

May 8, 2019

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 at 7:30 PM, West End School, 447 Greenbrook Road, North Plainfield, NJ. Ms. Bond-Nelson, Board President called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson - Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. - Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

A quorum was established

Also present were Michelle Vella, Superintendent of Schools; and Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, Joanne Sung, Assistant Superintendent, Student Representatives Jasmine Muhando and Marta Hernandez Mejia and approximately 52 members of the staff and public.

#### **Introduction of New Staff**

None.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote with Mr. Allen abstaining to accept the public session minutes of April 25, 2019.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote with Mr. Allen abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of April 25, 2019.

#### **Financial Report**

None.

#### **Comments from the Public**

None.

#### **Student Representative Report**

##### **Student Representative: Jasmine Muhando**

Good evening everyone, it is wonderful seeing you all here tonight. The last 2 weeks have been very eventful at NPHS.

On May 1st the Tap program went to Johnson and Johnson where they presented to friends, family, and the Johnson and Johnson employees. They did a phenomenal job and they represented our school with pride. After their presentation they received a letter of recommendation from the Johnson and Johnson employees for their dedication and commitment to the program. Earlier that day, students attended the Pax Amicus Theater where they got to watch a Romeo and Juliet performance. They really enjoyed the play and some have even taken an interest in Shakespearean plays. Also, May 1st was college

commitment day. Many students were proudly wearing their college gear and I would like to proudly announce that I committed to Rutgers New Brunswick, the school of Arts and Sciences.

Last Monday, Abraham Monrroy and Ashley Muhando attended the Skyland Conference Scholar Athlete Lunch in. They received a free lunch and plaques for not only excelling in their seasonal sports, but for maintaining high GPAs. Today Christopher Monrroy and Sydney Muhando will be attending the Somerset County Scholar Athlete Dinner. They too will receive a plaque and be recognized for their hard work in the class and on the field.

Last Thursday the mentors met with their mentees to revisit their goals from the beginning of the year. The mentees got to share what goals they were able to achieve and come up some ways to achieve their long term goals or short term goals they were unable to accomplish. We also discussed how to maintain their grades as the year is rewinding down and how to prepare for finals.

Tomorrow, students that received scholarship letters will be attending the scholarship dinner at River Banks. I am positive the students will be very appreciative of the scholarships they receive.

This Friday the talent show will be hosted in the auditorium. I can't wait to see all the amazing talent that the NPHS has.

Finally, as you all know AP testing began this week. Many of the AP students have prepared long and hard for these tests and I know that every single one of them will do great.

Thank you.

### **Student Representative: Marta Hernandez**

Good Evening everyone it is a pleasure being here with everyone.

Today we will start off by saying that the boys tennis team had an away game yesterday against Roselle Park, despite the boys' hard work, they were unable to win, losing 1-5. Tomorrow the team will be facing West Essex on their home turf, but I am positive the boys will be able to win.

On Monday, the baseball team had a home game against South Amboy. The boys might have lost 0-3, however, they held their heads up high throughout the entire game and proudly represented our school. They will be facing Voorhees tomorrow, also on our home turf, and hopefully the boys will give it their all and bring a win for the team. On Monday the softball team also had a game, in New Providence. The girls had an extremely close game, losing by 1 point. They tried their best and I am positive that tomorrow when they face Voorhees, they will win.

The Girls and Boys Track and Field teams had their Skyland Conference Championships meet yesterday at Hillsborough High School. Sydney Muhando placed 7th in her division for the 100- meter dash, Zinnia Canty placed 13th in her division for the 200 -meter dash, and Malia Jones placed 9th in her division for the 400- meter dash. Sydney Muhando placed 1st in the 100 meter hurdles and was named Skyland Conference Champion in the hurdles, while Jasmine and Ashley Muhando placed 4th and 5th in the same event. Aliyah Walker placed 3rd in the 400 meter hurdles in her division. In the distance event, Sara martinez placed 19th in the 800 meter run.

For the boys, Daniel Duncan placed 1st and was named Skyland Conference Champion in the 100m dash and Jah'Quan Allen placed 6th in the 100- meter dash. For the 200- meter dash and 400- meter dash, Daniel Duncan placed 2nd. For the 800 meter run, Leandre Gaddis placed 5th. And Ryan Smith placed 10th in the 1600 and 3200 meter run.

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For the 110 meter hurdles, Quasson Jean Baptiste placed 3rd, Jason A. placed 4th, and Naji Campbell placed 5th in the finals. For the 4X400 meter relay the boys placed 3rd. Last Saturday the boys also attended the Long Branch Invitationals where they clean-swept the meet, winning first overall.

Both the girls and boys have done so good this season and have made everyone proud. They have put a lot of effort into their practices, meets, matches, and games. They are definitely making NPHS proud.

Thank you all for your time.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Acevedo and Ms. Armento presented and recognized students who have received the seal of bi-literacy.

Ms. Gregory and Ms. Friedman presented students who provided writing to Advocate for a Cause.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**United Way Rising Star Award:** Alexandra Pereira has been nominated by Michael Townley of the Rotary Club of the Plainfields as the United Way of Greater Union County's 2019 Live United! Rising Star Awardee. This award recognizes a young professional who lives and/or works in the Greater Union County, North or South Plainfield area, demonstrates creativity and resourcefulness in the field of service, and shows exemplary efforts in volunteering, advocacy and/or philanthropy. Alexandra is being recognized for all the work that she has done for the greater good of our community. She will be presented with the award at the United Way's Annual Celebration on June 19, 2019 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, NJ. Please join me in congratulating Alexandra on this commendable achievement.

**Interact Blood Drive a Success:** The Interact Club hosted another successful blood drive on April 26th at the High School. In conjunction with the American Red Cross, Interact was able to collect 60 pints of blood which is enough to save 180 lives. Thank you to all the students, faculty and staff who took time out of their day to participate in this beneficial event.

**Dual Language Academy Site Visit:** On April 29th, Lori Ramella from the NJDOE conducted a site visit of our Dual Language Academy. She began the day with the Administrative Team at West End School, visited their kindergarten and first grade classrooms, then traveled to East End School to complete a mirror visit there. Ms. Ramella had several helpful suggestions for us going forward, which she shared with Administrators at the conclusion of her visit. Additionally, she was complimentary of the progress our District has made in dual language education in such a short period of time. I am proud of our faculty, staff, principals and Ms. Acevedo for leading us to success with this new program.

**NJASA Seminar on Adjustment Aid:** I had the opportunity to attend NJASA's seminar on the impact of adjustment aid on April 30th. This program focused on understanding the

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New Jersey school funding formula. Topics included the design and intentions of the funding formula, the consequences of ineffective implementation, educating the community about school funding, understanding aid calculations, and anticipating future State aid support.

**North Plainfield Pride Day Planning Committee Meeting:** I am pleased to report that the Planning Committee for North Plainfield Pride Day had a productive meeting on April 30th. Our subcommittee chairs shared the progress they have made to date. We also had the opportunity to discuss next steps, as we plan for this community-wide event. The current committee is comprised of 30 members from across the community, each of whom also serves on a subcommittee. As a reminder, North Plainfield Pride Day is September 28th from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

**Realtors Breakfast:** On May 1st, I had the pleasure of hosting a breakfast exclusively for realtors who represent buyers and sellers in North Plainfield. I was joined by a panel of administrators, Mayor Giordano, and Chief Parenti who helped facilitate the program and answer questions about our District from the realtors. This year's breakfast had a special focus on the new initiatives we have introduced since our last breakfast in 2018. The 20 realtors who attended provided us with positive feedback and confirmed that the information they gleaned from this program will be shared with their clients.

**Holocaust Remembrance Program:** On May 1st, Middle School students Madeline Kruszczyński and Jennifer Van Buren, along with teachers Bill Saccardi and John Thompson, participated in the Yom Ha'shoah Holocaust Remembrance Program at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County. This Holocaust commemoration included Holocaust survivors, students, local clergy, politicians, and business leaders, and was attended by over 300 people. The program featured poignant musical performances and poetry readings. Madeline and Jennifer both read deeply powerful reflections which were exceptionally well received by all audience members.

**Winter Guard Championships:** The High School Winter Guard Team departed for Wildwood, NJ after school on Thursday, May 2nd. They spent four days in Wildwood competing in the TIA Atlantic Coast Championships. Our team scored a 71.02 - a personal best - 4 points higher than their previous best score. The championship includes other high schools in New Jersey, along with groups from eight other states in the mid-Atlantic region. This is the culminating event of the indoor season which runs from January through May.

**Eastern DataComm Presentation:** We have met with Eastern DataComm to review the budget and proposal for the upgrades. We will be installing the paging and bell system in each school and the goal is to have the work complete before the opening of the next school year. A presentation by the company will be forthcoming before the opening of the new school year.

**Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurses Day:** Please join me this week as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week and National School Nurses Day (May

8th). Be assured that the appreciation we hold for the teachers and nurses of North Plainfield goes beyond this one week in May. We appreciate all that they do each and every day, inside and outside the classroom – daily lesson preparation, efforts to provide interventions for students, mentoring students, serving as an advisor to a sport or club, attending after-school events, providing extra assistance to students before and after school, and outreach to families and our community. Please know that we recognize and respect the work our teachers and nurses carry out daily to ensure that our students leave our schools ready to face the future.

### **Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report**

#### **Literacy Coaching:**

Consistent with a primary district goal of maintaining focus on student literacy success, the final administrative update session was held to conclude the 2018-2019 Literacy Coaching Professional Development series. District literacy coaching series included two 15-session cycles of Fountas and Pinnell training throughout the year. Teachers participated in grade level teams with a dedicated literacy coach assigned to Grades K-2 and a separate dedicated literacy coach for Grades 3-5. Session cycles ran from September through May.

Throughout the series, strategy-driven teaching was reinforced with mini-lessons, as well as the importance of small group instruction.

#### **NJSLA Assessment:**

NJSLA testing is underway across the district. The high school and middle school have both completed the English Language Arts/Literacy assessment and will continue with mathematics until the end May. During the first two weeks of May, the elementary schools and Somerset school will conduct both of their English Language Arts/Literacy and mathematics assessments. As each building conducts their assessments, Ms. Armento, Mr. Taylor, and the members of the technology department are stationed across the buildings to offer building administrators and staff assistance and support.

#### **Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA):**

Beginning in May, incoming kindergarten students will participate in the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) to determine each child's unique level of readiness for kindergarten in developmental areas including academic, social, emotional, and physical. The information gathered will help create classrooms that are balanced, while also identifying specific developmental areas that may require support. The information serves as a student baseline and will allow informed monitoring of student growth throughout the early elementary levels. Teachers will also use this data to drive instruction in September whereby students are grouped according to their readiness levels. The overarching goal of the KRA is to assess student readiness for kindergarten, and ensure an appropriate grade-level skill foundation to allow each child to enter in September prepared for a positive learning experience.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools

Personnel

**It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process including S-414/3381 documentation.**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the continued employment of all **tenured and non-tenured administrators and supervisors** indicated on the attached list at the salary rates indicated, and that contracts to employ be issued.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the temporary employment of Nicholas Zebrowski as a teacher at Somerset School effective September 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Nicholas Zebrowski shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the annual salary of \$59,430, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Mr. Zebrowski will temporarily replace employee #5384.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Meghan Reeves, supervisor of fine, practical and performing arts for the District, effective July 1, 2019.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that the Board of Education grants the employees listed leaves of absence as indicated.

Employee	Position	School	Effective	# Sick Days Used	FMLA
#4193	Teacher	NPHS	4/11/19 – 5/20/19	13.5 (Remaining 3.5 days are unpaid)	None
#4972	Teacher	SS	4/23/19 – 9/23/19	None	4/23/19 – 9/23/19

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that for the 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the individual indicated to the position specified, at the stipend/rate noted.

Name	Position	School	Effective	Stipend/Rate
Michael Kelvy	Accompanist	NPHS	5/14/19	\$150.00

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Kathryn Bianco, teacher at NPHS, effective July 1, 2019.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that for the 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the following staff be reimbursed for graduate courses taken between September 2018 and May 2019.

Name	Course	School	Crds	Paid	Reimb.
Christian Agresto (Social Studies/SS)	Theory & Practice	The College of New Jersey	3	\$800.00	\$400.00

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that BE IT RESOLVED, that for the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 school years, the Board of Education approves the school counselors indicated to work the number of days noted, at the per diem rates indicated, to coordinate the closing and opening of school.

**June 2019:**

<b>Counselor</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>Per Diem Rate</b>
Maddie Gill	NPHS	1	\$331.80‡
Ivana Martinez	NPHS	1	\$313.15‡
Joelle Bruno	NPHS	1	\$347.95‡
Michelle Fallucca	NPHS	1	\$327.95‡
Lindsey Mulry	NPMS	1	\$316.80‡
Kari Jeliffe	NPMS	1	\$313.15‡

**July 1, 2019 – August 31, 2019:**

<b>Counselor</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Number of Days</b>	<b>Per Diem Rate</b>
Maddie Gill	NPHS	5	\$331.80‡
Ivana Martinez	NPHS	5	\$313.15‡
Joelle Bruno	NPHS	5	\$347.95‡
Michelle Fallucca	NPHS	5	\$327.95‡
Nancy Reyes	NPHS	5	\$392.80‡
Lindsey Mulry	NPMS	3	\$316.80‡
Kari Jeliffe	NPMS	3	\$313.15‡

‡Final Per diem salary pending completion of negotiations.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the transfer of the staff as indicated.

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Robyn Enderle	NPMS – Physical Education Teacher	SS – Physical Education Teacher
Andrew Taylor	SS – Physical Education Teacher	NPMS – Physical Education Teacher
Karen Bissett	NPMS – School Nurse	EE – School Nurse
Marcelle Baricelli	SS – Math Teacher	NPMS – Math Teacher
Molly Gaisor	SS – Academic Support Teacher (Math)	NPMS – Academic Support Teacher (Math)
Soyoun Ouh	NPMS – ESL Teacher	NPHS – ESL Teacher

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson - Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

**Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Services**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents #

2019_54	2019_55	2019_56
2019_57	2019_58	2019_61

and the investigations which were conducted following these complaints; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education was advised of any consequences and/or remedial measures related to these matters as well as the Superintendent’s recommendations regarding the results of the investigations; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education votes to affirm the Superintendent’s recommendations on HIB cases #

2019_54	2019_55	2019_56
2019_57	2019_58	2019_61

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson - Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

**Finance, Purchasing & Agreements**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that The Board of Education is listing the anticipated contracts to be renewed, awarded, or to expire during the school year – P.L.2015c.47

That the North Plainfield Board of Education, Pursuant to PL 2015, Chapter 47 for the 2018-2019 school year intends to renew, award, or permit to expire the following contracts previously awarded by the board of education. These contracts are, have been, and will continue to be in full compliance with all state and federal statutes and regulations; in particular, New Jersey Title 18A:18. et. seq, N.J.A.C. Chapter 23, and Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements 2CFR Part200. Accounting and auditing services, advertisements, architect services, payroll processing services, third party administration 403b and 457, athletic reconditioning, athletic rentals, Attendance and Substitute Software, bonds, building repairs, bus transportation, cafeteria equipment, cafeteria services (Food Service Management Company), cleaning, Internet Services, conference, community notification systems, construction services, copier lease, course reimbursements, data/phone lines, dental benefits, electricity, engineering services, equipment - computer hardware, equipment – athletic, equipment – information technology, equipment – musical, facility upgrades and renovations, furniture and fixtures, energy, E-Rate consultant services, garbage collection, ground repairs, gas, health benefits, insurance - property, liability & casualty, HVAC Controls, HVAC Services, insurance broker services, legal services, maintenance – computer, maintenance repairs, membership dues, natural gas, Network

and IT Support, nursing services, occupational therapy, physical therapy services, physician services, postage, prescription benefits, printing, professional services - home instruction, professional services – athletics, purchase services – library, purchased services – security, repair and maintenance, required NJ Department of Treasury Pension Program, School Boards Association, school buses, Security and Fire Alarm.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson - Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that pursuant to resolution passed January 2, 2019 authorizing the development of the annual Board of Education Meetings Calendar, the Board of Education does now adopt the Board of Education meeting calendar for the 2019-2020 school year per the attached listing of dates and times.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson - Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes Angela Maroulis to apply for a grant through DonorsChoose.Org for the purpose of purchasing books for her classroom at Somerset School at a total value of \$529.42.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson - Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – Next meeting scheduled for May 28, 2019 at 4:30 PM.

Communications – Next meeting scheduled for May 15, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Curriculum – Next meeting scheduled for May 22, 2019 at 5:45 PM.

Finance & Facilities – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for May 15, 2019 at 6:30 PM.

Negotiations(NPEA) – Next meeting scheduled for June 3, 2019.

NJSBA – Mr. Fellin provided an update on recent legislation discussed at the most recent meeting.

SCSBA – Next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

SCESC – Ms. Robertson updated the Board on recent meeting topics. Next meeting scheduled for June 5, 2019.

Personnel – Next meeting scheduled for June 4, 2019 at 6:00 PM.

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**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Mr. Fellin is hoping to organize and confirm a speaker and date for Board Retreat and NJSBA Presentation.

**Comments from the Public**

Several staff members commented on the status of the contract and school budget.

**Future Agenda Items**

Per the presentation calendar [2018-2019 Special Presentations Calendar](#)

**Adjournment**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at West End School for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law. It is anticipated that Executive Session will last approximately one half an hour.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg

