

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 21, 2016 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mr. Branan 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, Mr. Branan requested the call of the roll:

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Absent  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. James V. McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; Michelle Vella, Assistant Superintendent, and Anthony Sciarrillo, Board Attorney, and approximately 4 members of the staff and public.

**Introduction of New Staff**

There was none.

**Minutes Approval**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; to accept the public session minutes of December 7, and 12, 2016.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call to vote; accept the executive session minutes December 7, 2016.

**Financial Report**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education approves the list of bills and payrolls dated November 30, 2016 in the amount of \$6,119,186.93.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education accepts the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Funds, for the month of October 2016, and further recommends in compliance with NJAC 6:23-2.11(B), that the Board of Education certify that to the best of their knowledge no major account or fund has been over expended and that as of this report sufficient funds are available to meet the district's financial obligation for the remainder of this fiscal year

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

### **Comments from the Public**

There was none.

### **Student Representative Report**

Student Representative: Yanqing Liang reported that as the 2016 year slowly concludes, NPHS students are diligently doing their work in hopes to finish the year off on a good note. The music department had a select group of choral students attend an opera trip at the Metropolitan Opera center. They spent the day watching “Nabucco”, which is about an ancient Babylonian king. The following Friday, Tri M Music Honor Society members volunteered at West End and East End elementary school after programs, where they spent their afternoons playing with students. The chorus concert was held yesterday night, and was a success. They paid tribute to Mr. Thomas Mazur, the music department director, which will be retiring this school year. The band concert will be held tomorrow evening in the Middle School Auditorium.

Canuck Mentor Leaders attended a three day camping trip at the Fairview YMCA, where they participated in activities that helped them improve their leadership and critical thinking skills. The leaders shared stories and anecdotes, which helped in gaining a new found respect for each other. Upon returning from their trip, mentors met with their freshmen mentees, topics of discussion centered on family, in hopes to help bring forth a holiday spirit for students. The HOPE Club has set up water bottle collection stations throughout the school building in hopes to help increase the recycling rate at NPHS.

Student Representative: Radha Patel reported that the Canuck Winter Sports have started with a bang this year. The most thrilling event so far was the first home basketball games for both JV and Varsity. Both teams came out victorious against Somerville. The crowd was fired up, showing how much school spirit the Canucks really have. Last night’s game the Canucks took another home win. The next home game is this Thursday at 7:00 pm. The winter track team is also in the beginning of their season. They had their first meet this past Saturday at Toms River. Ashley Atubi, a junior sprinter received third place in the 55 meter race. Many other runners started out the season with strong personal records.

The winter pep rally is being held tomorrow during 9<sup>th</sup> period. The Dance Company, Cheerleaders, NJROTC and the Step Team will all perform. Class spirit will be evident since each class will have a chant to represent their graduating years.

### **Presentation**

Mr. Robert Swisher and Mr. Wayne Miller from Suplee-Clooney & Company Certified Public Accounts presented and discussed with the Board the 2015-2016 Annual Audit.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

On Tuesday December 7th. Mr. Sainte-Rose, Ms. Vella and I attended a workshop on the soon to be adopted revised standards for school leaders. These standards will drive the goals, evaluation and professional development process for principals and supervisors throughout the state. We were impressed with the new standards and feel they are a significant improvement over those now in place. Over the course of the months ahead we will discuss and reflect upon these standards with our school leadership team, preparing all of us for their use in the 2017-2018 school year.

December 21, 2016

Last week Mr. Tarnofsky and Mr. Buckman attended a three day trainer workshop in "Handle with Care". Handle With Care trains teachers in the use and implementation of a behavioral management program that provides emotional and physical safety through a relationship climate consisting of acceptance, trust, honesty, problem solving skills, communication, tolerance and forgiveness. As trainers, Mr. Tarnofsky and Mr. Buckman will be able to train and certify this staff in this method of working with students. Training for staff has already been initiated and will continue on a schedule throughout the remainder of the school year.

The district was recently notified that it has been awarded a \$30,000 Sustainable Jersey Small Grant funded by The Gardinier Environmental Fund. Congratulations to Mr. Mathis for his work in securing this grant. The Grants fund energy projects focused on energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy. Projects can fall into categories such as building efficiency upgrades, and more. The project can be a municipal project, or a district-wide initiative implemented for a specific school in a district. Our submission was for an Existing Building Commissioning Project for North Plainfield High School and Middle School. The proceeds from the Gardinier Grant will be used to fund an Existing Building Commissioning Study and to implement recommendations produced as a result of the study. Existing Building Commissioning is a process that seeks to improve how building equipment functions both individually and as part of the larger building system. The process examines the operation of the equipment as well as the effectiveness of maintenance procedures in order to maximize energy efficiency and longevity and maintain a healthy and comfortable indoor environment.

On Thursday the PTA and PTO Presidents gathered and among other agenda items heard from Maschio's Food Service who provided an update on the student menu and efforts to increase participation in the school breakfast program. Maschio's will also be attending school PTO and PTA meeting to elicit feedback from parents and continue to seek ways to meet the needs of our students through the food service program.

On December 9th, the IBM International Foundation and North Plainfield Middle School engaged in MentorPlace. The MentorPlace partnership is a collaborative effort that places IBM employees in a one on one mentorship with students in the eighth grade. This event also serves as an introduction to STEM related fields and careers for our students who have the opportunity to communicate with veteran engineers and scientists and to see the relevance of what they are learning in real world applications.

On December 12th Ms. Vella and I represented the district at the NJDOE ELL Institute. Laura Morana, the NJDOE's Chief Academic Officer delivered the keynote and a panel discussion occurred comprised of ELL Model District Superintendents and a presentation on policy and practice from Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education staff. Key take-away information from the institute included data demonstrating the rapid rise of the ELL population in New Jersey, now the state with the fourth largest population of ELL students, the consensus of need for SIOP training, the challenges of meeting the needs of students under the category of SLIFE: Students with Limited or Interrupted Formal Education, and the promising practice of imbedded job coaching among districts demonstrating the greatest gains for students in this population. The information in this institute reaffirms the work of our Biliteracy Action Committee and the ideas and frameworks they are currently engaged in developing.

December 21, 2016

Tonight, we would like to celebrate Ms. Mary Castro who has truly touched the lives of the students and staff of the district.

During Mary Castro's 14 years as a fifth grade teacher in North Plainfield, she has been a colleague and role model to myriad staff members. She has served on many committees including Student Council and DEAC, and as a Math Facilitator for Somerset School. In 2013, Mary received our highest district honor – she was named Teacher of the Year for Somerset School. Among the many other highlights in her career, Mary fondly remembers *Cozy Covers for Kidlets*, a four-year quilting project where over 20 quilts were made for babies and veterans through a program between North Plainfield Schools and RWJ Somerset.

Mary has enjoyed sharing her knowledge with her students in math, science and social studies. She remarks that there is nothing more rewarding as a teacher than to see the “lightbulb” go on when a student understands the concept being taught.

To quote Mary, “my teaching career has taken me to places that I never thought possible and projects that I never dreamed of.”

Thank you for all your years of service. Your dedication has truly created an impact in our school district and has touched the lives of the students you have taught.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools

Personnel

**It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process.**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that WHEREAS Mary Castro, elementary teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire effective February 1, 2017, and

WHEREAS she has served the District and children of North Plainfield for approximately thirteen years with dedication to the highest standards, now therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extends to Ms. Castro its thanks for the service she has given and best wishes for her future; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on December 21, 2016, and be it further

RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Board of Education and Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, be sent to Ms. Castro.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers/substitute paraprofessionals.

Jennifer Ramos

Jocelyn Hodges

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of the following individuals as district substitute custodians, to be called on an as-needed basis, to be paid at the rate of \$18.29 per hour, effective December 22, 2016.

Marcelina Rondon

Patrick Smith

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Nora Leary, special education teacher at NPHS Bridge program, effective February 13, 2017.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved that the following recommendation be tabled:

That the Board of Education approves reimbursement to the following employees for unused vacation days and or carried over days based on last day of service per the negotiated agreement and/or employment contract:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Last Day of Service</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Stephen Frost	January 4, 2017	5.83	\$1,255.67
Thomas Mazur	December 31, 2016	36	\$18,650.88

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Kavita Pavan as a tutor for PASS at NPHS, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the placements of the instructional paraprofessionals indicated, effective December 12, 2016.

Name From To

Pamela Strickland	WE/16.25 hours per week	SB/16.25 hours per week
Carolyn Stallone	WE/17.50 hours per week	SB/17.50 hours per week

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the employment of Saida Clarke as a temporary English teacher at Somerset School, from September 6, 2016 through February 1, 2017 to September 6, 2016 through January 2, 2017. (Ms. Clarke temporarily replaced Chemagne Kania.)

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment of Saida Clarke as a temporary English teacher at Somerset School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 3, 2017 through June 30, 2017, Saida Clarke shall be placed on BA/Step 14 and will be paid the prorated annual salary of \$64,950. (Ms. Clarke will temporarily replace Michelle Sandoval.)

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Zoraida Parra, paraprofessional at NPMS, an unpaid leave of absence effective January 16, 2017 through March 17, 2017 for personal reasons.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Noah Bell as the lighting director and the sound technician for the spring musical at NPHS, at stipends of \$1,626 and \$1,142 respectively, for a total of \$2,768.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the individuals indicated as instructors for the West End School's Extended Day Phonics Program, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour.

Tammy Scott  
Erica Gara  
Diana Lozada  
Heather Shealy

Alyson DiFiore  
Kourtney Gissona  
Heather Morgan

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Vincent DelPriore, social studies teacher at NPHS, a leave of absence effective January 18, 2017 through March 25, 2017 for military duty. Mr. DelPriore will be compensated the difference between military pay and his district salary.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the individuals indicated as instructors for the Stony Brook School extended day program, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour.

Leanne Borbely  
Susan Garatino  
Meghan Mussumecci

Jessica Fennes-Pheney  
Marilyn LaMarca

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Robert Lake, social studies teacher at NPHS, to serve an administrative internship at NPHS during the

spring of 2017, with Jerard Stephenson, principal of NPHS, serving as his supervisor.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education amends the previously approved French Honor Society advisor at NPHS to reflect a shared position as follows:

	FROM	TO
Matthew Mergen	\$1,187	\$593.50
Debra Soriano	\$0	\$593.50

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Elizabeth Langmaack, paraprofessional at Stony Brook School, effective January 15, 2017.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment of Alexander Rocha as a temporary social studies teacher at NPHS for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 4, 2017 through March 25, 2017, Alexander Rocha shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the prorated annual salary of \$58,540. (Mr. Rocha will temporarily replace Vincent DelPriore.)

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accepts with regret, the resignation of Mr. Thomas Kasper, as board member, December 21, 2016.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Services**

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 #

2017_13	2017_16	2017_17
2017_18	2017_19	2017_21
2017_22	2017_23	2017_24
2017_25		

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 #

2017_13	2017_16	2017_17
2017_18	2017_19	2017_21
2017_22	2017_23	2017_24
2017_25		

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective January 3, 2017. Transportation will be required.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
PPPPPP-16-17	4/26/11	AUT	Lincoln Elementary (LEAP Prg.)	\$50,412.00/yr. prorated

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective January 4, 2017. Transportation will be required.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
QQQQQQ-16-17	3/28/06	ED	NuView Academy	\$62,160.00/yr. prorated

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call

vote that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the use of Douglas Developmental Disabilities Center (Rutgers University) to provide in-home consultation for classified students, at the rate of \$160 per hour, not to exceed \$5,000.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Finance, Purchasing & Agreements**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated October 31, 2016.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated December 21, 2016.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accepts and files the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Auditor’s Management Report of Administrative Findings Financial and Compliance with one recommended corrective action for the 2015-2016 fiscal school year.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes the administration to enact the attached corrective action plan for the finding detailed in the Auditor’s Management Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016, in accordance with the documentation provided to the Board:

#1. That the District takes action to improve the nonprofit status of the food service program.

Corrective Active Plan;

Additional expenses directly related to the operation of the food service program will be charged to the operating expenses of the program. Replacement of the HVAC system for the serving and kitchen areas of the NPHS cafeteria.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education (“Board”) has determined the necessity of replacing the HVAC unit that controls the air temperature in the serving and kitchen area of the High School Cafeteria

WHEREAS, the Board’s will make a submission to the NJ DOE requesting permission to make necessary repairs, and

WHEREAS, the funds utilized from the 2016-17 cafeteria fund have been deemed to be sufficient based on the 2015-2016 annual audit,

NOW THEREFORE, the Board is providing the Delegation of Authority to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for supervision and bidding of the

School Facilities Project, and is hereby authorizing the Business Administrator and Parette Somjen, Architect, to make the necessary application required by the New Jersey Department of Education to execute and deliver the project specifications and bid documents on behalf of the Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall have the authority to supervise the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Parette Somjen Architects are authorized to prepare all plans, specifications, drawings, and necessary bid-related documents for the Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and such other appropriate representatives of the Board as may be requested by the aforesaid officer, is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary for implementation and completion the School Project; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes and approves the trade-in credit of \$4,600.00 for out of date and broken vending machines, for the propose of upgrading district vending machines, and out sourcing the administration/servicing to CC Vending, LLC having offices located at 240 South Main Street, S. Hackensack, NJ 06706 as follows:

- 3-Snack Machines NPHS
- 2-Snack Machine West End
- 1-Snack Machine East End
- 1-Snack Machine Somerset

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes Lisa Cerulo to apply for a grant through DonorsChoose.Org for the purpose of purchasing large sensory manipulatives and puzzles for her classroom at West End School at a total value of \$430.00.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Project Lead the Way Grant application to allow PLTW to perform an available grant search on behalf of North Plainfield High School.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the grant from Sustainable NJ-Gardiner Environmental Fund in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the purpose of analyzing environmental systems and efficiencies in energy consumption in the High School.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

### **Correspondence**

There was none.

### **Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 12, 2017 at 4:30 pm.

Communications – Next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Curriculum – Ms. Vella discussed topics reviewed at previous meeting, next meeting scheduled for January 10, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Finance & Facilities – Ms. Bond-Nelson reviewed items discussed at the December 20, 2016 meeting including 2017-18 School Budget.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Negotiations – Mr. Sciarrillo mentioned recent meeting held to discuss specific working conditions in the elementary schools. Conclusions and agreements were received by both sides.

NJSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – Ms. Mullen discussed various issues.

### **Old Business**

Mr. Sternberg updated the board on the status of lead water testing program in the district.

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned parental notification of arrival procedures and times will be sent out.

**New Business**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves for second reading the following new policy:

5141.22            Medical Marijuana

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Bianka Butler – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Current Events in Education**

Ms. Vella reported that PARCC has released test questions from the 2015-16 assessments for grades 3 through 8. The test items, which are questions and subject-matter examples from last year’s assessments, can be found at <https://prc.parcconline.org/assessments/parcc-released-items>.

Last week, a team from North Plainfield met with leadership from the Somerset County Business Partnership in an effort to secure partnerships for SLE experiences for our students. The partnership has been working to find a way to make this a reality for schools and is looking to partner with our district to make this happen. We will be sending a description of the anticipated goals to the SCBP this week and have a team meeting scheduled for January.

I recently met with a select representative group of high school students for lunch. This focus group will provide me feedback from the viewpoint of the student body, and we plan to meet approximately every six weeks. Topics of discussion included students having a clearer understanding of placement criteria, implications of varying schedule choices, electives, and experiences of being a high school student in 2016 (needs and wishes). The middle school is putting together a similar group for me to meet with.

With our instant-decision day season underway, I am pleased to share that 53 students have been offered acceptances with \$410,000 awarded in merit-based scholarships. We have 8 remaining sessions through January. Colleges include: College of Saint Elizabeth, Rider University, NJIT, Caldwell University, Kean University and Fairleigh Dickinson. On December 9th, we hosted a listening tour stop with Carl Blanchard, the NJDOE Director of Evaluation, and representatives from DEAC. During the meeting, there was an open and honest conversation about the positive impacts, as well as the challenges, posed from AchieveNJ implementation.

During the conversation, we spoke about the difficulty that can come from assigning a whole number to a component in an observation, and he shared we have greater flexibility (for example: a 3.5 in lieu of a 3 or 4). In the afternoon, Mr. Blanchard visited the sessions hosted by our Achievement Coaches in Dunellen. Progress Reports are fully electronic this marking period and we have sent a Honeywell reminder to parents to check the parent portal for any progress reports. We are looking forward to expand on our paperless initiative.

December 21, 2016

As we prepare to transition from NCLB to ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), the NJDOE held a technical assistance session for districts. The NJDOE anticipates minimal impacts during the transition on school districts with the following districts being the exceptions: Districts receiving significant Title 1 funding; districts that have had significant changes to the number and/or percentage of students in the district living below poverty level and districts with a large non-public presence.

The mSGP scores from the 2015-16 school year have arrived and we are working with Frontline to add this as the final component to last years evaluation scores (only for those who have a mSGP). Once the reports are printed, we will send the information to be reviewed and signed by each staff member. This is certainly an improvement over receiving the scores in the spring, and we look forward to an earlier arrival next year.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were none.

### **Future Agenda Items**

Per the presentation calendar ([www.nplainfield.org](http://www.nplainfield.org))

Reorganization Meeting- January 4

Student Extra Curricular Activities – Dr. Stephenson, January 18

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, January 4, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at Watchung 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 and a half an hour.

Resolved that the Board of Education will adjourn to Executive Session for confidential matters relating to students, personnel, contract negotiations, litigation, and/or any other matter considered confidential by federal or state law.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:35 P.M. executive session for attorney client privilege for approximately 10 minutes.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg