

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

April 20, 1998

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, April 20, 1998 at 8:05 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 28, 1997. 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. Vincent Moscaritola, Mr. Franklin J. Patterson, Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr., Mrs. Maria Russo, Mr. Robert Schweikert, Jr. and Mr. Louis F. Williams. Approximately 50 citizens were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Special Meeting held on March 23, 1998 at 7:08 p.m. being in the hands of each member, reading of same was dispensed. Mrs. Fleitell moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Sincaglia presented and read the following communications:

1. A thank-you note from Bob Bigley (buildings and grounds employee) for the flowers he received from the Board during his recent illness.
2. A thank-you note from the Sautter family (high school teacher) for the Board's expression of sympathy on the loss of his mother.
3. A thank-you note from Fosco Oliveti and family (bus driver) for the Board's expression of sympathy on the loss of his son.
4. A thank-you note from Ann Felice and family (Yantacaw teacher) for the Board's expression of sympathy on the loss of her father.
5. A thank-you note from the family of the late Edna May Kistler Haley (retired teacher) for the memorial resolution adopted by the Board.
6. A memorandum from Tom Barton, Nominating Committee Chair, Essex County School Boards Association, noting that all positions of officers are up for election this year and anyone interested in serving as an officer should fill out the form and return it by next Monday.
7. A letter from Joseph Pelaia, President, Essex County School Boards Association, stressing the importance of carefully appointing Legislative Chairpersons and Delegates to the New Jersey School Boards Association.
8. A Notice to Property Owners from Frank Russo for the construction of a 2 story modular home atop a 1 story foundation with a 2nd story rear deck having a 9 ft. rear yard setback on Wilson Street.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that this would have no impact on Board property.
9. A memorandum from Robert E. Boose, Executive Director, New Jersey School Boards Association, concerning the State Board of Education's proposed Continuing Education Code which, in its present form, in the School Board's opinion, is not in the best interests of the school districts.
10. A letter from the Nutley Elks regarding the 2nd Annual Drug Awareness Day which will take place on May 7.
11. A letter from Peter John Frazza advising the Board that he would like to establish an annual scholarship in memory of his grandfather, John P. Czechowicz, who passed away on March 28, 1998.

Mr. Sincaglia noted that this was forwarded to the high school as the scholarship will honor athletes, baseball players in even numbered years and softball players in odd numbered years.
12. A letter from the Academic Booster Club regarding the cancellation of the Science Fair scheduled for April 18, 1998.

13. A letter to Michele Fleitell from Ursula Brylinsky concerning electives offered at Franklin Middle School.
14. A letter from Mike and Cindy Palazzoto, Nutley History Fair Coordinators, Academic Booster Club, congratulating the students for their winning entries in the Nutley History Fair.
15. A notice from the Essex County School Boards Association regarding the Spring Dinner Meeting to be held on May 14, 1998 at which there will be a special performance by the Nutley High School Choralettes.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of March 31, 1998. (See attached report.)

Mrs. Russo moved that the Board accept the Report of the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Moscaritola. 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 March 31, 1998. (See attached report.)

Mrs. Fleitell 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:

"Third quarter report cards were distributed on Thursday, April 9

"School Board Election	April 21
"Schools Closed - Spring Recess	April 27-May 1
"Kindergarten screening	May 4-8
"Radcliffe P.T.O. Musicale	May 5 - 7:30 p.m.
"Yantacaw P.T.O. Musicale	May 6 - 7:30 p.m.
"Grade 4 ESPA	May 11-15
"Franklin P.T.O. Musicale	May 12 - 7:30 p.m.
"Spring Garden P.T.O. Musicale	May 13 - 7:00 p.m.

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"Nutley High School - Fine Arts Festival Music Festival	May 14	- 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.
"Academic Booster Club Awards - Radcliffe School	May 14	- 7:00 p.m.
"Franklin Drama Club Play	May 15, 16	- 8:00 p.m.
"National Honor Society Induction	May 19	
"District Writing Tests (Gr. 1-8)	May 19, 20	
"Washington P.T.O. Musicale	May 20	- 7:30 p.m.
"Lincoln P.T.O. Musicale	May 21	- 7:30 p.m.
"Memorial Day - All schools closed	May 25	

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of March 31, 1998."

Dr. Votto indicated that there is a resolution on tonight's agenda dealing with the end-of-the-year calendar which, if adopted by the Board, will note that the new last day of school will be June 19, with high school graduation still taking place on June 23.

FIRE DRILL REPORT:

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

March	3	Lincoln School	9:38 a.m.	1 min. 38 secs.
March	3	Spring Garden School	2:36 p.m.	1 min. 30 secs.
March	3	Yantacaw School	2:18 p.m.	1 min. 45 secs.
March	4	Lincoln School	2:18 p.m.	1 min. 27 secs.
March	5	Franklin School	10:30 a.m.	2 min. 3 secs.
March	10	Washington School	8:40 a.m.	1 min. 29 secs.
March	24	Franklin School	2:10 p.m.	1 min. 48 secs.
March	24	Radcliffe School	11:16 a.m.	1 min. 22 secs.
March	24	Yantacaw School	11:05 a.m.	1 min. 25 secs.
March	25	Nutley High School	1:57 p.m.	2 min. 2 secs.
March	25	Spring Garden School	10:36 a.m.	1 min. 30 secs.
March	26	Radcliffe School	2:36 p.m.	1 min. 35 secs.
March	27	Washington School	10:13 a.m.	1 min. 30 secs.
March	31	Nutley High School	9:33 a.m.	1 min. 58 secs.

CAFETERIA REPORT:

Mr. Pelaia presented the cafeteria report as of March 31, 1998 showing a 1997/1998 budget of \$611,977.00, contractual orders to date of \$432,110.91, leaving funds available of \$179,866.09.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Pelaia, Chairman of the Athletic Committee, read the following statement:

"Over the last three months, the Athletic Committee has met on numerous occasions, including meetings with a group of parents known as the Ice Hockey Boosters Club, with the purpose of investigating the feasibility of the formation of a high school varsity ice hockey program at Nutley High School. These meetings and discussions were both broad and detailed and will result in a proposal this evening for the establishment of such a team for the winter 1998/1999 season.

"Approval by the Board will also represent an added approach to the development of new sports programs to the Nutley roster. This partnership will mean that the Board will provide partial funding of the program and will run the program exactly like any of its other sports teams. Further, the Boosters Club will also fund a portion of the program as well as the parents of those students who make the team, on a 'pay for play' basis. Such a partnership is not new to school districts in New Jersey and has been successful. Over the next five years, it is contemplated that the Board's financial participation in the program will increase to full funding.

"The varsity ice hockey program will join the lacrosse, girls freshman softball and winter guard teams which were also proposed by the Athletic Committee just this year and passed by the full Board. The Committee also directed putting our varsity soccer program, for both boys and girls, on the Oval after an absence of approximately 15 years.

"At this time, I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their work on the ice hockey and other noted programs: Vincent Moscaritola, Al Restaino and Robert Schweikert. You have all given countless hours of your time to make these programs possible for the students of Nutley. I would also like to thank the full Board for its passage of the Committee's work product during this very busy year as well as the Administration's time and support of our work.

"Finally, I would like to mention the fine work by the newly founded Ice Hockey Booster Club, which is currently headed by Mrs. Ann Perrone. Both she and many of the members of her committee worked both hard and closely with the Committee to make an ice hockey program possible in our community."

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Resolutions Only):

None

CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR ACCOUNT FUND STATUS:

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

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BE IT RESOLVED, That, pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.13(e), the Nutley Board of Education certifies that as of March 31, 1998, 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 Mrs. Fleitell. 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 \$3,172,660.56 as per the attached Schedule A which have been audited by the Business Office.

REQUESTS FOR USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Mr. Pelaia presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Fleitell. 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 - Vice-Principal:

Mr. Edward Fraser

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 Mr. Edward Fraser, Franklin School vice-principal, effective July 1, 1998.

RETIREMENT - Teacher:

Mrs. Ann Felice

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. Ann Felice, teacher, effective July 1, 1998.

**EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE -
Teacher:**

Mrs. Kelly Wisneski

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 Mrs. Kelly Wisneski be granted an extension of her childrearing leave of absence for the 1998/1999 school year with the provision that she notify the Superintendent of Schools of further teacher intentions no later than April 1, 1999.

APPOINTMENT - Secretary:

Mrs. Josephine Mleziva

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education appoints Mrs. Josephine Mleziva as a ten-month secretary (p/t .5), effective June 1, 1998 at the annual salary of \$9,993 (1-7), which is in accordance with the 1997/1998 secretarial salary guide.

APPOINTMENTS - Teacher Substitutes:

Mrs. Fleitell 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 teacher substitutes listed on the attached Schedule C be approved for the 1997/1998 school year.

APPOINTMENTS - Substitutes:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following substitutes be approved for the 1997/1998 school year:

School Aide

Ruth Saunders

Bus Aide

Joanne Witczak

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Custodial

John Kaplonski

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

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

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

Curriculum Development Committee MeetingsArt K-12 - March 7, 1998

Robyn Burns	\$123.88
Anne Laudadio	123.88
Carl Ohlson	161.08
Mary A. Pagana	<u>123.88</u>
Total	\$532.72

Mathematics K-8 - March 7, 1998

Rita Alfaro	\$ 123.88
Ann Bevere	123.88
LoriAnn Cassie	123.88
Denise Cleary	123.88
Rosemary Clerico	123.88
Carmine D'Aloia	165.80
Linda Gilroy	123.88
Scott Keena	123.88
Laura-anne MacMillan	123.88
Eileen Mattone	123.88
Beverly Masullo	123.88
Jennifer Neri	123.88
Gail Reilly	123.88
Bernadette Santoriello	123.88
Kathleen C. Serafino	165.80
Nancy Szura	<u>123.88</u>
Total	\$2,065.92

Science K-8 - February 7, 1998

Pamela Batchelder-Mitchell	\$ 123.88
Donald Baumann	123.88
John Calicchio	165.80
Elizabeth Foote	123.88
Carol Gurney	123.88
Geraldine Intiso	123.88

Science K-8 - February 7, 1998 (contd.)

Patricia Isabella	\$ 123.88
Tracy McCormick	123.88
Jeanne Neilley	123.88
Rebecca Olivo	123.88
Becky Pandolfi	123.88
Carol Perrone	123.88
Sally Ann Marino Ryder	123.88
Deborah Schop	<u>123.88</u>

Total	\$1,776.24
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K-12 Music Education - March 7, 1998

Carol Bender	\$123.88
Kathleen Bimbi	123.88
Peter D'Angelo	123.88
Dennis McPartland	123.88
Jonathan Schubert	123.88
John Vitkovsky	<u>161.08</u>

Total	\$780.48
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Critical Thinking - March 7, 1998

Rachel Daly	\$123.88
Jill Freedman	123.88
Patricia Keating	123.88
Maureen Tracy	123.88
Niki Vlasakakis	123.88
Heather Vonroth	123.88
Louise Walk	<u>123.88</u>

Total	\$867.16
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P.A.T. (Primary Academic Talent - March 24, 1998

Christine Crisson	\$ 46.46
Suzanne Hagert	46.46
Rebecca Olivo	46.46
Niki Vlasakakis	46.46
Carol Von Achen	<u>46.46</u>

Total	\$232.30
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Geometer's Sketchpad Workshop - March 7, 1998

Elinor Alboum	\$ 123.88
Mario Cocchiola	165.80
Paula Cofone	123.88
Susan Gesumaria	123.88
Richard Koegel	123.88
Evelyn McMullen	123.88

Geometer's Sketchpad Workshop - March 7, 1998 (contd.)

Mary Peele	\$ 123.88
Carol Rizzo	123.88
Arlene Slott	123.88
Vincent Turturiello	123.88
Rosemary Vivinetto	123.88
James Vivinetto	<u>165.80</u>

Total	\$1,570.40
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Central Detention Coverage - March, 1998High School

Carol Shepherd	\$285.43
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Franklin School

Patrick Keating	151.11
Alisa Rossi	<u>218.27</u>

Total	\$654.81
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Saturday Morning Suspensions - March, 1998High School

AnneMarie Kowalski	\$140.34
Carol Shepherd	70.17
John DeKennip	<u>70.17</u>

Total	\$280.68
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SAT Review Classes - February 26, March 3, 5, 10, 12, 19, 24 and 26, 1998

Diane LaPierre	\$ 743.28
John Suffren	<u>743.28</u>

Total	\$1,486.56
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Special Review Assessment (SRA) - January 27, 28, February 3, 4, 11, 24, 25 and March 3, 1998

Marilyn Testa	\$495.52
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Winter In-Service Course - Exploring the Macintosh Computer, The Internet, Current Software and Peripherals - February 3 through March 12, 1998

Rosemary Clerico	\$ 805.40
Lorraine Restel	<u>402.70</u>

Total	\$1,208.10
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Spring In-Service Course - Hands-On Activities in
Elementary Physical Science - March 4, 11, 18, 25
and April 1, 1998

Carol Gurney	\$402.70
Bernice Paschal	<u>402.70</u>

Total	\$805.40
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Intramurals - March 3 - March 31, 1998

LoriAnn Cassie	\$ 96.04
Kenneth Ferriol	144.06
Thomas Grant	168.07
Daniel Kimberley	216.09
Rosann Rizzuto	72.03
Walter Sautter	96.04
Janice Schoem	144.06 (2/5-3/26/98)
Heather Vonroth	288.12
Diane Williams	<u>432.18</u>

Total	\$1,656.69
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LONGEVITY PAY:

Mr. Restaino 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:

Richard Feacher	\$138	Eff. May 1, 1998 (12 years)
Katherine Franks	580	Eff. May 1, 1998 (20 years)
Miriam Kirsten	860	Eff. May 1, 1998 (25 years)
Joseph Luzzi	97	Eff. May 1, 1998 (10 years)

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT:

Mr. Restaino 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, in accordance with existing employment agreements, the following personnel receive reimbursement for tuition expenses:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Gloria Dorfman	\$ 420
Hannah Hungler	420
Dennis McPartland	420
Kathleen C. Serafino	<u>450</u>
Total	\$1,710

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SPECIAL CLASS PLACEMENT - Educationally Disabled Student:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education authorizes the attendance of a student at Special Education classes for the 1997/1998 school year as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Calais School Whippany, NJ	1	ED	4/6/98	\$5,904.50

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT:

Mr. Schweikert presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Restaino. 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 Glen Ridge Board of Education to provide transportation for two Special Education students from Glen Ridge to the Virginia Sawtelle Learning Center, Montclair, NJ on Nutley bus route #5, effective March 23, 1998 through June 30, 1998 at a cost to the Glen Ridge Board of Education of \$30 per day (\$15 one way). (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

SUMMER SCHOOL APPROVAL:

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

WHEREAS, the State Department of Education requires an approval by the Board of Education for summer sessions, and

WHEREAS, the summer session operated by the Nutley Board of Education meets the requirements for state approval,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Superintendent of Schools make application to the County Superintendent of Schools with a request for approval from the State Department of Education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION WEEK:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nutley Board of Education approves recognition of the week of May 10, 1998 as Special Education Week.

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 1997/1998 General Fund budget be confirmed as follows:

<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	
Account 11-130-100-101	\$16,200	Account 11-150-100-320	\$ 1,000
Account 11-999-100-566	<u>10,000</u>	Account 11-204-100-101	400
		Account 11-230-100-101	3,000
	\$26,200	Account 11-999-100-562	10,000
		Account 11-999-213-100	1,000
		Account 11-999-216-320	1,500
		Account 11-999-218-600	6,000
		Account 11-999-230-100	800
		Account 11-999-230-340	1,500
		Account 11-999-290-500	<u>1,000</u>
			\$26,200

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS:

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 Nutley Board of Education approves that the last day of school for the 1997/1998 school year be changed from Tuesday, June 23 to Friday, June 19, 1998. High School graduation will be conducted on Tuesday, June 23, 1998.

NON-RENEWAL OF TEACHING CONTRACTS:

Mrs. Fleitell 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 contracts of the following non-tenured teachers not be renewed for the 1998/1999 school year:

Barbagallo, Theresa	
Christadore, Michael	
Christy, Danielle	(p/t .5)
Cocco, Donna	(p/t .5)
Curry, Laura	
Dorfman, Gloria	
Errante, Nicole	
Ferriol, Kenneth	
Freedman, Jill	
Gallico, Carmelo	(p/t 2/3)
Gesumaria, Susan	
Grant, Thomas	
Griwert, Jolinda	(p/t .5)
Hrubash, Theresa	
Hungler, Hannah	
Isabella, Patricia	
Keating, Patricia	
Koribanick, Kathryn	(p/t .5)
McCormick, Tracy	
McPartland, Dennis	
Neri, Jennifer	
Papaleo, Maria	
Reilly, Virginia	
Roberts-Palasits, Moira	
Roque, Jhony	
Rossi, Lisa	
Rucinski, Peggy	
Santoriello, Rosa	
Santosuosso, Lisa	
Schubert, Jonathan	
Siculietano, Phillip	
Smyth, Kevin	
Stepansky, Deane	(p/t .6)
Szura, Jill	
Tracy, Maureen	
Viteritto, Michael	
Vonroth, Heather	(p/t .5)
Walk, Louise	
Ziobro, Ellen	

NON-RENEWAL OF INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES:

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 contracts of the following instructional aides not be renewed for the 1998/1999 school year:

Callaghan, Maureen (5/6)
 Ferraro, Donna
 Imperiale, Lynn
 Lis, Cathie
 Luzzi, Donna

Paolino, Audrey
 Ponzoni, Janet
 Pucci, Annette
 Tesei, Leslie
 Yanuzzelli, Gloria

APPROVAL FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION - Carl D. Perkins
 Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act - FY 99:

Mr. Pelaia 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 submission of application for Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act for FY 99 in the amount of \$18,984.

Mr. Sincaglia explained that Mrs. Kehayes, Business Department Head, is involved in this, adding that for the last several years our district and Wallington, as a consortium, have applied for these funds together. He noted that approximately \$14,000 is Nutley's share next year and will be used for purchasing computers, large televisions, training and for Internet access.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mr. Joseph DelGrande, 46 Cedar Street, questioned why school will begin before Labor Day this year. Dr. Votto replied that, based on the configuration devised, the closing of school would have been June 28 without snow closings and the administration did not wish to get anywhere near July 1.

Mr. Rusignuolo commented that he had heard on television that this year is the earliest Memorial Day and latest Labor Day in 13 years and there was an unusually large number of weeks between the two holidays. He added that the Board was sorry for any inconvenience.

Mr. DelGrande asked why this information had not been communicated to the schools. Dr. Votto replied that it has been communicated through the PTOs and Board representatives. Mr. Rusignuolo added that one newspaper also reported it.

Mrs. Fleitell recommended that the Board look to three-year calendars from here on in so we don't have this kind of problem again. Dr. Votto remarked that we have not established a precedent of not starting school before Labor Day. Mr. DelGrande indicated that a three-year calendar would be a great idea.

Mr. Rich O'Connor, 363 Chestnut Street, asked for an explanation of the non-renewal of teaching contracts. Dr. Votto responded that this is a procedural matter according to state mandate and law, adding that most of these teachers would be reappointed at the June Board meeting.

Dr. Steven Greco, 248 Vreeland Avenue, commended the Athletic Committee for approving lacrosse, girls freshman softball and ice hockey and suggested that a full-time athletic director be hired since the volume of work will increase with the advent of the new sports. He noted that many public schools have a full-time athletic director. Dr. Greco asked why girls freshman softball had not been approved before this time, adding that when asking questions about this previously, the answer was always "when the numbers dictate." Dr. Votto replied that it was determined that the numbers were sufficient this year, adding that the district will also be offering lacrosse and ice hockey this year.

Dr. Greco noted that his daughter wanted to play girls freshman softball two years ago when it was not available and at that time he felt it was discriminatory with regard to Title IX, adding that he feels that is the reason the Board is approving it now. Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that the Board is happy to be able to add these sports now.

Mrs. Gail Kline, 28 North Spring Garden Avenue, indicated that she has been following the grading issue since 1994. She noted that when the Priorities Committee agreed to review K-3 grading practices Dr. Votto said that these priorities do have some effect and you can't dilute them, adding that he felt Grades 4-12 should be reviewed in the future, "down the road." Mrs. Kline asked when "down the road" is. Dr. Votto explained that the district has a priorities process, we have a committee and they have the option of recommending that in August.

Mrs. Ann Perrone, 48 South Spring Garden Avenue, presented a certificate of appreciation to the Board from the Ice Hockey Booster Group for all the hard work and dedication in establishing an ice hockey program in the 1998/99 school year. Mr. Rusignuolo thanked the ice hockey boosters for their hard work.

Mrs. Mary Dudasik, 29 Daily Street, noted that there is an enormous amount of support to show numbers rather than letter grades on the high school transcript and we are being compared unfavorably because of it.

Mrs. Barbara Bochese, 50 Cedar Street, expressed her confusion with the Board's processes, specifically related to the grading system, noting that in 1994 citizens were asked to express their concerns, opinions and questions to the Priorities Committee and she had written a letter and asked a number of questions. Mrs. Bochese continued by noting that now the Board attorney says it has to be solely done by the Superintendent's recommendation. She added that she had been hopeful that the process would have worked from beginning to end.

Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that the process works and the Board and Superintendent do talk about these things, adding that the Superintendent's Advisory Committee plays a role in this and the final priorities make it to the Board for approval.

Mr. Schweikert noted that he had served on the Priorities Committee during that time and the following year, after the K-3 grading issue was studied, the high school transcript was to be looked at but he was no longer on the Priorities Committee. He indicated that the K-3 issue was the initial thrust.

Mrs. Russo stated that she wanted to clarify that the evaluations, update and improvement of our transcript went directly from the Priorities Committee to (professional staff) committee in 1996. Dr. Votto noted that, very clearly, the charge of the committee was to look at the transcript and they came up with a beautiful rendition, much more clearly depicting various information.

Mrs. Russo said that the committee did an excellent job but Board members have a responsibility to have an opinion. She noted that this is simply a cover sheet for the permanent record which goes to colleges, adding that she had asked for a new profile to be attached and has not received it yet. Mrs. Russo stressed that this went through all the proper channels and she is simply asking if the numbers can go on; she is not asking for a grading change.

Mrs. Russo then referred to Board Policy #513, Grading, and read the definition of grading. She also made reference to Board Policy #514, Reporting Pupil Progress and #518, Class Rank. She noted that we are already using numerics and many variables can come up by using different numbers, adding that this is simply a format change. Mrs. Russo also noted that she has spoken with teachers and administrators and in every single grade book there is a numerical grade which is sent down for the report cards to be made up. She further said that she is asking for the numerical portion on the transcript as was requested in 1994 by citizens and Board members and is wondering why this must be held up. She stated that this will give our students an equal or better footing in getting into college.

Mr. Rusignuolo replied that this is not simply a change in format; it is a change in grading procedure. Mr. Rusignuolo then read the following fax which he had received from Cherie L. Maxwell, Board attorney:

"This letter responds to your inquiry concerning the Board's grading policies and the procedures required to implement a change in same.

"Board policy 513 states in relevant part: 'The Superintendent shall develop procedures for grading and inform the Board of any changes to the grading system.' Thus, the Board has, through its policy, delegated complete authority with respect to establishing and implementing a grading system consistent with the educational goals of the district to the Superintendent of Schools. Further, authority to change the grading system also lies with the Superintendent. The Superintendent need only inform the Board of any changes to the grading system.

"There is no provision in the current policy for the Board to implement a change in the grading system or procedures without the Superintendent's approval. If the Board wishes to vary from the established procedures for changing the grading system, it will be necessary to revise Policy 513 to modify the current level of discretion held by the Superintendent. In the absence of a policy change, Board action changing the grading system or procedures without the Superintendent's support could be challenged as a violation of the Board's own policies, and thus, arbitrary and capricious.

"In sum, a change in the grading system currently requires the support of the Superintendent or a change in Board policy allowing the Board to implement a change without the Superintendent's involvement.

"I trust this responds to your inquiry. Please do not hesitate to call with any questions."

Mrs. Russo stated that she is reiterating that she is not asking for a change in the grading procedure. Dr. Votto said that the attorney said it would be a change in policy. Mrs. Russo said that would be correct if one perceives that Policy #513 would deal with changing the transcript but she does not. She felt it would go to committee with the recommendation of the Superintendent. Mrs. Russo further noted that she felt that having this issue ongoing for four years is too long and it must come to a vote now.

Mr. DelGrande asked, if it is the Board attorney's decision that it is up to the Superintendent, why does Dr. Votto oppose adding the numerical grade. Dr. Votto replied that it is not a question of his objection; we are talking about process here with a role for the high school principal and the process can not be abridged. He noted that it is not for the Board to approve what we are doing academically, indicating that no high school principal, administrator, teacher or any group has said this is what is appropriate, and this goes back well before 1994. He noted that the process is the Superintendent and the professional staff.

Mr. DelGrande asked if this had ever been brought to the professional staff, adding that he is hearing from the parents and this is a strong issue in the community. Dr. Votto noted that the Board has always deferred to the professionals and their recommendations. He added that he feels strongly that this is a change in grading procedure, adding that if the high school community comes forward with a report, the Board has the option to accept or reject it. He noted that this does not preclude a study coming from the professionals.

Mr. Rusignuolo asked Dr. Votto to say a few words as to how the Superintendent's Advisory Committee is a part of the process. Dr. Votto explained that we have a vehicle to deal with the teachers' academic concerns throughout the course of the school year and no high school staff member has indicated their desire to have numerics affixed to the high school transcript, asking why the Board would be averse to hearing this, adding that he is not making a value judgment.

Mr. Pelaia asked if, during New Business, the Board could request the Superintendent to deal with this issue on an expedited basis and try to resolve it before June 30. He remarked that one downside (and he stated he is not averse to adding numerical grades) would deal with whether an F was a 68 or 42, asking if we would want to carve out Fs and not give a numerical grade if it is a 42. He noted that there are questions which have to be answered. Mr. Pelaia also indicated that he feels that by the end of June he will be prepared to vote but wishes to see a report prior to that.

Mrs. Tracy Scheckel, 22 Newman Avenue, asked when the request was made for the Board attorney's opinion, to which Dr. Votto replied that it was recently. Mrs. Scheckel remarked that, regarding the high school transcript, she had met with Mr. Jacone a few years ago prior to his retirement and he felt that putting a numerical grade on the transcript would be a good idea. She noted that a compromise would be to put the numerical range next to the letter grade on the transcript.

Mr. Pelaia indicated that he agreed with Mrs. Russo and would have hoped that it would have been studied in the past and feels it should be studied now on an expedited basis.

Mrs. Tracy Sorrentino, 528 Prospect Street, expressed her dismay that the administration feels the transcript has to be reviewed by the teachers when it is the parents who are concerned and whose desires should be taken into account. Mrs. Russo remarked that our teachers are concerned, adding that the numbers are already in their books.

Mrs. Kline expressed her feeling that the teachers are very concerned, suggesting that they be polled in private where they do not have to identify themselves.

Mrs. Ursula Brylinsky, 410 Chestnut Street, stated that the attorney says the grading policy is determined by the Superintendent, asking if the new Superintendent feels that numeric grades should be required on the transcript, would it go from there. Dr. Votto replied in the affirmative, if the Board approves. Mr. Rusignuolo explained that if the recommendation comes from the Superintendent, the Board can vote. He added that he feels it is something the Board members should keep in mind as they look for a new Superintendent.

Mrs. Russo indicated that she had called the School Boards and their first comment was that this is an area where they would like to see the recommendation come from the Superintendent and administration. She noted that she was also told that as a Board member she was well within her rights to have made the motion she did at the last meeting. Mrs. Russo further stated that there are nine Board members here with independent views and we have heard a lot of this information over the last three years. She noted that there are problems in any grading system but think of the self esteem for a child who goes from an 88 to a 92.

Mrs. Bochesse questioned if this Board is following Roberts Rules of Order. Mr. Sincaglia replied that we do follow them when they do not contravene Board policies or the law. He said he feels the Board should vote on Mrs. Russo's motion from last month. Mr. Rusignuolo stated that we have a legal opinion which affirms his actions regarding Mrs. Russo's motion at the last meeting.

In response to a request from Mr. Rusignuolo, Mr. Sincaglia reviewed Policy #513 which is the grading policy of the school district.

Mrs. Bochesse asked if Mr. Sincaglia could review Mrs. Russo's motion from the last Board meeting. Mr. Sincaglia indicated that Mr. Rusignuolo, Dr. Votto and he feel that Mrs. Russo's suggestion deals with procedures, ergo, Policy #513 which talks about procedure

and says this would not be permitted. He further noted that the Board attorney agrees with this and says if you want to change it, you must change the policy. He also noted that Mrs. Russo disagrees, feeling that this is a policy which does not have a basis in Title 18A or the Administrative Code. Mr. Sincaglia also stated that it is a Board policy so changes can be made by the Board but they must live by the policy until it is changed.

Mr. Rusignuolo asked how the School Board's opinion affects our policy. Mr. Sincaglia replied that local policies vary but Mrs. Russo's motion was tabled until this meeting and when we reach Old Business the motion will be up for reconsideration.

Mr. John Pantera, 4 Ridge Road, expressed his desire for a full-day kindergarten and asked if this was under consideration. Dr. Votto replied that it was not at this juncture, adding that the Board is aware of the economics of the situation. He noted that it is a very costly program and this would have to be raised in a priorities situation. He further noted that it is pretty much a fiscal situation rather than an academic one since facilities, teaching staff and cost factors are the mitigating factors against it. Dr. Votto also remarked that costs could be in the range of \$300,000 and the Board must consider that since we have been very fiscally sound. He suggested that Mr. Pantera obtain information on the extended day program.

Mrs. Cynthia Yavorski, 94 Hay Avenue, commented that the extended day program was quite a lot of money out of the pockets of parents and full-day kindergarten would be a wonderful thing.

Mrs. Yavorski also expressed her opposition to the current grading system, stating that the district should have something which is more uniform with what is going on in the colleges, adding that the focus has to be on what is best for our children.

Mrs. Scheckel asked if it is a procedural issue to move something from one place to another on the transcript. Dr. Votto replied that it is mechanical.

Mr. Steve Danieli, 50 Cedar Street, reiterated that Mr. Pelaia had expressed his concern about getting this done in a short time, possibly before the end of June. He stated that perhaps a motion could be made to have the Board vote on having Dr. Votto review the situation on a definite timetable.

Mr. Moscaritola requested that the audience allow the Board to get to Old Business.

Dr. Greco made remarks concerning the budget pamphlet which was sent to all residents of Nutley. He commended the Board members and Mr. Sincaglia on the budget that was formulated, adding that people move to Nutley and stay here mostly because of the educational system. He indicated that taxpayers want to know the money is spent efficiently and that our children receive the best of educations. He expressed his feeling that administrative salaries are too high and he feels he must vote "no" on the budget. Dr. Greco further remarked that statistics can be made to look different in different situations and it appears that the district is very efficient in giving a mediocre high school education.

Mrs. Dudasik expressed her concerns regarding perceived residency problems whereby a large number of students was illegally going to school in Nutley. Mr. Moscaritola, Chairman of the Ad Hoc Residency Committee, explained that a full report would be forthcoming from the Committee before the end of the school year. He alluded to rumors of students coming in to the district by bus but stated that this is untrue. He made note of the number of Special Education students transported by the district, both to Nutley schools as well as out-of-district schools. He also noted that school busses come into town under the auspices of the Essex County Educational Services Commission and other districts. He explained that these busses contain Special Education students attending schools in Nutley and for whom we receive tuition. Mr. Moscaritola commented that he hopes the recommendations from the Committee will benefit the district.

Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that the Board encourages any citizen with information about possible illegal students to notify the administration. Mr. Sincaglia noted that the administration checks anonymous tips. Mr. Moscaritola remarked that it is felt communications can be enhanced to inform the public. Mr. Rusignuolo commented that it is possible there is a problem but he personally does not feel it is a serious one.

Mr. Louis Perrone, 48 South Spring Garden Avenue, asked if someone who pays taxes in Nutley but does not live in town is permitted to send his/her children to school in Nutley. Several Board members and administrators replied in the negative.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Williams remarked that he thinks Mr. Pelaia came up with a good suggestion regarding review of the high school transcript and suggested that the Board come up with a compromise charge to the Superintendent to investigate and report back to the Board before school closes on the incorporation of the numeric value of the letter grade given to the student on the transcript. He further noted that he would like to see the impact of going through this exercise of converting alpha to numeric and possibilities of doing this retroactively or do we have to start with the incoming freshman class. He also noted that he would like the administration and high school staff to be involved. Mr. Williams then asked if it was possible for this to be done in this time frame, to which Dr. Votto replied in the affirmative.

Mr. Pelaia stated that he would like to know if the Superintendent does not see a need for such a motion or doubts the legality of it. Dr. Votto indicated that he feels it is feasible.

Mrs. Fleitell raised the issues of numerics in calculating class rank, whether the profile which goes with the transcript is explanatory. She noted that the Board was given a copy of that several months back. She stated that this is an important issue and the Board must come to closure. Mrs. Fleitell further indicated that this must be studied care-

fully, determining what difference this will make in students' grade point average and if we will still translate the same plugs to a 4-3-2-1 system. She noted that the Board must come to an agreement on what it is talking about and decide what would be done with students in previous years.

Mrs. Fleitell commented that there will be a new Superintendent brought on and she intends, in her questions to the candidates, to bring up the grading issue. She said that she feels this would be best diverted for resolution by the new Superintendent but if her fellow Board members would like to give that charge to Dr. Votto and he feels he can tackle it, all well and good. Mrs. Fleitell also noted that she wouldn't think this could be done by the end of June if studying all the ramifications.

Mr. Moscaritola noted that a definite time frame is needed with no additional costs.

Mrs. Russo stated that the Board is talking about doing something else but the item under Old Business is her motion. She remarked that she would have assumed that Mr. Rusignuolo would have contacted her when he received his correspondence from the Board attorney regarding this matter. She noted that she did contact School Boards and was told that she was perfectly within her rights in making that motion.

Mrs. Russo stated that our Class Rank policy was revised on November 12, 1980 and is now being revised. She also indicated that she felt the policy should be changed because she believes that what is said in our policy is not being done in our district. Dr. Votto noted that we are not going to be looking at class rank in this time frame; the question which would be addressed is whether numerics should be on the transcript with or without the alpha grades and that is all that can be done.

Mrs. Russo stated that this policy will come to a vote for revision but she had offered a simple motion to replace the alpha grades with numeric and this was seconded but Mr. Moscaritola tabled it with the provision that it come back for a vote at this meeting. She noted that she would like to find out if this will be done.

Mr. Rusignuolo indicated that he still considers this to be out of order, and this was supported by the opinion of the Board attorney. Mrs. Russo remarked that the legal question was phrased in the administration's terminology and she felt the attorney should have received her wording of the motion.

Mrs. Russo made a motion to appeal Mr. Rusignuolo's ruling that her original motion was out of order, seconded by Mr. Schweikert.

Mr. Sincaglia explained that Mr. Rusignuolo had stated his opinion that Mrs. Russo's motion violated Board policy and ruled it out of order but Mrs. Russo appealed this decision. He noted that a vote to sustain the chair would mean that a Board member agrees with the position taken by the Board attorney and President and this has nothing to do with the merits of numerical grades on the high school transcript. He commented that the issue is process but if the appeal is successful, we will be talking about the substance.

On a roll call vote the decision of the chair was sustained with Mr. Moscaritola, Mr. Patterson, Mr. Pelaia, Mr. Williams and Mr. Rusignuolo voting aye and Mrs. Fleitell, Mr. Restaino, Mrs. Russo and Mr. Schweikert voting nay.

Mr. Williams then moved that the Superintendent investigate the merits of including numeric grades on the high school transcript and report back to the Board before the June meeting, seconded by Mr. Pelaia.

Mrs. Russo then made a motion to amend Mr. William's motion to specify a report back to the Board from the Superintendent within a month's time, seconded by Mr. Schweikert.

Mr. Rusignuolo commented that he did not feel we should change the mid-June requirement since this is additional work for the Superintendent.

Mr. Pelaia noted that he did not feel another 20 days would make or break this issue since if we do it within the time frame and the Board accepts it, we would be ready in the fall. He questioned what effect there would be if we give the Superintendent another couple of weeks.

Mrs. Russo indicated that she could agree to adding numerics with the alpha, saying that the Board should be accountable to the community. Mr. Pelaia noted that he had seconded the motion that the Superintendent take action.

Mr. Patterson questioned if the Board could agree on a date even though it did not have a new schedule of meetings.

The motion to amend was defeated by an 8-1 vote with Mrs. Russo voting in the affirmative.

Mr. Williams moved that the Superintendent report back to the Board by June 22, subject to any change made at the reorganization meeting, seconded by Mr. Moscaritola. All were in favor of this change except for Mrs. Russo.

Mr. Schweikert asked who would be on the committee. Dr. Votto responded that the high school principal would chair this committee and his direction would be paramount. There would also be representatives from every department in the high school, supervisors, high school administration and the Assistant Superintendent would sit in. Mrs. Russo remarked that she would like to sit in on the committee. Dr. Votto agreed that Board members could sit in at the discretion of the chair.

Mr. Patterson noted that everything goes out of existence on May 4 with the reorganization meeting, indicating that he would also like to be on the committee. Mr. Rusignuolo stated that the new Board President could designate Board members to be on the committee at the reorganization meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Restaino moved that the Board adopt a varsity ice hockey program for the 1998-99 school year and appropriate \$8,500 contingent upon the Ice Hockey Booster Club raising \$23,500, seconded by Mr. Schweikert. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Mr. Patterson thanked Mr. Schweikert for his three years of service, adding that he had enjoyed working with him.

Mrs. Russo remarked that she felt public thanks should be extended to teacher Thomas McCrohan and the teachers who assisted him, thanks to student Peter DeVecchio, and to Mr. Sincaglia and Mrs. Kehayes. She noted that all these people were involved in making up the pamphlets which concerned the Superintendent search.

Mrs. Russo noted that she agreed with Mr. Patterson's remarks regarding Mr. Schweikert.

Mr. Schweikert noted that as he had for last year's Board retirement dinner, he wanted to make sure that everyone on the Board is invited, regardless of tomorrow's election outcome, to which Mr. Sincaglia replied that this would be done.

Mrs. Russo asked what would be done regarding the plans for the plaques to honor prior Board members. Mr. Schweikert indicated that this would give recognition to past, present and future Board members for their dedicated service.

Mr. Schweikert moved that the Board approve the purchase of plaques listing names and years of service of all prior Board members, seconded by Mr. Pelaia and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Schweikert thanked all the Board members for making his three years enjoyable most of the time. He wished Dr. Votto the best of luck and health in his well-deserved, but too soon, retirement. He also wished Mrs. Fleitell and Mr. Patterson the best of luck tomorrow, adding that it has been a pleasure running and serving with them for the past three years. Mr. Schweikert further noted that it has been a tremendous growing experience as well as a learning experience since he was the first 24, 25, 26 and 27 year old to serve on the Board.

Mr. Schweikert also indicated that certain barriers had to be passed to gain acceptance of his peers, the administration and community as a whole and he feels he has done that. He also said that he feels he represented the town well and had tried to stick to his guns. He also wished some decisions had come out differently but wished the Board the best of luck. He also thinks the Board can move more quickly.

Mr. Schweikert further wanted everyone to be aware of the countless hours spent by everyone around this table for little reward at times. He indicated it is a great honor when a mother comes up to you and says she hopes her son turns out like you. He thanked everyone for making these three years enjoyable and hoped everyone would support the budget tomorrow.

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Rusignuolo asked Mr. Sincaglia to read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education will be discussing matters exempt from public discussion pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12,

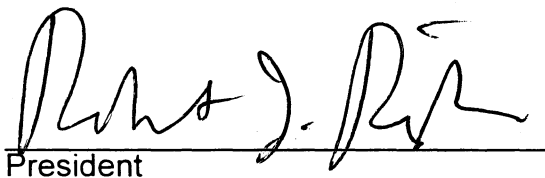
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adjourn to closed executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the results of the discussions will be made public by inclusion on the agenda of a subsequent meeting of the Board of Education or when the reasons for discussing such matters in closed session no longer exist.

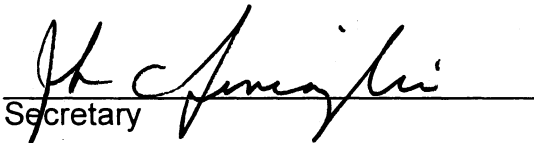
The resolution was moved by Mr. Pelaia, seconded by Mrs. Russo and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.



President



Secretary



Date

April 20, 1998