

## MS BOE Discusses Work Delay

By NICOLE WINTERS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Tuesday's Mountainside Board of Education meeting began with a discussion of the ongoing construction projects at Deerfield and Beachwood schools, which has been lagging behind schedule.

Board member John Perrin began by addressing the issue that Ciro Randazzo builders had made promises for specific work to be completed by September 26 — a date that the company had selected, not a date proposed by the Board of Education.

Mr. Perrin produced a list outlining each specific work detail that is to be completed by the builders, the date each item was to be started and finished. For example, supports for roof curbs were to be completed by October 5, which was then moved to October 8, yet still has not been completed.

On September 26, Ciro Randazzo told the Board of Education it would receive a revised work schedule by October 1. To date, this schedule still has not been received.

According to Mary Beth Schaumburg, the earlier schedule has a "lack of value," as items are not listed in a chronological or methodical order. There is no connection to the work listed above or below a particular detail, which makes it difficult to gauge the progress in this format.

A major problem in the construction process seems to be a delay in the steel construction at the Beechwood School. While Mr. Perrin said he believes it "ought to be done by Friday (October 11)," he also stated, "I don't believe there was a piece of steel erected that went in the position it was supposed to," after reviewing the site this week.

Steel also needs to undergo a series of tests to be certified that it has been correctly formulated, that all welds are formed properly. To date, there still has not been any test results submitted to the Board of Education, creating a further delay in this process.

Ciro Randazzo builders have been invited by the school board to attend their meetings; however, company representatives have elected not to attend.

In order to keep things moving on a project that has already experienced significant delays, a special meeting was scheduled for yesterday between the Board of Education, Ciro Randazzo, their respective attorneys and the contractors working on this project.

The board has also looked at other options to move the project along at a quicker pace. One option was to

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"I WALKED!"...Franklin Elementary School students and parents participated in "National Walk Our Children to School Day" on October 2. Brendan Dean, a Franklin third grader, won first place in the district-wide "Walk With the Mayor" lottery. Brendan won an escorted walk to Franklin with Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott.

## Atlantic Group and Town Move Ahead With Decks; Meter Hours Could Change

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

At Tuesday night's conference session, Town Administrator James Gildea announced that the Parking Review Committee has finalized the Request For Qualifications (RFQ), and that it was ready to go out to developers for the parking decks once the Town Council gave their approval.

The RFQ will be sent out and then developers have five weeks to respond with their qualifications and some creative ideas.

Mr. Gildea said that he anticipates the RFQs will be sent to approximately 30 developers. Once the council hears back from the developers, some will be chosen to receive the Request for Proposal (RFP).

The RFPs will include full cost estimate and design proposals, how much affordable housing will be included, size, aesthetics, and traffic concerns.

Fourth Ward Councilwoman Susan Jacobson asked Mr. Gildea for some idea of a time frame in which the process would be done.

He responded that the RFQ would be returned in five weeks, at which time developers would have six to eight weeks to return their proposals. Mr. Gildea anticipates the process going into 2003, which he noted would coincide with next year's budget process.

Town Attorney Robert Cockran stated that the Planning Board has been moving forward with having the land classified as areas in need of redevelopment.

The Atlantic Group, which the Town hired in April, will guide the Town through the selection of a developer.

The council gave their approval and the RFQ's will go out this week. In related business, the new parking meters have been installed in the

## Town Bought Holiday Decorations For DWC

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Before the creation of the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC), the Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce (WACC) solicited the merchants for funds to purchase the Christmas trees to hang on the streetlight poles each year and to install the sockets in the light poles.

The light sockets cost upwards of \$40,000, according to Bill Moore, who chaired the holiday decoration project for the WACC for many years. The sockets were installed progressively over a number of years.

Recently, it was brought to the attention of *The Westfield Leader* that, currently, the wreath decorations are only hung in the downtown area by the DWC. The trees used to also be hung on North, South and Central

Avenues, leading shoppers into the downtown area. The businesses west of the South Avenue Circle, and those east of Central Avenue are not included in the DWC's area.

The responsibility of handling the ornaments changed hands in 1997 when the trees needed to be replaced. This occurred shortly after the formation of the DWC, during a time period when the WACC was in financial straits and had a low membership rate.

According to DWC Executive Director, Sherry Cronin, the decorations are only placed within her jurisdiction because she is "constrained to the district."

The yearly installation, which costs \$9,600, is paid out of the DWC's budget, which includes the hanging of the wreaths and the 65 "Welcome Home to Westfield" banners.

The electricity bill is currently paid in full by the Town of Westfield, however according to Mr. Moore, the WACC used to pay a portion of the electric bill each year.

Mrs. Cronin stated that the DWC had paid \$35,000 for the decorations, and was then reimbursed by the Town. It was confirmed through the Town Clerk, Bernard Heeney, that a payment was made to the DWC in the amount of \$35,000 in December 1997.

According to Joe Spector of The Leader Store, who is a member of the WACC and the board of the DWC, it was his understanding that the WACC sold the trees for approximately \$5,000, and that that money was supposed to go toward decorations for the businesses not in the DWC's

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## Maple Trees Cut Down Illegally On County Land in Mountainside

By HORACE R. CORBIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The Union County Police have under investigation an act of the illegal cutting of 24 to 25 trees on county property in the Watchung Reserva-

tion adjacent to Tracy Drive and near Moxon Pond.

Spokesman for the county, John Salerno, told *The Westfield Leader* that the trees were mostly mature maples. He added that although the

assessed value may be substantial, the trees were irreplaceable.

The Union County Freeholder Board passed a resolution appropriating \$5,000 and authorizing a professional services agreement with Gary Lovallo, a Certified Tree Expert No. 273, President/Owner of Consulting & Municipal Foresters Co., Inc., of Old Bridge for quantifying losses to parklands due to an encroachment.

One individual, who is a homeowner in the area, is the focus of the investigation as this individual allegedly hired a company to do the cutting.

"This may be his downfall," said Mr. Salerno.

The county legal department is reviewing what action to take — which may occur as early as the end of this week.

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## Rat Infestation Creates Problem On Maple Court in Mountainside

By MARY RONK  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

Though the work session is usually closed to public discussion, at the end of the session, Mayor Robert Vigilanti opened the meeting to two Mountainside residents.

Jan Wojtkunski and Emma Pomo, who both reside on Maple Court and have been combating a rat infestation problem on their two properties since July.

Ms. Wojtkunski, a resident for the past 30 years, has had the Board of Health and exterminators to her property to review the problem with no resolution. Her request to the council was to ask that they help her and her neighbors investigate the source of the infestation.

The council showed great concern and asked that Ms. Wojtkunski ask her exterminator to investigate not

only her property but that of the surrounding areas as well.

Mayor Vigilanti asked that she contact the borough next week with an update. From this update the Borough will determine if further action will be taken.

Mayor Vigilanti opened the work session this past Tuesday with a great deal of humor and good spirit regarding the Fall Festival.

The Mountainside Fall Festival is scheduled for this Saturday, October 12. This third annual event will begin at 3 p.m. with a 3K Police Trot and games and fun for all. Additionally, there will be a softball game at 7 p.m. with some friendly competition between the Mountainside Police Department and Mayor Vigilanti and Borough Council members.

Topics of discussion at this work session were the renewal of the At-

lantic Health System Hospital Corporation Telecommunications Service Contract. This Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dispatch service agreement has been approved and the final contract will be coming next week for the council's approval.

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## WF Master Plan OK'd by Planning Bd.; New Retail Proposed for Central Avenue

By JAMES FOERST  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

The direction of Westfield's efforts to plan for development changed on Monday with the approval of the revised Master Plan by the Westfield Planning Board.

"The Master Plan is a policy document intended to guide town officials in the use and development of land in Westfield," according to Town Planner Blaise Brancheau.

The Town of Westfield first utilized a Master Plan in 1965. Prior to that time, the town enacted various land use ordinances but there was no controlling document. New Jersey statute requires that municipalities draft and approve a Master Plan. Although the Master Plan does not have the force of law, it is the basis for zoning regulations which are enacted by the Town Council.

Mr. Brancheau advised the board that they are required to file the new Master Plan with the Union County Planning Board within 30 days. He added that, "the Town Council will be required to introduce legislation adopting the Master Plan and approving new zoning ordinances in accordance with the Plan."

Mr. Brancheau added, "This should be implemented as soon as possible.

Until this is adopted by the Town Council, there will be conflict in land usage in those areas around town which have been changed."

In other business, plans for redevelopment of the Central Avenue corridor in Westfield continue with a proposal by C.F.G.R., LLC, to construct a 28,136 square-foot building on the properties located at 430, 500 and 510 Central Avenue near Sussex Street.

According to Edward Dec, a professional engineer of Guarriello, Dec & Associates, LLC, the proposed plan calls for the demolition of a portion of the present structures with the addition of more street frontage and a third floor.

The first floor of the property will consist of approximately 7,000 square feet of commercial or retail space with seven apartments on both the second and third floors.

According to the applicant, it is proposed that the building be constructed in the "classical Mediterranean style." The principals of C.F.G.R., LLC, have constructed and continue to build a new commercial and residential development at the corner of Central Avenue and Cacciola Place.

The application requested a variance from the parking ordinance which requires one space for every 300 square

feet of commercial building area.

The parking requirement for residential space is reduced, according

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### Candidate Forums

The Scotch Plains Candidates Forum will be held tonight — Thursday, October 10, at 6 p.m. in the Scotch Plains Township Municipal Building.

The Westfield Candidates Forum will be held Thursday, October 17, at 8 p.m. in the Westfield Municipal Building.

The Fanwood Candidates Forum schedule will be released shortly. There will be no Candidates Forum for Mountainside this year.

The public is invited to attend the forums. The events will be aired several times on local television stations up to the time for election of November 5.

Westfield TV-36 has released its schedule for airing the Westfield Candidates Forum. These times are set for Friday, October 18, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Sunday, October 20, at 7 p.m. and 11 p.m.; Monday, October 21, and Wednesday October 23, at 12:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Tuesday, October 22, and Thursday, October 24, at 1 a.m. TV-36 will repeat the schedule the following week.



FALL FAMILY OUTING...Williams Nursery in Westfield was the ideal autumn spot for the Connolly Family of Westfield to take a hayride. Pictured, left to right, are: Wendy Connolly with Abby, 2, Daniel, 7, and Mike Connolly.

Cheri Rogowsky for The Westfield Leader

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## WF Officials to Discuss Light At Central Ave. and Clover St.

By LAUREN S. PASS  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

There will be a meeting of the Westfield Town Council Public Safety Committee tonight at 6 p.m. in the Administration Conference room of the Municipal Building, located at 425 East Broad Street.

The construction of a traffic light at the intersection of Central Avenue and Clover Street will be

discussed and the public is invited to attend.

Town safety officials, including Police Chief Bernard Tracy will be in attendance.

According to Third Ward Democratic Councilwoman and Public Safety Committee Claire Lazarowitz, representatives from Union County were also invited to attend, but have not responded.

## WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30**

- A South Avenue resident reported \$995 in cash missing from his apartment shortly after a moving company had removed his furniture.
- A Kimball Avenue resident reported that a window was broken on her motor vehicle in the 200 block of Clark Street.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1**

- Zulma C. Ayala, 27, of North Plainfield was arrested and charged with shoplifting a belt from a North Avenue store. She was issued a summons and released.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2**

- A South Avenue business reported that a customer who resides in Elizabeth rented a costume valued at \$2,000 and failed to return it.
- Police reported the theft of items in two shopping bags from a store in the 200 block of East Broad Street. The total value of the missing items was \$87.96.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3**

- A burglary to a storage trailer was reported at the Department of Public Works yard on North Avenue, West. The trailer contained tires, although it was unknown whether anything was missing as a result of the incident.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4**

- A burglary was reported in a motor vehicle in the 100 block of Tudor Oval, in which various items worth a total of \$145 were removed.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5**

- David Webber, 41, of Westfield was arrested at Clifton Street and Cherokee Court and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was released to a responsible party.
- Eggs were thrown at the front doorway of a residence in the 1800 block of Boynton Avenue, damaging the paint.
- A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of Livingston Street, where the owner lives. It had not been recovered at press time.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6**

- A burglary to a storage trailer was reported at Clifton Street and Cherokee Court and charged with driving while intoxicated. He was released to a responsible party.
- Eggs were thrown at the front doorway of a residence in the 1800 block of Boynton Avenue, damaging the paint.
- A motor vehicle was reported stolen from the 300 block of Livingston Street, where the owner lives. It had not been recovered at press time.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 7**

## Master Plan

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to the ordinance, for a combined requirement of 42 parking spaces. The application made allowance for only 33 spots. The board was adamant about meeting the parking requirement.

William Ziff, board member stated, "We have a chance to actually plan for the future development of this area."

Robert Newell, Planning Board Chairman, echoed this sentiment, asking the applicant, "Although it may not be a busy commercial area now, how do we know that that won't change in the near future? What if a national retail chain store occupies the first floor? Don't we need to plan for that?"

The application was carried to the November meeting, where the applicant will present additional testimony and introduce a new plan that will purportedly meet the town's parking requirement.

The board also approved the refurbishment of Doerfer Park, which is located on Elm Street between the former Fleet Bank building and Aquaviva.

According to Sherry Cronin, Executive Director of the Downtown Westfield Corporation, the park's namesake, Fred Doerfer, was the President of the National Bank of Westfield which formerly occupied the property.

The plans for the private park include some new plantings, a brick paver walkway and benches.



LET'S WALK TO SCHOOL...Laura Marvin, a fifth grader at Wilson Elementary School in Westfield, won the raffle to walk to school with Wilson Principal Dr. Andrew Perry. Laura, who is pictured in front of Dr. Perry, took the walk with the Wilson School neighborhood students.

## Berkeley Heights Pupils Enroll at Syracuse Univ.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Berkeley Heights residents Alexandra Batorsky, Jacob Di Iorio, Michelle Munick and Storey Pizzo, were among the approximately 3,100 new first-year and transfer students who have enrolled at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y., for the 2002-2003 academic year.

Alexandra is enrolled in Syracuse University's College of Visual and Performing Arts. He is majoring in interior design.

Jacob and Storey are enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences at Syracuse University, where they are majoring in arts and sciences.

Michelle, who is enrolled in Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, is majoring in public communications.

## Mountainside BOE Discusses Construction Work Delays

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change the roof coating, but as Mrs. Schaumburg stated, "using a lesser material could possibly save a few days, but we are not willing to compromise the quality of materials to save a day or two."

There is also the issue of damage caused to new windows by the contractors cutting steel at the worksite. According to James W. Ruban, Jr., of the Musial Group, black spots that quickly rusted were noticed on many of the new windows. It has been determined that these spots were caused by steel shards that flew off when steel was being cut and then became embedded into the glass.

Since the steel was moved around the site to be cut in various locations, there is damage to many windows in different areas of the construction.

Mr. Ruban said a representative from Pella, the window supplier, was brought in to overview and assess the damage, which the company believes to be approximately \$11,000.

According to Board President Richard Kress, "November 12 is not going to be the date we move in there (Beechwood). Period."

Mr. Perrin agreed, stating "we would be ignorantly optimistic" to believe the construction will be ready by the expected completion date.

Mr. Ruban believes that, to date, the construction at Beechwood is approximately 50 percent complete, while the project at Deerfield is only 20 percent complete.

Mr. Kress stated that Ciro Randazzo builders has been paid "less than half" of the entire amount of the bid, \$6,314,000. Mrs. Schaumburg noted that, "we have not paid for anything that hasn't been done."

Next on the agenda was a presentation from Elaine Nestell, Supervisor of Special Services, on the formation of the Intervention and Referral Services, known as I & RS. The goal of I & RS is to assist teachers and parents in identifying student problems from "observable behavior" and creating a core team to help both the teachers and the children.

Ms. Nestell discussed the importance of shifting the focus from parents and teachers venting about a problem to creating a network to assist the student and the teacher in resolving the problem.

I & RS will be viewed as a collaborative process between the school, the parent and the child. Once the problem is identified, there will be protocol specific to the child and the problem to overcome whatever the issue may be.

I & RS stresses the involvement of the parents, as well as a core team at the school, which may consist of teachers, a principal or designee, a school nurse and/or a guidance counselor. I & RS will not classify the

## Atlantic Group and Town Move Ahead With Decks

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He said that between 8 and 9 a.m. people are stopping for short periods of time to pick up newspapers and coffee, and that they were being heavily ticketed. He also questioned the amount of enforcement that is occurring in the later hours of the evening, and proposed that the meter times end at 6 or 7 p.m.

This proposal was echoed by Mr. Gildea, who suggested that the whole parking ordinance be reexamined. He added that the Town is, "trying to promote downtown," and that the heavy ticketing in the early morning was making it a, "tough sell."

The Mayor asked Mr. Gildea to talk to the police department and to find out how much revenue is collected during those hours and how much ticketing is done.

Fourth Ward Democratic Councilman Lawrence Goldman stated that the evening hours needed to be looked at differently than the morning hour. He said that the town is still busy at 6 and 7 p.m. and that keeping the meter hours would force long term parking into the lots.

The entire council agreed, however, that the starting time for the meters should be pushed back to 9 a.m.

Mr. Gildea said that he would have a redraft of the ordinance ready for the next conference session.

Mayor McDermott brought up the paving currently being done on Mountain Avenue by the county, and suggested that something be done about the curbing that is falling apart. He added that the Belgium Block curbing can not go in because it was caused the trees to be cut down. He also questioned if delaying the project would cause Westfield to have a bad reputation with the County.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh stated that Westfield has a reputation of delaying projects, but that he is currently working with the county on the issue. He said that there is a possibility that the curbs could be milled out and that the paving then be done. He said that it would be similar to the southern end of Central Avenue.

At next week's public session, the council will approve a resolution authorizing the Mayor and Town Clerk to modify the Interlocal Services Agreement with Union County. This agreement allows the Town to receive money through the block grant program.

The council will also see a resolution to allow the Mayor to sign the agreement between the Town and the Policemen's Benevolent Association Local No. 90, which would end the 10-month contract dispute.

The Town will also be getting quotes from three supplemental insurance companies, one of which being Aflac. This insurance will have no cost to the town, other than a minimal administrative set up cost in order for the deductions to be taken from employees' pay checks.

Councilman Goldman reported that at a meeting of the Public Works Committee, which he chairs, the preliminary capitol plan for 2003 was discussed. He said that the fleet of Department of Public Works trucks are in good shape and that money can be put into road projects and traffic calming. He said that a list of roads needs to be completed soon so that the cost estimates can be completed.

Councilman Goldman also said that members of the BRAKES (Bikers, Runners and Kids are Entitled to Safety) Group attended the meeting and discussed the dangers present at the intersection of Scotch Plains Avenue and West Broad Street.

He said that Police Chief Bernard Tracy favors a light at the intersection rather than the current blinking light.

Assistant Town Engineer Kris MacAloon said that he has been "playing phone tag" with the contractor who did the paving on Tamaques Way.

Mr. Gildea said that he needs to be contacted before next week's public meeting so that an action plan can be presented to the residents.

First Ward Democratic Councilman Carl Salisbury was not present at Tuesday's meeting.

The council went into closed session to discuss litigation regarding New Street.

## Decorations

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district.

According to Debbie Schmidt, WACC Director, the trees were sold to a town in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Schmidt also said that five additional wreaths were purchased last year and hung on South Avenue to honor Bob Santos, the owner of Westfield Cleaners, who passed away.

These ornaments were purchased through a grant given by the Westfield Foundation and she added that the WACC has applied to the foundation again this year for more ornaments.

"I would support another program, but I don't have the funding," Mrs. Cronin said.

According to Jebb Corbett, a member of the of the WACC Board of Directors, this was "a problem that came up that needs solving."

Town Administrator James Gildea said that some of the PSE&G streetlights may be coming down on Central Avenue because of the streetscape project. He added that this could mean there will be extra ornaments which the Town could hang on streets outside the DWC's district.

## Rat Problem

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Resolutions were also covered. The first was 102-2002, an amendment to Inter-local Services Agreement with the County of Union Community Development Block Grant Program.

Also, a resolution for a refund in the amount of \$402.67 granted to Mark Stellwagen Block 4.C Lot 18.L for a tax appeal.

A liquor license renewal for Fidelity Equity Corp was approved for one additional year.

The council also approved insurance coverage for the Police Athletic League (PAL). PAL will be defined as a Mountainside Government Agency in order to receive coverage. All of the organization's specific activities will be insured. PAL will be responsible for all costs and payments incurred.

A second reading will be held next week for ordinance 1052-2002, to amend the code of the Borough of Mountainside by amending Chapter XI, Section 11-2.4 and 11-2.4B.1 and adding a definition for a residential dwelling unit to Section 11-2.1.

A first reading of ordinance 1053-2002 will be held next week to amend Chapter VII of the Code of the Borough of Mountainside by amending Chapter VII, Section 13, non-moving traffic violations.

For next week's public meeting, the Mayor will discuss an application received from the Center For Hope Hospice & Palliative Care for an off-premise 50/50 raffle. The Mayor will also be reviewing additional organizations applying for various grants.



WORTHY FUNDRAISER...Friends and residents turned out on Sunday to participate in a yard sale fundraiser on South Avenue in Fanwood for 22-year-old Jeannine Roy, who needs \$200,000 for a double lung transplant. Jeannine, who attended Coles Elementary School, Terrill Middle School and Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis when she was 1 year old. The next fundraiser will be held at the Berkeley Heights on Friday, November 8. For more information, please call (973) 390-2353.

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**Student Interns:**

Area high school students who are interested in journalism are encouraged to write for *The Student View*, a weekly column by local high school students. For information, contact Jeremy Lipstein at jlipstein@goleader.com.

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additional policies regarding Dress, Grooming and Appearance Policy, Public Records, Community Relations, Special Board of Education Meetings to Conduct Official Business, Agenda Preparation and Standing Board Committee Functions and Duties.

These new policies will go to a second reading next month.

Finally, Ms. Dyckman noted that there were three additional regulations to be read at next week's meeting, and pointed out that regulations could be adopted after only one reading. These policies include: Regulations, Dress Grooming and Appearance for Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Procedure for Inspecting or Requesting Copies of Documents and Exhibit Form to Request to Inspect or Receive Copies of Public Records.

Commenting on this report, Board President, Lance Porter said, "Our policy committee has been very active in looking at our policy manual, which is 4 to 5 inches thick. They are modernizing the policies and I want to recognize the good work that the policy committee is doing."

In other business, it was noted that a motion that the school board approve the Nonpublic School Technology Initiative Program Agreement for four district schools would be introduced at the Thursday, October 17, meeting.

Through this agreement, The Christopher Academy will receive \$1,400, the Baptist Christian Day School will receive \$400, St. Bartholomew the Apostle Interparochial School will receive \$8,664 and Union Catholic Regional High School will receive \$27,246.

Anthony Del Sordi, Business Manager and Board Secretary, noted that this money will come from the state of New Jersey and will be awarded specifically to parochial schools within the district.

In other business, it was reported a motion to approve Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS) Music Department field trips will also be heard at next week's meeting.

The trips consist of the musical group, the Moonglowers, participating in the New Jersey Board Convention on Wednesday, October 23, held in Atlantic City and the Music Departments Spring Festival of Music Competition, which is held in Boston in April.