

Board of Education
Nutley, New Jersey

November 22, 1999

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of the Township of Nutley, New Jersey was held in the Radcliffe School Multi-Purpose Room, 379 Bloomfield Avenue, on Monday, November 22, 1999 at 8:07 p.m. with Mr. Vincent A. Moscaritola, President, presiding.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETING:

Mr. Moscaritola 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 May 3, 1999. Said Notice was:

1. Posted at the entrance of the Board Office.
2. Mailed to The Nutley Sun, the Star Ledger, the North Jersey Herald & News, and the Nutley Journal.
3. Mailed to the Nutley Township Clerk.

"Formal action will be taken."

FLAG SALUTE:

The meeting was opened with Mrs. Roncaglio 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: Dr. Philip T. Casale, Mrs. Michele Fleitell, Mr. Steven P. Picciano, Mr. Alfred R. Restaino, Jr., Mrs. Agnes Roncaglio and Mrs. Maria Russo. Absent: Mr. John Cafone and Mr. Joseph C. Pelaia. Approximately 60 citizens were present.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS:

Dr. Serafino remarked that two students will receive music awards for membership in the 1999 All State Chorus. She then introduced Mr. John Vitkovsky, music teacher coordinator, and Mr. Mario Cocchiola, principal of the high school.

Mr. Cocchiola thanked the Board of Education and Dr. Serafino for taking time to honor outstanding students, adding that it is always a pleasure to come here and honor outstanding young people and noting that "all state" in anything is a great honor. Mr. Cocchiola congratulated the students and parents. He then introduced Mr. Vitkovsky.

Mr. Vitkovsky explained the procedure for selecting members to all state groups, noting that approximately 300 students were chosen for all state chorus. He indicated that they performed at the NJEA convention in Atlantic City and at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Mr. Vitkovsky thanked the parents for their presence here this evening and also thanked the Board of Education, Dr. Serafino, Mr. Walker and Mr. Cocchiola for their sponsorship and support of the all state chorus students.

Mr. Vitkovsky then introduced Mrs. Kathleen Bimbi, Director of the Choralettes, who assisted in the presentation of awards to the following students who had been chosen for membership in the 1999 All State Chorus:

Vanessa Arnold	Alto (3 rd year - 11 th grade)
Jean Rohe	1 st Soprano (2 nd year - 10 th grade)

RECESS MEETING:

Mr. Moscaritola called for a recess at 8:14 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 8:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 25, 1999 at 8:02 p.m. being in the hands of each member, reading of same was dispensed. Dr. Casale moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mrs. Russo and unanimously approved by the Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Sincaglia presented and read the following communications:

1. A thank-you note from Pat Fischer (elementary teacher) and family for the Board's expression of condolence upon the death of her father.
2. A thank-you note from Susan Neri (elementary teacher) and the Quigley family for the Board's expression of condolence upon the death of her father.
3. A notice from the Essex County School Boards Association of an Essex and Passaic County School Boards Association Joint Legal Issues Workshop for Board Members to be held on December 2, 1999.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Mr. Sincaglia presented the Report of the Secretary as of October 31, 1999. (See attached report.)

Mrs. Russo moved that the Board accept the Report of the Secretary, seconded by Mrs. Fleitell. 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, 1999. (See attached report.)

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Dr. Serafino presented and read the following report:

"Informational Items:

"Elementary parent-teacher conferences were conducted on Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18"

Dr. Serafino remarked that parents and principals were pleased with how everything went and the evening conferences received a positive response from parents.

"Report cards for the first marking period were distributed on Friday, November 19

"The Nutley High School Fall Sports Awards Program will be conducted on Tuesday, November 23, at 7:30 p.m.

"On Wednesday, November 24, schools will be in session for a half-day before Thanksgiving Recess. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29

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

"Third Half Club Fall Sports Awards Dinner - December 9, at 7:00 p.m.

"Yantacaw Holiday Musicale - December 14, at 7:00 p.m.

"Washington Holiday Musicale - December 15, at 2:00 p.m.

"Nutley High School Yuletide Observance - December 16, at 7:30 p.m.

"Attached is the student enrollment chart as of October 29, 1999"

Dr. Serafino wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

FIRE DRILL REPORT:

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

Oct. 1	Lincoln School	2:41 p.m.	1 min. 30 secs.
Oct. 1	Spring Garden School	8:48 a.m.	1 min. 25 secs.
Oct. 1	Yantacaw School	2:47 p.m.	1 min. 35 secs.
Oct. 4	Radcliffe School	2:02 p.m.	1 min. 46 secs.
Oct. 5	Spring Garden School	10:08 a.m.	1 min. 37 secs.
Oct. 5	Washington School	11:03 a.m.	1 min. 33 secs.
Oct. 7	Nutley High School	2:01 p.m.	1 min. 50 secs.
Oct. 7	Radcliffe School	8:41 a.m.	1 min. 26 secs.
Oct. 8	Yantacaw School	2:10 p.m.	1 min. 30 secs.
Oct. 12	Franklin School	1:25 p.m.	2 min. 3 secs.
Oct. 15	Lincoln School	2:40 p.m.	1 min. 59 secs.
Oct. 15	Washington School	10:12 a.m.	1 min. 25 secs.
Oct. 21	Nutley High School	1:58 p.m.	1 min. 52 secs.
Oct. 22	Franklin School	1:15 p.m.	1 min. 56 secs.

CAFETERIA REPORT:

Mr. Restaino presented the cafeteria report as of October 31, 1999 showing a 1999/2000 budget of \$663,265.00, contractual orders to date of \$186,432.79, leaving funds available of \$476,832.21.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Restaino, Chairman of the Athletic Committee, indicated that at a recent meeting there was a discussion regarding the addition of two coaches, one for ice hockey and one for lacrosse.

Mr. Restaino made a motion that the Board approve the addition of an assistant ice hockey coach and an assistant lacrosse coach, seconded by Dr. Casale. On a roll call vote the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Restaino thanked the members of the Athletic Committee and the administration for their assistance.

Mr. Moscaritola noted that under Old Business the next phase of the residency issue would be discussed and to that end Board counsel is present this evening to answer questions by the Board.

HEARING OF CITIZENS (Resolutions Only):

None

CERTIFICATION OF MAJOR ACCOUNT FUND STATUS:

Mr. Restaino 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, pursuant to NJAC 6:20-2.13 (e), the Nutley Board of Education certifies that as of October 31, 1999, 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. Restaino 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 \$3,709,442.00 as per the attached Schedule A which have been audited by the Business Office.

REQUESTS FOR USE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS:

Mr. Restaino 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 - Social Worker:Mrs. Theresa Petti

Mr. Restaino 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 accepts the retirement of Mrs. Theresa Petti, social worker, effective March 1, 2000.

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RETIREMENT - High School
Bookkeeping Secretary:Mrs. Mary Jane Delahunt

Mr. Restaino 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 accepts the retirement of Mrs. Mary Jane Delahunt, high school bookkeeping secretary, effective July 1, 2000.

TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL:

Mr. Restaino 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 upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, the following transfer be approved, effective January 1, 2000:

	<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>
Katherine Flannery	Lincoln School	Yantacaw School

APPOINTMENT - Professional Staff:Dr. Laura Shack-Finger

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education appoints Dr. Laura Shack-Finger as school psychologist for the 1999/2000 school year, effective January 1, 2000, at the annual salary of \$23,164, Doctorate-8 (p/t .5), in accordance with the 1999/2000 Teachers' Salary Guide.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board approves the application for emergency hiring of Laura Shack-Finger as per the state criminal review procedure.

APPOINTMENTS - Teacher Substitutes:

Mrs. Russo presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Dr. Casale. 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 1999/2000 school year.

APPOINTMENT - Substitute:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following substitute be approved for the 1999/2000 school year:

Secretarial

Michele DeMatteo

EXTRA COMPENSATION:

Mr. Picciano presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Dr. Casale. 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:

Business Education Curriculum - October 23, 1999

Michael Christadore	\$123.88
Gloria Dorfman	123.88
Nancy Kehayes	186.52
Thomas McCrohan	123.88
Ann Mary Mullane	123.88
Arlene Orenstein	<u>123.88</u>

Total \$805.92

Chemical Health Curriculum - October 23, 1999

John Alessio	\$ 123.88
Rita Alfaro	123.88
Irene Aragona	123.88
Susan Dingwell	123.88
Danielle Ferraro	123.88
Katherine Flannery	123.88
AnneMarie Kowalski	123.88
Vicki Latka	123.88
Anna Melnyk	186.52
Becky Pandolfi	123.88
Luann Zullo	<u>123.88</u>

Total \$1,425.32

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Creating Safe Schools - October 23, 1999

Donald Baumann	\$ 123.88
Denise Cleary	123.88
Michele Cristantiello	123.88
Scott Keena	123.88
Pamela Batchelder-Mitchell	123.88
Walter Murray	123.88
Rita O'Neill-Wilson	123.88
Stephen Parigi	123.88
Carol Shepherd	123.88
Michael Stoffers	123.88
Joyce Wood	123.88
Joseph Zarra	<u>186.52</u>

Total \$1,549.20

Language Arts/Reading Textbook Review - K-6 -
October 23, 1999

Grayce Berk	\$ 161.08
Patricia Griffin	123.88
Geraldine Intiso	123.88
Gail Kahn	123.88
Mari Konn	123.88
Joan Lightfoot	123.88
Beverly Masullo	123.88
Lorraine Restel	123.88
Alisa Rossi	123.88
Sally Ann Ryder	123.88
Deborah Schop	<u>123.88</u>

Total \$1,399.88

Library Skills Review - October 23, 1999

Beverly Apple	\$123.88
Rosemary Clerico	186.52
Maria Gernitis	123.88
Susan Rooney	123.88
Louise Walk	<u>123.88</u>

Total \$682.04

Payment for Supervising PSAT - October 16, 1999

George Ackerman	\$ 92.91
Elinor Alboum	92.91
Susan Ames	92.91
Michael Christadore	92.91

Payment for Supervising PSAT - October 16, 1999 (contd.)

Susan Gesumaria	\$ 92.91
Judith Hubert	201.35
AnneMarie Kowalski	92.91
Michael Kulzy	92.91
James Mauro	92.91
Brian McGinley	92.91
Rita O'Neill-Wilson	92.91
Gerald Ryan	92.91
Carol Shepherd	92.91
Anne Starace	92.91
John Suffren	92.91
Denis Williams	92.91

Secretaries

Phyllis Battoglia	40.00
Catherine Turano	<u>40.00</u>

Total \$1,675.00

Payment for Attendance at Gifted and Talented Identification Review - October 26, 1999

Adele Koci	\$ 46.46
Valerie Martin	46.46
Rebecca Olivo	46.46
Carol Perrone	<u>46.46</u>

Total \$185.84

Library Coverage - Month of October, 1999

Susan Ames	\$144.06
Carol Shepherd	<u>72.03</u>

Total \$216.09

Central Detention Coverage - October, 1999High School

AnneMarie Kowalski	\$167.90
Carol Shepherd	83.95

Franklin School

Lawrence Mitschow	67.16
Patrick Keating	167.90

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Franklin School (contd.)

Patricia Sloan	\$ 16.79
Luann Zullo	<u>50.37</u>

Total	\$554.07
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Saturday Morning Suspensions - May, 1999

Darren Groh	\$140.34
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SAT Review Classes - October 14, 19, 21, 26, 28,
November 2 and 4, 1999

Diane LaPierre	\$ 650.37
John Suffren	<u>650.37</u>

Total	\$1,300.74
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Computer In-Service for New Staff - September 2, 1999

Lorraine Restel	\$161.08
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Intramurals - September 21 - October 28, 1999

John Alessio	\$192.08
Edmund Olson	264.11
Luann Zullo	<u>192.08</u>

Total	\$648.27
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LONGEVITY PAY:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following longevity payments be authorized, effective December 1, 1999:

Barbara Kirk	\$3,010	(25 years)
Pierina Trama	1,015	(15 years)

TUITION REIMBURSEMENT:

Mr. Picciano presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Dr. Casale. 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>
Arleen Slott	\$420

AMENDING RESOLUTION - Special Class Placement-Educationally Disabled Students:

Dr. Casale 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 resolution, Special Class Placement-Educationally Disabled Students (Windsor Learning Center), approved at the October 25, 1999 meeting of the Board of Education, be amended to reflect a tuition charge of \$25,767.95.

SPECIAL CLASS PLACEMENT - Educationally Disabled Student:

Dr. Casale 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 attendance of a student in out-of-district special education classes for the 1999/2000 school year as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
Children's Institute Verona, NJ	1	SLD	11/15/99	\$22,410

TRANSPORTATION CONTRACT:

Dr. Casale 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 Nutley Board of Education approves a transportation contract, #2PAR, with a parent to provide transportation for one special education student from Nutley to the Bleshman School, Paramus, NJ, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 at a cost of \$20 per day. (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

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JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS - Belleville Board of Education:

Dr. Casale 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 Nutley Board of Education approves the following Joint Transportation Agreements with the Belleville Board of Education to provide transportation for special education students from Nutley to the following schools, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000: (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

<u>Belleville Route No.</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cost Per Diem</u>
1305	2	Forest Glen Bloomfield, NJ	\$30
2202	1	Bloomfield Middle School Bloomfield, NJ	20

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS - Belleville Board of Education:

Dr. Casale 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 Nutley Board of Education approves the following Joint Transportation Agreements with the Belleville Board of Education to provide transportation for special education students from Belleville to the following schools, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000: (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>
4	1	Nutley High School Nutley, NJ	\$20 (\$10 one way)
5A	4	Sawtelle Learning Center Montclair, NJ	50
5B	3	Deron II Montclair, NJ	40
6A	1	Community High School Teaneck, NJ	57

<u>Nutley Route No.</u>	<u>No. of Students</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cost Per Diem</u>
12	1	ECLC Chatham, NJ	50

Note: An additional charge of \$10 per diem will be added for each additional student on an established route.

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS - Bloomfield Board of Education:

Dr. Casale 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 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 the following schools, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000: (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>
8	1	Children's Institute Verona, NJ	\$20
11	1	CP High School Clifton, NJ	30
14	1	Allegro School Cedar Knolls, NJ	55
15	1	Midland School North Branch, NJ	105

Note: An additional charge of \$10 per diem will be added for each additional student on an established route.

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT – East Newark Board of Education:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nutley Board of Education approves a Joint Transportation Agreement with the East Newark Board of Education to provide transportation for one special education student from East Newark to Spring Garden School, Nutley, NJ on Nutley bus route #1, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 at a cost per diem of \$50.* (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

*An additional charge of \$10 per diem will be added for each additional student on an established route.

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT – Glen Ridge Board of Education:

Mrs. Fleitell presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Dr. Casale. 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 one special education student from Glen Ridge to the Sawtelle Learning Center, Montclair, NJ on Nutley bus route #5, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 at a cost per diem of \$20.* (Subject to approval of the County Superintendent of Schools.)

*An additional charge of \$10 per diem will be added for each additional student on an established route.

JOINT TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS - Passaic Board of Education:

Mrs. Fleitell presented and moved the adoption of the following resolution, seconded by Dr. Casale. 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 the following schools, effective September 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000: (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>
6	6	Shaler Academy Ridgefield, NJ	\$84
3	1	Franklin School Nutley, NJ	20

Note: An additional charge of \$10 per diem will be added for each additional student on an established route.

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT/AUDIT:

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

WHEREAS, the district has prepared the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 1998/1999 school year, and

WHEREAS, the audit of the financial records of the school district for the 1998/1999 school year has been made, according to the requirements of Title 18A, by the firm of Lerch, Vinci & Higgins, 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 1998/1999 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. Roncaglio 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 transfers in the 1999/2000 General Fund Budget be confirmed as follows:

<u>From</u>		<u>To</u>	
Account 11-201-100-640	\$ 100	Account 11-201-100-610	\$ 150
Account 11-213-100-640	400	Account 11-213-100-610	350
Account 11-999-100-566	13,000	Account 11-999-100-562	13,000
Account 11-999-240-103	900	Account 11-999-216-600	100
Account 11-999-291-260	<u>2,000</u>	Account 12-140-100-730	800
	\$16,400	Account 12-999-400-450	<u>2,000</u>
			\$16,400

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ACCEPTANCE OF NOTICE OF FUNDING - SYETP - 1999/2000 School Year:

Mrs. Roncaglio 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 accepts notice of funding for SYETP for the 1999/2000 school year in the amount of \$5,737.

APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF CARRY-OVER APPLICATIONS - I.D.E.A.-B and I.D.E.A.-B Preschool - FY99:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves submission of carry-over applications for FY99 I.D.E.A.-B in the amount of \$27,532 and I.D.E.A.-B Preschool in the amount of \$324.

APPROVAL OF SUBMISSION OF CARRY-OVER APPLICATIONS - Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) - FY99:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education approves submission of carry-over applications for Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) for FY 99 in the following amounts:

Title II	\$ 86
Title IV	410
Title VI	<u>493</u>
	\$989

APPOINTMENTS - Athletic:

Dr. Casale 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 following athletic appointments for the 1999/2000 school year at the steps as indicated in accordance with the 1999/2000 Athletic Salary Guide:

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Step</u>	<u>Salary</u>
<u>Track</u> Assistant Coach	Christopher Rosati	1	\$3,632
<u>Wrestling</u> Assistant Coach	Christopher Rosati	1	\$4,028

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

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

"At the September 27, 1999 Board of Ed meeting, in response to Debra Falanga's expression of concern regarding the grading system, Mr. Moscaritola replied, 'that this issue has already been addressed, noting that not many people have appeared at Board meetings expressing concern.'

"Mr. Moscaritola, since you were not a board member and rarely attended board meetings when interest in the grading issue was rekindled in 1994 and 1995, you may not be aware that board meetings were often packed with standing room only in support of a change to the grading system. It was precisely this reason that the infamous November 25, 1995 meeting took place, right here in Radcliffe School. I remember it well. In fact, you were one of the 33 people who spoke that night.

"After that meeting, many people were disgusted and gave up hope of any change.

"Since then, however, over 25 people have appeared at board meetings and asked to have the grading system changed.

"Letters have been written to local papers and more than 60 articles regarding the Nutley grading system have appeared in The Nutley Sun, The Nutley Journal and the Star Ledger.

"In fact, in the April 8, 1999 edition of The Nutley Sun there appeared an article entitled, 'Women voters announce the annual forum featuring the Board of Education candidates.' Joanna Conrad, the voter service coordinator for the Nutley league was quoted as saying, 'in year's past the league avoided the subject of implementing a new grading system, knowing full well that at least one member of the public would ask such a question. But this year, she said, the league felt a responsibility to address the subject...it's such a hot issue, we felt we couldn't avoid it.'

So, to say that 'not many people have appeared at board meetings expressing concern' which implies a general public disinterest in changing the grading system is inaccurate."

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Commissioner Peter Scarpelli indicated that he was appearing as a grandparent of eight grandchildren to express his concern with the backpacks the students have to carry for their books, noting that the weight is excessive. He noted that this should be looked into by the administration, stating that perhaps homework could be coordinated among the teachers.

Dr. Serafino replied that she would like to set up a meeting with Commissioner Scarpelli and Dr. Vivinetto, Franklin School principal. She added that she wished Commissioner Scarpelli had come to her with his concern as it would have been addressed. Dr. Serafino stated that some school districts have purchased double sets of books for their students but we could not afford that expense.

Mr. Picciano expressed his agreement with Commissioner Scarpelli, noting that this is a district-wide issue and the cost for a second set of books should be determined.

Mrs. Fran Umstadter, 150 Crestwood Avenue, asked if a survey had ever been sent to parents regarding the grading system. Dr. Serafino replied that this would not be considered at this point since change has been made and it is necessary to see how effective it is. She noted that the district has already gone through a committee process.

Mrs. Laurie Wheatman, 28 Stanley Avenue, asked if the issue of moving sixth graders to Franklin School would be discussed. She also asked if the architect's report had been received. Dr. Serafino responded that a meeting with the architect would take place on November 30 and this matter would possibly be discussed at the Board meeting which will be held on December 20.

Mrs. Debra Falanga, 48 North Spring Garden Avenue, thanked Dr. Serafino for attending the PTO meeting at Spring Garden School and alerting the parents of the possible move of sixth graders to Franklin School. She asked if the architect's report would be made public and, if so, when. Mr. Sincaglia explained that the architect's report was the feasibility study and the Board was asked to consider two possible scenarios - moving grade 6 to Franklin School or keeping the grade configuration as it was.

Mr. Sincaglia further indicated that this is a draft report but at some point in the not-too-distant future the Board will make a decision about the direction it will go and at that point the architect will further revise things. He also noted that the architect will design things the way we say we want pursuant to program structure. He further stated that after a Board decision a plan will be submitted to the state and a referendum will be submitted to the voters.

Mrs. Falanga noted that Dr. Serafino had said that even if the sixth grade gets moved almost all of the other schools will need renovation anyway. Mr. Sincaglia indicated that there are a number of similarities and the architect has been asked to look at certain things. He also commented that Nutley has not had a significant referendum in 31 years and it is a question of what is appropriate at each building. Mr. Sincaglia also stated that at some

point the Board will have to address what is appropriate and necessary and what it is thought the voters in Nutley will support, adding that we will likely not receive any help from the state. He added that it is part of the process and the public will have a great deal of input. He also added that a case can be made for doing something at every building - it is a question of how much you want to spend.

Mrs. Falanga indicated that the concern of parents is that the decision will be made without parental input and she wants the Board to hear the parents before a decision is made. Mr. Sincaglia noted that the Superintendent went to every elementary school to see how parents felt. Dr. Serafino stated that she has not yet been to the middle school and has not yet met with the fifth and sixth grade teachers.

Mrs. Falanga commented that her biggest concern is the safety issue. Dr. Serafino remarked that if more input is needed it will be solicited. Mr. Moscaritola explained that Mrs. Falanga's concerns should be related to the PTO president or the Board representative to the school. He further stated that everything will be taken into consideration, adding that nothing has been decided yet regarding class configuration.

Mrs. Russo commented that she has stated from the beginning that we need participation from the community. She noted that the Board had taken a look at facilities through the Facilities Committee and has reached the point of a feasibility study. Mrs. Russo explained that the Board will study this to determine educational benefits, safety and enhancements for all of the schools.

Mrs. Russo also noted that she has encouraged the public to attend conference meetings where they can sit and listen and where a great deal of information is disseminated. She also stated that she has asked repeatedly for a paper which will give updates on Board activities to the community. Mrs. Russo indicated that the Board has a responsibility to encourage people to read a paper and to come to meetings.

Mrs. Russo assured the public that the Board is not making decisions lightly; in fact, we are making decisions quite slowly. She noted that, initially, the projected date for the referendum was this December but she doesn't feel it will happen this year. She explained that the December date was selected so that construction could begin in the summer. Mrs. Russo reiterated that communication should be encouraged and must be done effectively.

Mr. Picciano commented that it is a public school system which means our concern is not merely parents but town wide and he would like the Board to have an open town meeting so people can come and the Board can receive their input. Mr. Picciano then quoted a line from a letter Charlie Tedesco had sent to a local newspaper: "Parents and taxpayers should be addressed as a whole at a town meeting we are all invited to attend."

Mr. Picciano noted that he has gone through seven referendums where he works and everyone was brought together. He mentioned the need to establish rapport in a community to get your point across, adding that more people must be empowered. Mr. Picciano added that the key words are "public school system" and people must be involved in this decision.

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Dr. Serafino stated that a meeting with the architect is scheduled for November 30 with Board members and administrators. She noted that the purpose of the meeting is to decide on which groups will have to be addressed.

Mr. Moscaritola remarked that statements are made that people want to change things but we live in a town of 27,000 people and the Board holds meetings where no one attends. He indicated that the Board and Dr. Serafino have been very open and willing to listen and he hopes that 300 or 400 people attend the meeting on November 30.

Mr. Moscaritola further noted that we all share the same common interest - we all have a deep love for our children and community and it becomes very frustrating when only ten people attend a meeting.

Mrs. Connie Alexis Laona, 36 Freeman Place, stated that she is receiving conflicting messages as to what the Board wants the public to do to make their voices heard and she asked what is the chain of command. Mr. Moscaritola responded that with a specific issue at a school a person should go to the building principal or teacher, adding that the Board meeting is the public forum.

Mrs. Joan Rubino, 48 North Road, noted that she has been attending Board meetings for over 25 years and never saw Mr. Moscaritola at one meeting until he decided to run for the Board of Education and she asked where he was prior to that.

Mrs. Rubino asked what the Board's policy was with regard to class participation. Dr. Serafino replied that there is no policy, adding that it is part of class performance and may count more in some classes than others. Mrs. Rubino remarked that extroverts seem to receive a lot more attention and they do better because they speak up, adding that a quiet child is punished for that type of personality and this should be addressed.

Mrs. Barbara Bochese, 50 Cedar Street, indicated that people do not speak up at Board meetings for fear of reprisals against their children. She noted that there is a problem and it can be seen and heard in the frustration of people who come month after month because the Board is not listening and does not care. Mrs. Bochese offered her services as a public person anytime her help is needed.

Mrs. Roncaglio stated that Mrs. Bochese is entitled to her opinion but Mrs. Roncaglio does not agree with it. She added that she rejects the notion that someone in a democratic society can give an opinion and then their children will be hurt. Mrs. Roncaglio commented that she finds it horrendous when someone can say that professional people will take it out on 5, 6, 7, 12 or 17 year olds. She added that she takes exception on behalf of the members of the teaching community and the Board.

Mr. Jack Magnifico, 25 Chestnut Street, noted that he does not understand why additional classrooms are needed but he would like to see it publicized so the older people can know what is going on and vote on it.

Mrs. Kline indicated that she has been one of the people out and visible since 1994, speaking and writing, and she, personally, has the highest regard for the teachers in Spring Garden School, which her children attend, and has had a very positive experience with that. She added, however, that many people have spoken to her about their reluctance to speak at a public forum because they feel there is a danger to their children. Mrs. Kline noted that she has always replied that she has never felt that way and hopes that she never does.

Mrs. Kline stated that everywhere she goes people are always asking her about the grading system and she feels it is a very wide-spread issue but a lot of people are afraid to come forward.

Dr. Casale remarked that he had attended school with some of Mr. Magnifico's children, graduating in 1972 and having attended classes in Vincent Methodist Church because of the overcrowding. He noted that he had also had to deal with the earlier and later schedules. He indicated that in former years the district did not have the number of Basic Skills classes, special education program, ESL and AP courses, adding that we have expanded what we are doing and are running out of facilities.

Dr. Casale noted that as a Board member he feels there is an undercurrent that this is a done deal and he feels very sorry about that. He indicated that the Board has tried to communicate with parents and members of the community since the beginning but the process has just begun. Dr. Casale explained that thinking there would be a referendum in December was unrealistic thinking on the part of the Board since we are still collecting information and trying to reach a decision as a Board and community.

Mr. Moscaritola said that he feels that if Dr. Serafino had gone to the staff and then the public this would have been said to be a done deal.

Dr. Casale stated that the meeting with the architect on November 30 will allow the Board to obtain information on what the next step should be and how long things will take. He noted that all the meetings are open to the public and even though the public can't speak, you can see what is going on. Dr. Casale also commented that just because someone does not attend Board meetings does not mean the person is not very involved in the community and giving of their time.

Dr. Casale further stated that the point of going through a chain of command is that some issues can be corrected or addressed at a lower level; not every issue has to come before the Board but that does not mean that people should not come to the meetings. He added that the public has to have trust in the people they elected to the Board. Dr. Casale reiterated that the facilities issue is just at its beginning and he does not see the referendum getting to the voters before the school year ends.

Mrs. Umstadter noted that many people have difficulty finding time to attend Board meetings what with two people working and raising children

and suggested that there be specific meetings to deal with certain subjects and perhaps this would make it easier for people who can't go to every meeting.

Mr. Picciano noted that in light of the situation with people having limited time perhaps it would be an advantage if the Board published a new-letter on a monthly basis.

Miss Ro Tangorra, President of the Education Association of Nutley, read the following statement:

"The Representative Council of the Education Association of Nutley has established an official position on the possible reconfiguration of the Nutley School System.

"After a presentation by the 5th and 6th grade teachers the Representative Council voted unanimously to accept the recommendation of an overwhelming majority of the 5th and 6th grade teachers that 'The present grades remain in their respective buildings and keep the elementary community as it presently exists.'

"These are just a few of the statements expressed to the Representative Council by the 5th and 6th grade teachers:

"We are quite concerned for the social growth of the students under our care. Fifth and sixth graders are at a fragile age where they are still immature in many ways. They are quite impressionable, and if we can hold on to them for a couple of years more it can make all the difference.'

"There is also a safety issue involved. The young sixth graders must either walk to the Franklin School or be driven by their parents. Traffic on Franklin Avenue is congested and dangerous. To add more children, parents, and cars to an already overcrowded avenue would exacerbate the situation. The intermingling of seventh, eighth and sixth graders is another issue entirely.'

"The Nutley police would like to keep the students off Franklin Avenue for many reasons. They wish to control any loitering, illegal activities, and public nuisance problems. Adding more children to this already impossible task of control would not be advantageous. This sort of exposure for young children is not recommended and will not add to a positive educational experience.'

"The Representative Council also agreed with the 5th and 6th grade teachers who felt that the social and emotional aspects of a move to Franklin School for that age group now, in Nutley, would have a negative impact on any possible academic benefit and might prove to be an impediment to possible future development."

Mrs. Fleitell commented that it is very difficult to sit and listen to so many different opinions because the Board members have so many different opinions. She noted that her statement was going to be that no decision has been made and so anything that was heard on the street was inaccurate. Mrs. Fleitell said that to think the Board would ever make a decision such as this that would involve children from K-12 and great expense to the district without public input is insulting to the Board. She added that from her perspective the decision she has to make will be a very serious educational decision and there are pros and cons. Mrs. Fleitell stressed that a decision would never be made without discussing every single aspect of this issue.

Mrs. Fleitell continued by noting that there are still many questions to be answered and the meeting on November 30 is to teach the Board how to bring a referendum to the community and is another part of the Board's learning process. She indicated that there will be further input from the community before a final decision is made. Mrs. Fleitell also said that every Board member sitting at this table has children in the district and are two-parent working families as well, adding that she would never make a decision that would harm her children. She also stated that any decision she makes is in the best interest of the community.

Mrs. Russo commented that the Board received the EAN letter on November 8 and asked how many members were on the Representative Council to which Miss Tangorra replied 35 members represent each school and the warehouse. She added that the Council is comprised of teachers, secretaries and custodians.

Miss Tangorra explained that the fifth and sixth grade teachers were wondering if anyone was going to ask their opinion of a grade reconfiguration. She noted that the Representative Council voted unanimously to send the letter because those teachers deal with fifth and sixth graders every day and they were concerned.

Mrs. Chris Carlo, 57 Spruce Street, expressed her opinion that perhaps it would not be such a disadvantage to have the sixth grade in the middle school and perhaps the transition would not be too bad.

Miss Cynthia DeBonis, Franklin School teacher, stated that she wished to clarify some misconceptions that were being verbalized regarding the recent Halloween dance. She explained what was done to insure a safe, enjoyable evening for the students, adding that it was a wonderful experience for the children. Miss DeBonis invited the Board members to attend the Inaugural Ball which will take place at the end of January.

RECESS MEETING:

Mr. Moscaritola declared a recess at 9:33 p.m.

RESUME MEETING:

The meeting resumed at 9:45 p.m.

November 22, 1999

Mr. Sincaglia indicated that he had forgotten to make mention of Mr. Walker's request that he express his thanks to all those persons who had wished him well during his recent illness. He further stated that Mr. Walker hoped to return to work in the near future.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Moscaritola stated that the Board needed to review the disenrollment letter that had been included in their packets and the process that would be followed. Board attorney Frank Vespa-Papaleo discussed the process that could be followed if people do not submit required documentation.

Mrs. Fleitell wanted to know at what point a person would actually be withdrawn and Mr. Vespa-Papaleo indicated it was essentially the 22nd day after the Board's official notice.

Mr. Vespa-Papaleo noted that the Board had the right to enforce its policy but also that the Board could determine residency by other evidence. During the discussion it was noted that there were now 19 families that had not complied with the Board's written and verbal requests.

Mrs. Russo wanted to know what happens if someone who lives in Nutley refuses to comply would that be reason enough to disenroll that person. Mr. Vespa-Papaleo said that the Board could provide additional time. Mrs. Russo noted that this was not part of existing Board policy but was based on a vote of the Board to initiate this action.

Dr. Casale asked a similar question relating to the possibility of a parent refusing to comply. Mr. Vespa-Papaleo said that noncompliance with the Board's directive was sufficient for the Board to proceed with disenrollment. Mr. Vespa-Papaleo said that, ultimately, if the parents do not want to provide any information they can swear out an affidavit.

It was determined that if the Board were to proceed with this the final date on which Board action would take place would be set as December 20.

Dr. Casale again asked if someone refuses to comply with the request could the Board take action. Mr. Vespa-Papaleo reiterated that the Board can proceed with disenrollment and the Board had discretion in how this would be done.

Mrs. Russo moved that the Board proceed with the distribution of the disenrollment letters to the affected individuals with the date for final determination to be December 20, 1999, seconded by Mr. Restaino and unanimously approved by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

RESOLUTION TO CLOSE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC:

Mr. Moscaritola 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,

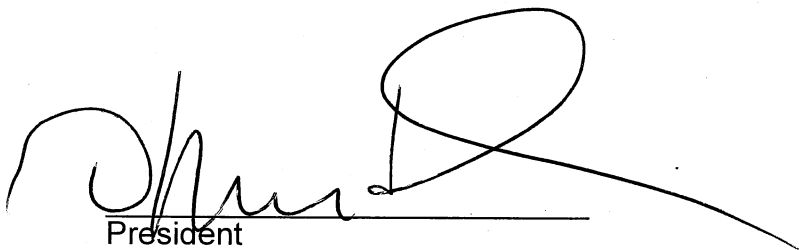
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Education adjourn to closed executive session at this time to discuss personnel matters, and

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.

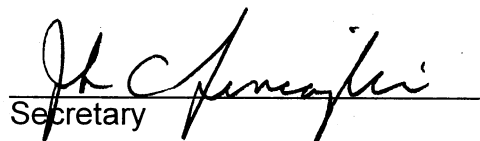
Mrs. Russo moved that the resolution be adopted, seconded by Mrs. Fleitell and unanimously approved by the Board.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.



President



Secretary

December 21, 1999
Date

November 22, 1999