

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on March 1, 2017 at 7:00 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Ms. Bond-Nelson 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
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Allen – 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 5 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 February 15, 2017.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; to accept the executive session minutes February 15, 2017.

Financial Report

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Williams mentioned and discussed Wednesday March 22, 2017 “Be SMART” meeting, that will be held at 7:30 pm at the Vermule Community Center promoting gun safety around children.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative: Yanqing Liang reported that the Rutgers basketball season is slowly coming to an end, Interact Club will attend the last games to help out at the concession stand. During March, the Interact Club will also work on their pennies for patient’s project.

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Some of the 10th grade English classes have written essays as entries for the Optimist Club, the Essay Contest was back in December. The results were recently announced, and the winner was Laura Amacha her topic “Chasing Optimism in the Faces of Challenges”. The mentor session last Wednesday discussed the topic of relationships, freshmen were taught of the importance of family relationships and how to identify signs of good and bad relationships.

The talent show was held last week, students of different grades showcased their talents in singing, dancing and other acts. The performances were entertaining and impressive. The past weekend was the NJ All State Chorus concert. NP chorus members and senior Lauren Ventriglia represented North Plainfield in performing at the concert.

A special mention to senior cheerleader, Sefa Kolubah, who is a good friend of ours. Sefa is a Central Jersey Allstars cheerleader and has been competing in many large competitions throughout the nation. Recently, he participated in one of the largest cheer events, the NCA Nationals competition held in Dallas, Texas. Sefa and the team placed sixth in the competition, and as a fellow supporter, peer and friend, We are extremely proud of what he has done and the honor he has brought to NPHS.

Student Representative: Radha Patel reported that the cheer season has come to an end. They will have their annual competition season banquet during the end of March. The varsity boys’ basketball team won their second round of the tournament game this previous Monday against New Providence. It is a very proud feat for our boys to move onto the final round of their tournament championship game. With all winter sports coming to an end, the exciting start of all spring sports starts Friday, March 3rd. Baseball and softball have already been working hard for the past few weeks in their preseason to help prep for the start of their seasons. The girls and boys track teams are also very excited to be starting up once again for the new season. Specifically, the girls track team is especially joyful that Coach D’Armiento is back in action and will be coaching them once again this season.

Not only is this Friday an important day for all spring sports, but it is a very important day for the juniors it is Junior Prom. This year, the junior prom is themed “Casino Royale”. It will be a wonderful sight to see all the beautiful dresses and handsome tuxes the juniors will be wearing to show off their glam at the prom. The seniors will be attending their prom. The junior prom will be an amazing night filled with laughter, dancing, and a memorable moments for the class of 2018.

Presentation

Mr. Daniel Kushner and Mr. Philip Lensi presented and discussed with the board program called “Maker Space”. All unstructured technology oriented, self-guided, learning enrollment.

Superintendent’s Report

Mr. Tarnofsky and Mr. McKeen have met with our principals, PTA/O representatives and reached out to community religious leaders and NPEA regarding the 2018-2019 calendar. We continue to be committed to providing a two year outlook on our calendars, knowing that such planning is of great value to our families, students and staff. A copy of the draft will be posted on our website beginning tomorrow so that additional input may be garnered before the anticipated approval by the board on March 15th.

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The Navy JROTC is a great source of pride for North Plainfield. Over 10% of our student body participates in this rigorous program that prepares students to be tomorrow's leaders. Lt. Colonel Hansen has advised us that Commander Miller, the Area Four Manager, has approved Friday, March 24th, as the date for the Area Manager's Inspection. The inspection will begin at 9:30 am. This event is truly inspiring and demonstrates our students' strengths in a truly unique way.

There has been a great deal of news surrounding changes in the federal approach to transgender rights of students in the nation's schools. Our attorney recently confirmed that our policy continues to be appropriate without any changes and that the district will continue to have autonomy to provide increased protections to students even if the state should modify its approach.

NPMS will conduct its second annual Live Museum Night on March 21st at 7:00 pm. Last year's inaugural event was an impressive demonstration of the results to that occur when opportunities are created for students to pursue their own academic interests and share in the responsibility for their learning. All parents and community members are welcome to attend this wonderful evening.

Five members of our Bilitracy Academy Subcommittee visited School 28 in Elizabeth this week. The work of School 28 over the past five years has been extremely successful with participating students outperforming their general population. This is the third site visit for the subcommittee following earlier visits to Englewood and Princeton. A fourth and final site visit will be made to Perth Amboy. Each visit has provided extremely valuable information to inform our planning process. Subcommittees have completed action plans and will be coming together to discuss a multi-year approach that can be shared with the board.

Ms. Eileen Dachnowicz has asked for approval for newly honored State School of Character, Somerset School to present at both the state and national character education conference. This is a tremendous honor and speaks to the quality of work that is occurring at Somerset.

Today and yesterday, our schools celebrated Read Across America Week. There can be no greater joy than seeing our students find happiness in a book. I would like to thank the board for their tremendous commitment and support to the art and science of teaching reading - perhaps the most complex and challenging instructional task for a teacher and the most critical skill 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 Dyana Reynaga as an instructional paraprofessional at East End School for the 2016-2017 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective March 2, 2017, Dyana Reynaga shall be placed on paraprofessional Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.19 per hour, for 2.50 hours per day. (Ms. Reynaga will replace Elizabeth Schwarz.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Colleen McCarthy, occupational therapist for the district, effective April 14, 2017.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Michael Cain, maintenance employee for the district, effective March 15, 2017.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, the Board of Education grants Taneesa Peters, secretary at the Department of Pupil Services, an intermittent unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act effective March 2, 2017 through March 17, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the employment of Bruce Plath, Jr. as a temporary librarian/media specialist at West End School, from September 6, 2016 through March 3, 2017 to September 6, 2016 through June 30, 2017. (Mr. Plath, Jr. is temporarily replacing Lindsey De-Medonsa.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of Sreya Rao as a K-12 district substitute teacher/substitute paraprofessional.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Kendra Egbert to serve as a volunteer assistant softball coach at NPHS.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals to supervise the breakfast program at NPHS at the rate of \$16 per session.

Renee Heller

Deborah Ruocco

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the donation of 13 sick days from employee #4665 to employee #6267.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Kelsey Nevolo, student at Rutgers University Graduate School of Education, to complete twenty practicum hours with cooperating teacher Christine Mattei, English teacher at NPHS, during the spring of 2017.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 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.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 modifications to the attached job descriptions indicated.

Director of Special Services
Instructional Paraprofessional – Kindergarten
Special Education Paraprofessional
Student Liaison

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 the adoption of the attached job descriptions indicated.

Cafeteria Paraprofessional – Non-Instructional
Middle School Lead Teacher
Office Paraprofessional – Non-Instructional

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves Patricia Glen, nurse, to assist with medical and immunization authorization during new student registration processing, at the rate of \$41.00 per hour.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 #

2017_45

2017_46

2017_48

2017_49

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_45

2017_46

2017_48

2017_49

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Three-Year Preschool Plan for the 2017-2020 school years to the County Office of Education.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the use of Brookfield Schools/For KEEPS at St. Peter’s University Hospital to provide bedside instruction as needed, at the rate of \$52.24 per hour.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 for the 2016-2017 school year, the Board of Education approves the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective March 2, 2017. Transportation will be required.

Name	DOB	Class	Placement	Tuition
RRRRRR-16-17 prorated	5/1/00	AUT	Bright	\$53,820.00/yr.

Beginnings

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 approves the funds necessary to exceed the amount budgeted for Ardor Health Solutions by \$8,000.00 to meet the speech/language needs of students within

the district while a speech/language specialist is on leave of absence.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 approves the Equivalency Application supporting the area of Instruction and Program in the District Performance Review of New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC).

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

C. FINANCE, PURCHASING AND AGREEMENTS

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve a resolution authorizing the Business Administrator to accomplish all necessary steps to proceed with a public bid for district wide landscaping services:

WHEREAS, the North Plainfield Board of Education (“Board”) has determined that, district wide landscaping services in the district are required to be submitted for proposals in order to be renewed for the 2017-2018 school year, along with two additional renewal years 2018-2019 (year two) and 2019-2020 (year three); and

WHEREAS, specifications have been developed based on the district needs and requirements related to providing landscaping services throughout the district; and

WHEREAS, the district intends to award this service as professional contracted services; and

WHEREAS, the Board must now take all actions as directed by the Department of Education and any other authority in order to receive a determination and approval to proceed; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Donald Sternberg the Business Administrator/ Board Secretary, is hereby authorized to submit and take all necessary action to provide specification and receive proposals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the business administrator is hereby authorized to advertise and solicit proposals pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et. seq. in order to award the service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED this resolution shall be effective immediately.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts and approves carry-over of the 2016 NCLB Grant into the 2017 NCLB Grant in the amounts listed as follows:

Title IA - \$12,714.00
 Title IIA - \$ 2,009.00
 Title III-IMM - \$ 485.00

Total Carry-over - \$15,208.00

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 Heather Morgan to apply for a grant through DonorsChoose.Org for the purpose of purchasing raw materials and storage units to create a makerspace to optimize students’ engineering practices in her classroom at West End School at a total value of \$635.29.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 Thomas Bannon, physical education teacher at NPHS, to accept the Brain Injury Alliance of NJ-U Got Brains Champion School Grant in the amount of \$750.00 for the purpose of creating a teen safe driving program project.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 approves the following field trip:

Date	Purpose	Location	Cost	
03/09/17	Transportation RVCC	NPHS	\$0.00	Contracted
Bus				(Paid by RVCC)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

Correspondence

Terry Thompson sent a thank you note for her retirement gift and presentation.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – Ms. Dodd provided an overview of topics discussed.

Communications – Mr. Fellin reviewed topics discussed; paperless project and parent portal.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 30, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

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

Finance & Facilities – Ms. Bond-Nelson discussed budget issues. Next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2017 at 5:15 pm.

Policy Meeting – Ms. Butler discussed policies reviewed. Next meeting scheduled for March 30, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Negotiations – No meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Fellin provided an overview of recent legislation.

SCSBA – Next meeting scheduled for April 27, 2017.

SCESC – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

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

4119.25	School District Provided Technology Devices to Staff Members
5118.2	Foster Care and Educational Stability
5141.20	Life Threatening Food Allergies

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 approves the following policies as revised:

1250	School Visitors
4112.2	Certification
4112.4/4212.4	Employee Health
4112.6/4212.6	Personnel Records
5111	Admission
5131	Conduct/Discipline (Code of Conduct)
5131.5	Vandalism/Violence
5134	Married/Pregnant Students

5141 Health
5141.4 Missing, Abused and Neglected Children

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

Mr. Allen asked about life skill courses in the High School and expressed concerns over letter on the fields.

Current Events in Education

Ms. Vella reported that Somerset School's report card pilot was recently approved by the Curriculum Committee for the 2017-2018 school year. Report cards will be accessible through Genesis; similar to the K-5 progress reports.

Mr. Rasaq, high school mathematics teacher, was invited to serve as a scorer for AP exams and will report his experience to the mathematics department. Providing greater insight into the grading of AP exams and the expectations of students. This will become even more valuable in our course planning for AP Statistics. Additionally, Ms. Meyer will have Mr. Rasaq as a trainer for the mathematics department when creating common assessments with higher order questions.

Members of our Google Team have received confirmation that our workshop proposal, see below, Implementing Google at the Elementary, Intermediate, and Secondary Levels was accepted. The presentation will be at the Garden State Summit on June 7th.

Session Description: Our presentation will cover how we use the Google Suite at each level- elementary, intermediate, and secondary. Topics during our presentation will include varying access to devices at each level, implementing Google both in and out of the classroom, and best practice for incorporating the Google Suite. It will also feature a short student-made video about Google in the classroom.

We are working to investigate automatic updates in Genesis for parents to increase communication between home and school. The proposal will be for parents to receive automatic weekly updates on grading, and we will provide workshops to share different notification options.

PARCC testing will now be available for students enrolled in mathematics in summer school programs. In response to feedback from New Jersey educators, the NJDOE is making the PARCC assessments for Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II available for students over the summer. All students enrolled in a summer credit-bearing mathematics course (Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II) will need to be administered the associated PARCC assessment. Both the computer-based assessment and paper-based assessment will have a two-week testing window running from July 31 through August 11, 2017.

Elementary teachers will have the opportunity to pilot Writing Units of Study upon request. At this time, we have 15 elementary teachers who have made the request and this will provide rich feedback about effective strategies to implement when we embark upon Writing Workshop in the 2018-19 school year.

The Assistant Superintendents office will be sending a letter to the school community this week centered upon *ESSA*. The letter will include key changes in the NJDOE proposed plan; which can be found online, [NJDOE proposed ESSA plan](#), and how the public can make comments. The 365 page plan addresses standards, assessments, school and district accountability and assistance for struggling schools. All states were required to submit plans on how they would comply with the new law. This requires that students are given equitable access to resources and opportunities, and that schools improve student performance and close achievement gaps. The plans are required to get federal funding under the law.

To help get the message out, the *ESSA* team is holding three live webinars to provide information and field questions regarding the proposed *ESSA* State Plan. These webinars may be attended by district administrators, educators, parents, community members or any other member of the public. The webinars will take place on the following dates and times:

Date	Time
Tuesday, February 28	9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
Thursday, March 2	4:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 7	7:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
Register to attend one or more of these here: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6845086984753398530	

The Department of Education identified the following key changes in the plan:

- The state would use chronic absenteeism as an indicator of school quality and student success. Chronic absenteeism refers to students who are absent at least 10 percent of school days.
- The state would track a five-year graduation rate — and not just a four-year rate — to account for students who need more time to graduate.

The new law does not require states to have an educator-evaluation system, but NJ state officials said they will continue using the one that has been in place since 2012 called TEACHNJ. TEACHNJ relies on observations and student performance to measure teacher effectiveness.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Future Agenda Items

Per the presentation calendar (www.nplainfield.org)
 Character Education – April 5, Ms. Fields & Mr. Jaime
 School Performance Reports (tentative) – April 19

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, March 15, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at Watchung School for confidential matters relating to students, personnel,

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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. Dodd moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:00 P.M. executive session for approximately 60 minutes and no action will be taken upon return to public session.

Ms. Dodd moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED: Donald Sternberg