

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on January 18, 2017 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, Ms. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

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

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. James V. McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Michelle Vella, Assistant Superintendent, Student Representative Yanqing Liang and Radha Patel approximately 12 members of the staff and public.

### **Introduction of New Staff**

There was none.

### **Minutes Approval**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; to accept the public session minutes of January 4, 2017.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call to vote; accept the executive session minutes January 4, 2017.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Bond-Nelson and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated December 31, 2016 in the amount of \$5,586,404.41.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Ms. Bond-Nelson and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education accept the monthly financial reports of the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary and the Treasurer of School Funds, for the month of November 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	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

### **Comments from the Public**

There was none.

### **Student Representative Report**

Student Representative: Yanqing Liang reported that the HOPE Club is continuing to collect plastic bottles throughout the high school and middle school for the National Recycle Rally competition. Also, they will be sponsoring a free showing of the movie "Wall-E" this Friday after school in the cafeteria. Interact Club continues to attend Rutgers basketball games, working in their concession stands in partnership with the Rotary Club.

The cast of the spring musical, "The Music Man" have been rehearsing for their performance. The Tri-M music honor society began working on their project fundraiser for a new piano. Science League held their first competition last Thursday. A selected group of students from the biology honors, chemistry honors, physics honors and AP biology classes gathered together to take an official exam to see where they stand compared to other schools on their subjects.

Tomorrow, the mentors will be meeting with the freshmen to discuss the topic of social media and cyberbullying. Earlier today, there were presentations held during gym classes to promote the app, 'Stop It' and address cyber bullying. During the freshmen mentoring session, other grades engaged in the school wide hashtag activity, in hopes to spread positivity online.

Class of 2017 students have been receiving college acceptances some even with scholarships, through the school's instant decisions or regular applications. Students are still continuing their National Compliment day fundraiser, as well as planning prom and other events to raise money.

As the second marking period slowly draws to an end, NPHS students have been working towards completing their midterms in order to mark the conclusion of half of the school year.

Student Representative: Radha Patel reported that in winter sports, last week the Varsity boys played South Hunterdon Regional High School winning with a score of 64-24. The winter track team went to their biggest meet of the season this previous Saturday at the Armory in New York City. Many runners such as Alyssa Pompey and Edgardo Villafañe were able to achieve their personal records. The wrestling team is also in the middle of their season. , they are working hard to turn it around for the second half of their season. Winterguard has their first competition this Saturday at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. Varsity cheer has back to back competitions this weekend. In addition, the annual volley cheese tournament is being held this Friday in the HS gym.

Last Friday the senior class hosted the annual Mr. Canuck competition. It was definitely an entertaining show. All the boys went through the categories of formal wear, casual wear, beach wear, and talent. Then the competition was narrowed down to five contestants and each was asked a question. After the judges totaled up their scores, it was revealed that the runner up was Matthew Cabrera and Mr. Canuck 2017 was Jared Cook. All the other seniors did an amazing job and put on a great performance.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Sloan provided an overview of and descriptions of student extracurricular activities and clubs. Several selected students spoke on the various clubs they are each involved in.

### **Superintendent's Report**

HIB Grades: each year, each district school is required to evaluate its implementation of the Anti-Bullying Rights Act using a self-assessment that includes eight core elements which address all of the ABR requirements for schools. Ratings are assigned for each indicator based on the criteria and documentation. The maximum grade a school may receive is 78.

Sources of information that inform the rating include student conduct referrals and dispositions, student and staff attendance, student suspensions, school climate surveys, at-risk student behavior surveys. I am happy at this time to share the ratings for each of our schools.

NPMS: 77

NPHS: 76

EE, WE, SB, SS: 78

These ratings have been posted on our district website under the area of HIB. Parents, students and the community are encouraged to provide input and ideas that can maintain and improve our response to this critically important area so that all students are able to see school as a place that is safe for learning and for building positive social relationships.

In keeping with the district's ongoing efforts to be both proactive and responsive to issues of HIB, this month our district schools will launch STOPIt. STOPIt's mobile app, which will be installed on school 1:1 devices and students can install on their phone, provides users with fast, secure and anonymous reporting. Parent letters are being sent home for each school and I have provided a sample of that letter in the board's folders this evening. I would like to thank Mr. Buckman and our school principals for their work in the launch of this new reporting mechanism.

At the last board meeting I reported on several areas related to the district goal to continue to promote positive perceptions of the district through improved communications at all levels of the school community. I am happy to share two additional important events in keeping with this goal. The second of four parent forums took place the morning of January 10th at West End School. Approximately seven parents came together for a two hour conversation which covered a variety of topics including student socialization, Compass Learning, PARCC Assessment, instructional time in elementary classrooms and homework. A summary of the discussion will be posted on our website. A second important event included the participation of our first year alumni who visited North Plainfield HS on January 4th to speak to this year's seniors about transitions to college. Another part of their visit was a luncheon with the district's supervisors at which time our visiting alumni shared those areas they felt well prepared for and other areas that our school may concentrate upon to better prepare future graduates. All attending were impressed with our alumni's insights and found great benefit in what they shared. Plans for the future include a wider group of invited alumni as well as those further advanced in their college experience.

As an update to the district goal to incorporate technology into the educational process to enhance the success of students, I would like to note two activities that were shared in this

meeting’s school updates, one at East End School and another example at North Plainfield Middle School. Students in Karen Lewis and Alexis Holbrook’s fourth grade science classes began their “Tech Buddies” program with the kindergarten classes to show their young peers how to use computers to research basic information. The session began with hands-on activities to learn how to log-on, use the mouse, and utilize keyboard functions. The kindergarten students quickly cycled into groups to learn how to access basic information on language and mathematic lessons.

During the fourth grade unit on rocks and minerals, students used electronic microscopes integrated with their laptops to examine the three types of rocks, namely, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, and watched Mrs. Holbrook demonstrate how erosion occurs. This unique program from Zoomies, allows students to conduct experiments on-line and write-up their observations.

The second example from NPMS involved the students in Mrs. Sapega’s Applied English Literature 7th grade class, who along with the assistance of School Librarian Mr. Lensi, completed filming a mini documentary on the topic of “The Right to Vote”. The students used approved school databases to research the history of voting and democracy in the United States, created scripts, and filmed each section using chroma key technology. The final cut of the film has been posted to the North Plainfield Youtube account. <https://youtu.be/zCyAMqDTsYw>

Both examples clearly show how technology is infused into the curriculum, serving as both a research tool and a tool of expression for our students.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools

Personnel

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

Ms. Butler 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 Savita Bhosale as an instructional paraprofessional at Somerset School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 5, 2017, Savita Bhosale shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.19 per hour, for 4.0 hours per day. (Ms. Bhosale replaces Megan Pittenger.)

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

Ms. Butler 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 following staff be reimbursed for graduate courses taken between January 2016 and December 2016.

Name	Course	School	Crds	Paid	Reimb.
Michelle Vella (Asst. Superintendent)	Intro to Statistical Method	Kean University	3	\$2,506.50	\$1,879.88
	Finance &	Kean University	3	\$2,506.50	\$1,879.87

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	Resource Allocation				
Michael Mulry (Social Studies/HS)	Int'l Political Systems	American Public University	3	\$1,050.00	\$ 525.00
Kelli Beard (Social Studies/HS)	Colloquium: Environmental History	Rutgers University	3	\$2,442.00	\$1,221.00
Patrick Wallace (Italian/MS)	Principals of SL/FL Acquisition	Rutgers University	3	\$2,350.00	\$1,175.00
	Intro to ESL Resource Allocation	Rutgers University	3	\$2,350.00	\$1,175.00
Maria Lopez (Elem./EE)	Hist/Lang/Cult Limited English	Kean University	3	\$2,478.00	\$1,186.50
	Prac Sec Lang Teachers	The College of New Jersey	3	\$2,265.00	\$1,132.50

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

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the recommendation to appoint Luke Ostrow as vocal music director at NPMS.

Further, that the Board of Education appoints Ivan Izeppi as vocal music director at NPMS, effective January 19, 2017, at the prorated stipend of \$1,018.50. (Mr. Izeppi will replace Luke Ostrow.)

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

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the recommendation to appoint Leeanne Chiaramonte as production music director at NPHS.

Further, that the Board of Education appoints Amy Six as production music director at NPHS at the stipend of \$5,225. (Ms. Six will replace Leeanne Chiaramonte.)

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 for the spring musical at NPHS, at the stipends listed.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Stipend</b>
Noah Bell	Production Assistant Director	\$2,133
Kimberly Nydick	Production Assistant Technical Director	\$2,098
Scott Six	Production Assistant Music Director	\$2,158

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Daragh Gallagher-Carpenter as a K-12 district substitute teacher/substitute paraprofessional.

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

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Thomas Bannon, health and physical education teacher at NPHS, to teach an additional health education class, effective February 1, 2017 through April 4, 2017, for the prorated additional annual salary of \$3,180.21.

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 guide and salary of Kari Jelliffe, school counselor at NPMS, from the BA Guide to, effective January 27, 2017 through June 30, 2017, MA Guide/Step 1 at the prorated annual salary of \$61,540, to reflect her Master’s Degree.

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Victor Roque, Jr. as a music teacher at Somerset and West End Schools for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective February 1, 2017, Victor Roque, Jr. shall be placed on BA/Step 3-4 (3) and will be paid the prorated annual salary of \$58,740. (Mr. Roque, Jr. will replace Dorian Parreott.)

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Elizabeth Schwarz as an instructional paraprofessional at East End School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 19, 2017, Elizabeth Schwarz shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 2 and will be paid the rate of \$17.71 per hour, for 3.0 hours per day. (Ms. Schwarz will replace Katherine Grundman.)

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Adijatu Pryor as an instructional paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 19, 2017, Adijatu Pryor shall be placed on Instructional Non-Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$16.19 per hour, for 4.5 hours per day. (Ms. Pryor will replace Elizabeth Langamaack.)

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Katherine Palmer as an instructional paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 19, 2017, Katherine Palmer shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 2 and will be paid the rate of \$17.71 per hour, for 3.5 hours per day. (Ms. Palmer will replace Nicole Caratenuto.)

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Jessica Hernandez as an instructional paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 19, 2017, Jessica Hernandez shall be placed on Instructional Non-Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$16.19 per hour, for 3.0 hours per day. (Ms. Hernandez will replace Eileen Faede.)

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 assignment of the paraprofessional indicated, effective January 9, 2017.

<b>Name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
Diana Saez	EE/12.50 hours per week	EE/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. Butler 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	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Sandra Dodd – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Jenny Yilfirm and Natalie Sobeck as exchange students at NPHS, effective February 6, 2017 through March 3, 2017.

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

Ms. Butler 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 individual indicated as a student teacher in the district.

<b>Student Name</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>School/Class</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Coop. Teacher</b>
Cristina Flecha	St. Peter’s University	East End/ 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Spring 2017	Karen Lewis/ Alexis Holbrook

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

Ms. Butler 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 Rebecca Visintainer for Dance III curriculum writing, at the rate of \$49.74 per hour, not to exceed 20 hours.

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Tammy Scott for up to five hours of preparation time for FunDations training, 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. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accepts with regret, the resignation of Laura Chamberlain, academic support teacher at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2017.

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

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education grants Monica Juarbe, paraprofessional at NPMS, an unpaid leave of absence effective January 13, 2017 through April 7, 2017 for personal reasons.

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

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

Ms. Butler 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 Ian Erhard as an instructional paraprofessional at NPMS for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 19, 2017, Ian Erhard shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.19 per hour, for 4.0 hours per day. (This position is new.)

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

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

2017\_37                      2017\_38                      2017\_39  
2017\_40                      2017\_41

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_37	2017_38	2017_39
2017_40	2017_41	

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective January 5, 2017.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
PPP-16-17	4/8/00	MCI	Ridge High School	\$29,570.40/yr. prorated

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

Ms. Butler 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 new course proposals indicated.

American Politics and Government  
The Study of War and US History  
Project Lead the Way Engineering Course Sequence

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves a change to the NPHS science class schedule, not inclusive of Advanced Placement courses, such that biology, chemistry, and physics classes be modified from a 6 period/week course to a 5 period/week course.

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

Ms. Butler 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 Ardor Health Solutions to provide speech/language services for classified students, at the rate of \$77.00 per hour, not to exceed \$14,000.

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective January 20, 2017.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
KKKKKK-16-17	9/29/05	AUT	Calais School	\$60,478.20/yr. prorated

Further, 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 23, 2017. Transportation will be required.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
KKKKKK-16-17	9/29/05	AUT	Shepherd School	\$52,648.20/yr. prorated

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

**Finance, Purchasing & Agreements**

Ms. Butler 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 November 30, 2016.

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

Ms. Butler 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 January 18, 2017.

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve change order number WEDOOR-001, for the Door Replacement Project – West End School, in the net amount of -\$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Five Dollars) equaling the project allowance of \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be deducted from the contract sum. The cost of the project will now be as follows:

Original Installation cost.....	\$120,315.00
Project Allowance.....	- \$ 5,000.00
Adjusted Total Installation Cost.....	\$115,315.00

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

the Board of Education approve change order number HSMSDOOR-001, for the Door Replacement Project – NPHS/MS School, the change in the net amount of \$21,000.00 (Twenty One Thousand Five Dollars) and a reduction equaling the project allowance of \$11,000 (Eleven Thousand Dollars) plus and additional allowance of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars) from East End and West End Projects, equaling a total allowance of \$21,000.00 (Twenty One Thousand Dollars) to be deducted from the contract sum. The cost of the project will now be as follows:

Original Installation cost.....	\$69,062.00
Change Order.....	\$21,000.00
Combined Project Allowance.....	- <u>\$21,000.00</u>
Adjusted Total Installation Cost.....	\$69,062.00

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

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve change order number EEDOOR-001, for the Door Replacement Project – East End School, in the net amount of -\$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Five Dollars) equaling the project allowance of \$5,000.00 (Five Thousand Dollars) to be deducted from the contract sum. The cost of the project will now be as follows:

Original Installation cost.....	\$73,756.00
Project Allowance.....	- <u>\$ 5,000.00</u>
Adjusted Total Installation Cost.....	\$68,756.00

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

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

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education, having tabled the recommendation at the reorganization meeting held on January 4, 2017, now does remove from the table and is hereby RESOLVED, that the President of the Board does now make the committee appointments 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. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education authorizes Tracy Buaron to apply for a grant through DonorsChoose.Org for the purpose of purchasing a Chromebook charging cart for her classroom at Somerset School at a total value of \$1,191.25.

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 – Ms. Dodd reviewed topics discussed. Next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 4:30 pm.

Communications – Next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Curriculum – Next meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Finance & Facilities – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for February 22, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Negotiations – No meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – No meeting scheduled at this time.

**Old Business**

Mr. Sternberg provided an update on lead water testing program in the district.

**New Business**

Scholarship Recognition Program was discussed, further discussion will be held.

Dr. McLaughlin reviewed proposed resolution regarding Charter Schools, Board adopted resolution.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves:

**RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION CALLING FOR A MORATORIUM ON NEW CHARTER SCHOOL SEATS IN MIDDLESEX AND SOMERSET COUNTIES, CREATED THROUGH THE APPROVAL OF NEW FACILITIES AND/OR THE EXPANSION OF EXISTING FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Charter School Program Act of 1995 (the “Act”) authorizes the creation of charter schools to service students who have identified a desire for alternatives to traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that individuals interested in creating a new charter school include parents and/or other stakeholders of the community in which the proposed charter school will be located; and

WHEREAS, the Act further requires that all charter schools have an approved district or region of residence made up of public school districts, which district/region of residence represents the community that the charter school was created to serve; and

WHEREAS, there are currently six charter schools in Middlesex and Somerset Counties, with a seventh having been approved in October 2016 with tentative opening of September 2018, which schools serve the following communities pursuant to their approved district/region of residence:

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- a) Hatikvah International Academy Charter School (“Hatikvah”): East Brunswick;
- b) Thomas Edison EnergySmart Charter School (“TEECS”): Franklin, North Brunswick, and South Brunswick;
- c) Central Jersey College Prep Charter School (“CJCP”): Franklin, North Brunswick, and New Brunswick;
- d) Greater Brunswick Charter School: New Brunswick, Edison, and Highland Park;
- e) Academy for Urban Leadership Charter School: Perth Amboy;
- f) College Achieve Charter School: North Plainfield

WHEREAS, a number of these charter schools have applied to the NJDOE seeking to expand their current programs, enrollment and locations; and

WHEREAS, a seventh charter school, Ailanthus Charter School, was approved by the New Jersey Department of Education (“NJDOE”) in October 2016 to serve students in Franklin and New Brunswick beginning in September 2018; and

WHEREAS, the current number of seats across existing charter schools in Middlesex and Somerset counties for the 2016-2017 school year, according to available public records, is 2,316; and

WHEREAS, the number of charter school seats throughout Middlesex and Somerset counties, according to available public records, will increase by 128% to 5,283 if all of the outstanding expansion applications are granted and Ailanthus is granted a final charter by the NJDOE; and

WHEREAS, the Act requires that the districts of residence pay the charter schools for each student from their respective communities enrolled in those schools, thereby draining funds and diminishing money available to serve students in the traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, the NJDOE has interpreted the Act to require all public school districts statewide to pay charter schools for students enrolled in those schools regardless as to whether the charter serves that district’s community as part of the charter’s approved district or region of residence; and

WHEREAS, any increase in charter seats will have a negative impact on public school district funding, with the proposed 128% increase in such seats in Middlesex and Somerset counties likely to lead to drastic and debilitating cuts throughout the public school districts in those counties; and

WHEREAS, unlike charter schools, public school districts are consistently underfunded by the State despite the requirements of the School Funding Reform Act and are also subject to a mandatory 2% cap on increases to its local tax levy, which prevents public school districts from raising funds to cover the damage caused by increased charter school seats; and

WHEREAS, the existing charter schools located in Middlesex and Somerset counties are already lacking in demand in their own designated communities and the expansion of these schools will only exacerbate this issue; and

WHEREAS, in direct contradiction to the letter and spirit of the Act, many charter schools are seeking to expand in order to enroll additional students from districts outside of the

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charter schools' approved districts or regions of residence due to a lack of interest from students who live in the very communities for which the charters were created to serve; and

WHEREAS, TEECS, CJCP and Hatikvah have all filed applications seeking to expand their enrollment despite the fact, according to data available for the 2016-2017 school year, that only 96% of the students enrolled in TEECS reside in that school's region of residence, only 87% of the students enrolled in CJCP reside in that school's region of residence, and only 48% of the students enrolled in Hatikvah reside in that school's district of residence; and

WHEREAS, TEECS and Hatikvah enroll a significantly more segregated student body than any of the resident or non-resident sending districts with respect to race, socioeconomic status, and need for special education; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education and the Courts have repeatedly determined that the practice of segregating students must be ended, not perpetuated under the guise of parental choice or "free-market" competition; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear as to whether the NJDOE gives due consideration to the increased segregation of students caused by expanding charter schools; and

WHEREAS, it is also unclear as to whether the NJDOE gives due weight to the financial burden on districts of residence and other public school districts impacted by increasing charter school enrollment when considering applications for new or expanded charter schools; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of publicly available studies and/or statistical analyses conducted by the NJDOE with respect to the segregative and financial impact of charter school expansions on the vast majority of students remaining in the traditional public setting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Plainfield Board of Education hereby implores the New Jersey Department of Education to conduct a full, open and thorough analysis of the potential impact that the expansion and addition of charter schools in Middlesex and Somerset counties will have on each public school district throughout the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a moratorium be imposed on the approval of any application to expand or create any charter school in Middlesex and/or Somerset county until such time as the NJDOE analysis can be properly completed and the results of which can be shared and discussed with the public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Plainfield Board of Education hereby requests the assistance of its local and State representatives in ensuring that the NJDOE conducts the necessary charter school impact analysis and that the public school districts of Middlesex and Somerset counties receive their fair share of funds so that they can continue to provide a thorough and efficient public education to all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Acting Commissioner of Education, the Acting Director of the Office of Charter Schools, State Senator Nicholas P. Scutari, Assemblyman Jerry Green, Assemblyman James J. Kennedy, State Senator Teresa Ruiz and the Senate Education Committee, Assemblywoman Marlene

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Caride and the Assembly Education Committee, State Senate President Stephen Sweeney, and Assembly Speaker Vincent Prieto.

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

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

### **Current Events in Education**

Ms. Vella reported that Barnes & Noble has recently added schools to their book donation list and Teresa Wilson reached out to Barnes & Noble district representative to have North Plainfield added. There will be a New Jersey team attending a Teacher-Leader Summit in Las Vegas next month.

CCSSO has asked New Jersey to assemble a team of two DOE members along with one teacher, one principal and one central office administrator to attend its multi-state convening, with the goal of formulating the basis of a state plan for a district-centric approach to teacher-leadership endorsement in NJ. The NJDOE shared they are continually impressed with the work that North Plainfield is engaging in. Mr. Rowan would be an excellent addition as someone who transitioned from a teacher leader to an assistant principal role in a second year Achievement Coaching district.

Starting in the 2017-18 school year, North Plainfield High School will be adding engineering to program of study. Project Lead The Way Engineering will provide our students with competitive opportunity to study engineering in high school. Engineering has been recognized as a lucrative, in-demand career field throughout the world, and this curriculum strengthens essential skills in other subject areas such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, collaboration, and perseverance. NPHS Alumni feedback has indicated a need for a comprehensive program to better prepare them for the rigors of college.

Through research with other high schools and discussions with teachers, alumni, and county district administrators, we have recommended that science classes at the high school shift to five period science courses with the lab embedded in the curriculum. Some highlights identified in making this change include, but are not limited to, more consistent scheduling, and greater support for the Next Generation Science Standards given that labs can more easily shift to deeper inquiry and greater efficiencies in scheduling. To assist with the adjustment, Mr. Kushner is committed to professional development in Next Generation instruction, greater feedback through walkthroughs, observations, lesson plan feedback, curriculum revision, and continued use of the Professional Learning Communities as well as the creation of lesson planning teams to increase innovative ways to deliver content.

Update on Sheltered instruction training of trainer's application, Gabriela Colon initial application has been accepted. Attendance procedures have been reevaluated in an effort to maintain the highest levels of student safety, the district is confirming student absences. Letters will be mailed home with report cards in February communicating the updated procedures. To ensure parents/guardians familiarize themselves with the policy for reporting student's absences from school.

Update on students taking the Seal of Biliteracy, (10) grade 11 students and (27) grade 12 students are interested in taking the assessment. Testing is the last week of January in small group. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, North Plainfield was invited to present at the Somerset

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County Business Partnership as we take the next steps to our mentorship pilot. The group is convening at 8:45 am and we will have approximately 20 minutes to present and 20 minutes for Q&A. The second Elementary Curriculum Planning Day was last week and the units of study are in the process of being updated and revised for publication. In addition, we spoke about phonics needs and the details of reading workshop. Next steps include the creation of a master list for elementary read alouds, as well as continued trainings based on teacher needs.

A planning meeting with Barb Golub is occurring this week. 100 members of the Class of 2017 have been offered college admission through our College Instant Decisions Days. Students were awarded over one million in merit-based scholarships during sessions.

Colleges/Universities that conducted Instant-Decision Days at North Plainfield High School include the College of St. Elizabeth, NJIT, Rowan University, Rider University, Caldwell University, Kean University, Fairleigh Dickinson University, New Jersey City University, Bloomfield College, Delaware State University, Seton Hall University, Centenary University, Cabrini University, and St. Peter's University.

### **Comments from the Public**

There were none.

### **Future Agenda Items**

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

HIB Procedures & Regulatory Expectations – February 1

Maker Space – March 1

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Dodd moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, February 1, 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. Butler moved, seconded by Ms. Dodd and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:10 P.M. executive session for for approximately 60 minutes.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Ms. Dodd and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg