administrative Code.
2. A notice from the Passaic County School Boards Association regarding its Fall Dinner Meeting which is being held this evening.
3. Thank-you notes from the following:

The family of Michael SanGiacomo for the Board's memorial resolution

Donald Stasi, Manager of Buildings and Grounds; Joanne Masucci, transportation employee; and Beverly Nazare, bookkeeper, for the get-well expressions of the Board.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that all of them are doing well and are back to work.

4. An invitation from the Nutley Free Public Library to an "Afternoon at the Library" on December 7, 1996 to celebrate their entry into the world of automation.
5. An invitation from the Radcliffe School PTA to the annual Santa Sale on December 5, 1996.

Mr. Sincaglia thanked the members of the Board and community for their expressions of condolence during a difficult time this past week.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of October 31, 1996. (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 October 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:

"Informational Items:

"Report cards for the first marking period were distributed on Wednesday, November 13.

"Elementary parent-teacher conferences were conducted on Wednesday, November 20 and Thursday, November 21.

"The Nutley High School Fall Sports Awards Program will be conducted on Tuesday, November 26, at 7:30 p.m.

"On Wednesday, November 27, schools will be in session for a half-day before Thanksgiving Recess. Classes will resume on Monday, December 2.

"Third Half Club Fall Sports Awards Dinner - December 5, at 7:00 p.m.

"Spring Garden Holiday Musicale - December 10 at 7:30 p.m.

"Nutley High School Yuletide Observance - December 12, at 7:30 p.m.

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of October 31, 1996."

FIRE DRILL REPORT:

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

Oct. 1	Franklin School	10:00 a.m.	2 min. 4 secs.
Oct. 1	Yantacaw School	2:06 p.m.	1 min. 35 secs.
Oct. 3	Radcliffe School	2:35 p.m.	1 min. 17 secs.
Oct. 4	Franklin School	1:30 p.m.	1 min. 57 secs.
Oct. 4	Spring Garden School	10:46 a.m.	2 min.
Oct. 7	Yantacaw School	10:28 a.m.	1 min. 40 secs.
Oct. 9	Nutley High School	1:57 p.m.	1 min. 59 secs.
Oct. 10	Radcliffe School	10:23 a.m.	1 min. 17 secs.
Oct. 10	Washington School	9:42 a.m.	1 min. 46 secs.
Oct. 11	Lincoln School	9:40 a.m.	1 min. 34 secs.
Oct. 11	Spring Garden School	10:34 a.m.	1 min. 40 secs.
Oct. 17	Lincoln School	2:05 p.m.	1 min. 28 secs.
Oct. 21	Nutley High School	1:54 p.m.	2 min. 10 secs.
Oct. 22	Washington School	2:14 p.m.	1 min. 37 secs.

#### CAFETERIA REPORT:

Mr. Pelaia presented the cafeteria report as of October 31, 1996 showing a 1996/1997 budget of \$613,018.00, contractual orders to date of \$200,375.39, leaving funds available of \$412,642.61.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Pelaia indicated that the Athletic Committee had met earlier this evening and its task was to begin the process of going through the athletic budget for the 1997-98 school year. The Committee also dealt with an issue of a change in league and the Committee's recommendation was that the current league assignments be supported, adding that there is an alternative position should this fail.

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

Mrs. Joan Rubino, 48 North Road, asked why Mr. Cocchiola had received payment for serving on the Math Committee. Dr. Votto responded that he is a member of the Committee and is paid as per the administrators' agreement. Mrs. Rubino mentioned that she thought this was taken out of the contract several years ago but was grandfathered, adding that she thought Mr. Cocchiola was not an administrator at that time. Mr. Sinaglia explained that Mr. Cocchiola was a department head at that time but there are a few administrators who do not receive compensation for committee work although Mr. Cocchiola is not among them.

Mr. Rory Moore, 12 Essex Street, requested that when the administrators' contract is negotiated, payment for unused sick days upon retirement be deleted. Mr. Rusignuolo remarked that Mr. Moore's concerns are understood and appreciated.

#### 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 October 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 \$3,349,138.65 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.

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:

Miss Tracy Kempczynski

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 Miss Tracy Kempczynski as teacher for the 1996/1997 school year, effective December 2, 1996, at the annual salary of \$36,065, B.A.+15-6, in accordance with the 1996/1997 Teachers' Salary Guide.

APPOINTMENTS - Teacher Substitutes:

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 teacher substitutes listed on the attached Schedule C be approved for the 1996/1997 school year.

APPOINTMENTS - Substitutes:

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 following substitutes be approved for the 1996/1997 school year:

Clerical/School Aide

Diana Lynn Cordasco

School Aide/Bus Aide

Marisa DePersio

Cafeteria

Kathleen Gabriele

Instructional Aide

Kate Hutcheon

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

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

Curriculum Development Committee Meetings

Instructional Aides Training - October 8 and  
22, 1996

Maureen Callaghan	\$ 41.04
Donna Ferraro	44.44
Barbara Hirsch	93.26
Lynn Imperial	41.04
Donna Luzzi	48.68
Audrey Paolino	64.08
Christine Pecora	62.60
Janet Ponzoni	44.44
Annette Pucci	41.04

Instructional Aides Training - October 8 and  
22, 1996 (contd.)

Lesley Tesei	\$ 42.76
Gloria Yanuzzelli	<u>49.52</u>
Total	\$572.90

General Mathematics (7-12) - October 5, 1996

Elinor Alboum	\$ 123.88
Anne Bevere	123.88
Mario Cocchiola	165.80
Paula Cofone	123.88
Toby D'Ambola	123.88
Carol Rizzo	123.88
Arleen Slott	123.88
Rosemary Vivinetto	<u>123.88</u>
Total	\$1,032.96

Health Education (K-8) - October 5, 1996

Gerard Adubato	\$ 123.88
Rita Alfaro	123.88
Noreen Baris	123.88
John Calicchio	186.52
Christopher Chern	123.88
Susan Dingwell	123.88
Katherine Flannery	123.88
Elizabeth Foote	123.88
AnneMarie Kowalski	123.88
Rebecca Olivo	123.88
Olga Rombola	123.88
Patricia Tarczynski	<u>123.88</u>
Total	\$1,549.20

P.A.T. (Primary Academic Talent) - October 15, 1996

Suzanne Hagert	\$ 61.94
Barbara Hirsch	46.63
Rebecca Olivo	61.94
Niki Vlasakakis	61.94
Carol VonAchen	<u>61.94</u>
Total	\$294.39

Reading K-8 - October 5, 1996

Lucy Anello	\$ 165.80
Justina Bruno	123.88
Florence Carpenter	161.08
Michele Cristantiello	123.88



Reading K-8 - October 5, 1996 (contd.)

Rachel Daly	\$ 123.88
Dianne DeRosa	165.80
Rosemarie DiGeronimo	165.80
Margaret Dougherty	123.88
Patricia Fischer	123.88
Marilyn Hannon	123.88
Hannah Hungler	123.88
Geraldine Intiso	123.88
Gail Kahn	123.88
Joan Lightfoot	123.88
Beverly Masullo	123.88
Walter Murray	123.88
Laura-anne MacMillan	123.88
Rae Nardone	123.88
Gail Reilly	123.88
Bernadette Santoriello	<u>123.88</u>

Total	\$2,640.56
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Special Education - October 5, 1996

Mariana Francioso	\$ 123.88
Deborah Pastena	123.88
Janice Schoem	123.88
Deborah Schop	123.88
Phillip Siculietano	123.88
Patricia Sloan	123.88
Joyce Wood	123.88
Joseph Zarra	<u>186.52</u>

Total	\$1,053.68
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Special Education - Inclusion - October 5, 1996

Mary Balitsos	\$ 123.88
Robyn Burns	123.88
Alexander Conrad	165.80
Cynthia DeBonis	123.88
Patricia Griffin	123.88
Donna Hutcheson	123.88
Laura Love	123.88
Sally Magin	123.88
Dorothy Mutch	123.88
Arlene Nardiello	123.88
Rita O'Neill-Wilson	123.88
Becky Pandolfi	123.88
Sally Ann M. Ryder	123.88
Marilyn Testa	123.88
Patricia Trainor	123.88
James Vivinetto	186.52
Carol VonAchen	<u>123.88</u>

Total	\$2,210.52
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Technology Implementation - October 5, 1996

Beverly Apple	\$ 123.88
George Ackerman	123.88
Denise Cleary	123.88
Rosemary Clerico	123.88
Carmen D'Aloia	165.80
Linda Fisher	123.88
Jainine Gambaro	123.88
Maria Gernitis	123.88
Scott Keena	123.88
Nancy Kehayes	123.88
Arlene Orenstein	123.88
Stephen Parigi	123.88
Bernice Paschal	123.88
Sharon Reed	123.88
Lorraine Restel	123.88
Susan Rooney	123.88
John Schwarz	123.88
Kathleen Serafino	186.52
Carol Shepherd	123.88
JoAnn Tropiano	123.88
Carol VanWagenen	123.88
Zelda Walch	<u>123.88</u>

Total      \$2,829.92

Fall In-Service Course - Introduction to Macintosh  
Computer - October 9, 16, 23, 30 and November 6, 1996

Rosemary Clerico	\$402.70
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Intramurals - September 20 - October 30, 1996

Kenneth Ferriol	\$ 96.04
Thomas Grant	216.09
Scott Keena	24.01
Edmund Olson	288.12
Janice Schoem	<u>120.05</u>

Total      \$744.31

Central Detention Coverage - October, 1996High School

Carol Shepherd	\$319.01
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Franklin School

Loretta Douglas	16.79
Carol Harris	16.79
Patrick Keating	100.74
Christopher Masullo	<u>201.48</u>

Total      \$654.81

Saturday Morning Suspensions - October, 1996High School

Nicole Errante	\$70.17
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SAT Review Classes - October 8, 10, 17, 22, 24 and 31, 1996

Dianne LaPierre	\$ 557.46
John Suffren	<u>557.46</u>

Total	\$1,114.92
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LONGEVITY ADJUSTMENT - Secretary:Mrs. Suzanne Peters

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 Board of Education approves the longevity adjustment of Mrs. Suzanne Peters from \$1,792 to \$2,016 for sixteen years of service.

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:

Susan LaReau    \$3,010    Eff. Dec. 1, 1996 (25 years)

PROGRAM APPROVAL REQUEST - SPECIAL EDUCATION:

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 approves the program approval request for Special Education classes for the 1996/1997 school year and directs that this request be forwarded to the Essex County Superintendent of Schools.

SPECIAL CLASS PLACEMENT - Educationally Disabled Students:

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 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>
Clearview School Wayne, NJ	1	PI	11/25/96	\$14,744.70
Essex High School Clifton, NJ	1	SM	11/11/96	\$17,467.80

PLACEMENT OF OUT-OF-DISTRICT SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENT:

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 approves the placement of an out-of-district Special Education student from the following district in the following classification for the 1996/1997 school year:

<u>District</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>
Irvington	1	MH	Spring Garden	11/12/96

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT/AUDIT:

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:

WHEREAS, the district has prepared the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 1995/1996 school year, and

WHEREAS, the audit of the financial records of the school district for the 1995/1996 school year has been made, according to the requirements of Title 18A, by the firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP, and

WHEREAS, copies of a synopsis of this audit have been made available to the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the 1995/1996 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report and the report of the independent auditors, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board approves the Corrective Action Plan as per Schedule D responding to the recommendations of the auditor and that a copy of the Corrective Action Plan be submitted, as required, to the County Superintendent of Schools.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS:

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 transfers in the 1996/1997 General Fund budget be confirmed as follows:

<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	
Account 11-212-100-610	\$ 300	Account 11-201-100-640	\$ 200
Account 11-230-100-640	200	Account 11-230-100-610	300
Account 11-999-100-566	46,500	Account 11-999-100-562	29,000
Account 12-999-220-730	<u>600</u>	Account 11-999-100-565	17,500
	\$47,600	Account 12-999-240-730	<u>600</u>
			\$47,600

APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION - Opportunity New Jersey (ONJ) - 1997/1998 School Year:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves submission of grant application for Opportunity New Jersey (ONJ) co-sponsored by Bell Atlantic and the New Jersey Association of School Administrators for the 1997/1998 school year in the amount of \$15,000.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FOR I.D.E.A. CARRY-OVER FUNDS - FY 96:

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 approves submission of application for FY 96 carry-over funds for I.D.E.A.-B in the amount of \$300.35 and I.D.E.A.-B Pre-school in the amount of \$45.29.

RESIGNATION - Athletic:Mr. Peter D'Angelo

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Mr. Peter D'Angelo, Band Director, effective June 30, 1997.

APPOINTMENT - Transportation:Mrs. Peggy Hollywood

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves the appointment of Mrs. Peggy Hollywood as a bus driver for the 1996/1997 school year, effective December 2, 1996, at the hourly rate of \$10.82 (van) or \$11.64 (bus) which is in accordance with the Agreement between the Nutley Board of Education and the Pupil Transportation Employees.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mrs. Rubino noted that, with regard to Mr. Rusignuolo's former statement that he is tired of people coming and asking the same questions, people ask questions but do not receive answers. Mrs. Rubino indicated that for several months she has questioned what Mr. Zarra and Mr. SanFillipo did for the money they were paid for summer work and had been told they are not public documents. She added that she has now sent two letters to Mr. Sincaglia requesting the citing of statutes for the determination that they are not public documents but has not received any reply.

Mr. Rusignuolo clarified his former statement, explaining that he did not think he said he was tired of the same questions being asked but had acknowledged that some questions had been asked many times.

Dr. Votto remarked that Mr. Sincaglia did not respond to Mrs. Rubino's letters because he felt that Dr. Votto had already answered them. Dr. Votto reiterated that, under advice of counsel, they are not public documents. He added that Mrs. Rubino had been provided with a number of copies of documents regarding contracts and job descriptions, adding that NJSA 47:1A-2 would be the statute being invoked.

Mrs. Rubino mentioned other payments received by Mr. SanFillipo in addition to the \$1500 listed as extra compensation and wondered why the Board members are not responding to this in some way.

Dr. Steven Greco, 248 Vreeland Avenue, mentioned the salary received by Mr. SanFillipo for teaching only three classes and then asked if Mr. SanFillipo was addressed about his comments regarding kids wasting his time. Mr. Rusignuolo noted that at last month's Board meeting it was mentioned that there was a meeting between Mr. SanFillipo and the Athletic Director.

Dr. Greco noted that two years ago members of the football team were caught in the gambling scandal and questioned if any gambling education has been done since the initial program after the problem. Dr. Votto indicated that a number of convocations had been held with a number of speakers, one of them being from Gamblers' Anonymous, adding that one more meeting for the entire school population had been held since the initial meeting. Dr. Greco expressed his opinion that meetings should take place more often. Mr. Rusignuolo commented that this is of concern to all of us.

Mr. Moore questioned the payments being made to AT&T Wireless Services and to AT&T since they seem excessive. Mr. Sincaglia responded that he would check into it but he assumed they were payments for a two-month period.

Mr. Moore then asked if the payment to Mobile Media was for pagers and, if so, how many pagers does the district have. Mr. Sincaglia replied that the payment is for pagers and that about 20 of the district's personnel carry them.

Citing the Open Public Meetings Act, Mr. Moore questioned why the public is not allowed to sit in during a committee meeting. Mr. Sincaglia replied that a committee meeting does not have a majority of the Board and, thus, no official action can be taken. Mr. Sincaglia also noted that the Open Public Meetings Act does not require public participation and allowing public discussion is a decision of the Board. Mr. Sincaglia further indicated that personnel actions relating to discussions of employees are never to be released unless the employee agrees to that.

Mr. Jason Price, 656 Bloomfield Avenue, stated that with Mr. Jacone's retirement, he feels it is an excellent opportunity for the Board to revitalize the high school, adding that they should see who is available from outside the district.

Mr. Price, a recent graduate of the high school now attending Middlebury College, noted that after the gambling problem someone from Gamblers' Anonymous spoke to the student body but Mr. Price felt it should be done in a smaller forum such as a health class where it is more personal.

Mr. Price noted that some school districts pay the fee for advanced placement classes at a college and he felt this is a good idea. Dr. Votto remarked that it was a point well taken.

Mrs. Barbara Bochese, 50 Cedar Street, mentioned that the Quality Assurance Annual Report lists community support and involvement and she disagrees with much of what is included, citing the after-

school program, school-based teams which include parents, elementary evening programs, extended day initiatives, open houses, career activities at the high school and participation in guidance advisory committees. She noted that she had not known of anyone invited to participate in such fashion.

Mrs. Bochese noted that Nutley is a diverse community with many ideas which should be considered and she is very concerned about this, adding that we should make sure we have all our community of parents involved. Dr. Votto asked if Mrs. Bochese was familiar with the interplay between the schools and the extended day program, noting that the program utilizes our resources on a daily basis and we housed them for the entire summer this year. He added that Academic Booster Club activities took place and the PTA's are involved on a great level in planning in the school district. He also noted that school-based planning deals with PTA parents and teachers.

Mrs. Sera Shuster, 462 Chestnut Street, commented that the after-school program was held in the schools this summer because asbestos was being removed at the Parks and Recreation building. Mr. Patterson noted that the enrichment program is held at Yantacaw School every summer and the extended day program is run at Yantacaw School every year during the same hours and only goes to Parks and Recreation after the school is closed.

Mrs. Rubino commended Jason Price for speaking, adding that she appreciated his input. She then asked how many people were interviewed from out of the district for the position of Assistant Superintendent and the other administrative openings. Dr. Votto responded that the philosophy of the Board is to interview from within the district and if a candidate can not be found, to look outside the district. Mrs. Rubino expressed her opinion that the Board should look outside the district since new ideas are needed.

Mrs. Rubino asked if there is a set curriculum for the computer programs in the elementary and high schools. Dr. Votto replied that we have individual programs in grades 7-12, but grades K-8 have a total curriculum which he could furnish to her.

Dr. Greco noted that when people realize the school administration is allowing kids to gamble in the school system it becomes difficult to sell a house. He indicated that Nutley has had a great school system for a long time but many people have lost sight of that. He added that young people should get involved. He then read an article from the Bergen Record regarding students grading their teachers, adding that some teachers and coaches have a problem in helping our kids.

Mr. Price indicated that when appointments are kept within the system, the same cycle of educational ideas are flowing around. He added that at college, students evaluate the professors and there is a benefit to this. Mr. Rusignuolo noted that the public performs an evaluation of Board members every April.



Mr. Price offered suggestions regarding athletes not having to take physical education classes while performing in sports so that those classes could be utilized as study halls, and also requiring students to perform community service in Nutley before graduating. Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that the Board is happy that Mr. Price is attending a fine college and wishes him well.

Mrs. Gail Kline, 28 North Spring Garden Avenue, indicated that it is her understanding that Mrs. Serafino completed her report on the Saturday curriculum committee regarding grading, adding that she would like to see a copy of the report. Dr. Votto indicated that Mrs. Kline could pick up a copy of the report from the Spring Garden School principal.

With regard to the school district ranking done by New Jersey Monthly, Mrs. Kline asked if the district has a copy of the entire listing of how schools ranked and asked if anyone wished to comment on where Nutley was ranked. Dr. Votto remarked that the district feels the school rankings were skewed and that it was a faulty survey, and also that it was not very good as a school ranking system. He added that the district does have a copy of the entire listing of all schools. Mrs. Kline asked if she could come to the office and see a copy, to which Dr. Votto replied in the affirmative.

Mrs. Kline noted that this is November and at the September meeting Mrs. Fleitell had offered her some information which she has still not received. She added that she would like to check on the status of what was offered.

Mrs. Fleitell read the following statement:

"The information requested by Mrs. Kline at the October meeting is documentation of my statement at the September meeting that in registering hundreds of students at the high school in which I am employed, I came across a significant number of transcripts with grading systems comparable to Nutley's.

"Those records are filed in individual students' folders among 1000 student folders in the building. There is not a report as relates to this information. Therefore, there is no documentation that I can give her without searching through confidential files, nor would I take the amount of time necessary to do so from my job."

Mr. Moore remarked that Mrs. Bochese had asked questions and not received answers even though the Open Public Meetings Act requires that she be given answers. He added that he agreed with Mrs. Rubino that the Board should go outside the district to fill some of the open positions.

Dr. Greco questioned Nutley's rank in the New Jersey Monthly article and asked why it was skewed. Dr. Votto replied that one criteria was time in class which is not a predictor of success, and other criteria were HSPT and SAT scores. He noted that poorer socio-economic districts will never do as well as more affluent districts. He added that he feels Nutley did quite well within our grouping. Mr. Rusignuolo commented that the wealth behind the students in this district is not great.

Dr. Votto noted that Nutley was 123 in this year's New Jersey Monthly survey, adding that he could give Dr. Greco a copy of the listing. Mr. Schweikert indicated that Nutley was 123 out of the 259 schools that participated in the survey and there were three "DE" schools in the top 75.

Mr. Kucinski indicated that the public should be aware that the Board shares many of their concerns such as the gambling problem and spends countless hours discussing those concerns. He added that with regard to the coaching situation, the Board had the same concerns that he be spoken to as Dr. Greco did but were satisfied with what Dr. Votto had to say to him.

Mrs. Kline noted that her perceived offer of information from Mrs. Fleitell was documented in the minutes, adding that part of her concern was determining what the best school districts in the state do regarding grading. She added that over the past two years, she no longer takes for granted that research has been done since there has been no documentation at all in the history of this district that she has ever seen.

Mrs. Rubino commented that she had listened to the tape of that Board meeting and Mrs. Fleitell had said she registered at least 50 students in the last few weeks and 25% of them had grading systems comparable to Nutley. Mrs. Rubino asked where those 50 student had come from. Mrs. Fleitell responded that some students had come from private schools and some from out of state.

OLD BUSINESS:

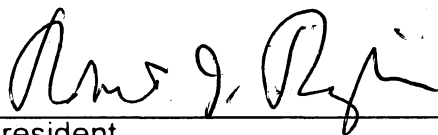
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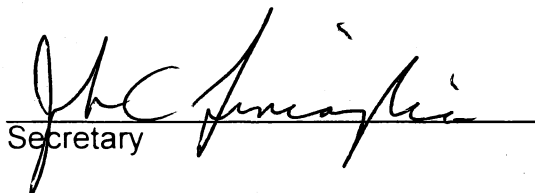
NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion made by Mr. Kucinski, seconded by Mr. Pelaia, the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 President

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary

12/16/96  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date