

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 16, 2015 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. 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, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Absent, Notified	Thomas Kasper – 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; Michelle Vella, Assistant Superintendent; and Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; to accept the public session minutes of December 2, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; to accept the executive session minutes of December 2, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; to accept the public session minutes of December 9, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; to accept the executive session minutes of December 9, 2015.

Financial Reports

Mr. Kasper moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated November 30, 2015, in the amount of \$5,611,179.88.

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

Mr. Kasper moved, seconded by Mr. Branan 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 October 2015, 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

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Student Representative Report

Student Representatives Brenda Okereke and Yanqing Liang

Mentors have took part in their annual leadership training at Fairview camp in Newton, NJA. They were able to do so through a generous grant and the students who went enjoyed the experience. Many students also engaged in the Hour of Code during computer and or technical classes. The Hour of Code is a global movement reaching tens of millions of students in over 180 countries. The movement allows anyone, anywhere to organize an event where students participate in one-hour tutorials to enhance their computer skills. Club updates Interact club is continuing their volunteer efforts at Rutgers basketball game, with another game this Saturday. Drama Club students are excited to audition for roles in the spring musical "A Chorus Line". NPHS Concert Band and the NPMS 7th & 8th Grade Bands wowed their families and friends with their musical talents last night. The NPHS Choirs and the NPMS Chorus will wow their family and friends tomorrow night.

Presentation

Mr. Robert Swisher, Suplee, Clooney and Company, presented the findings from the 2014-2015 annual school audit. Audit was presented with no recommendations.

Mr. Darrell Taylor presented the anticipated Launch of Google throughout the district possible implications.

Superintendent Report

- The district is committed to expanding opportunities and options for our students. Included in these efforts is the work for our graduating seniors as they explore post-secondary opportunities. Three recent examples of this work include:
 - The creation of a college readiness center in the HS library. Counselor Maddie Gill's office will be located in the center where students will have access to a variety of college and career awareness resources.
 - On Saturday, the district transported 14 students to Bridgewater-Raritan High School where they took part in the ACT exam. Students are being encouraged to utilize this alternative college entrance exam which may offer a positive alternative or addition to the SAT. The district is pursuing the opportunity for North Plainfield HS to be an ACT testing center but in the meantime will facilitate student participation through efforts such as this event.

- Instant Decision Days have begun at North Plainfield HS. Our College and Career Team of Maddie Gill and Carmen Fazzolari report that as of December 11, 2015, 5 colleges/universities have conducted instant decisions. 17 students have been accepted to college via instant decision interviews and of those accepted, \$76,000 in Merit Scholarships have been awarded thus far. Most schools also agreed to waive the application fee for participating. This equates to a student/parent savings of \$800 in application fees.
- Upward Bound is a program that provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. The program provides opportunities for participants to succeed in their precollege performance and ultimately in their higher education pursuits. The goal of Upward Bound is to increase the rate at which participants complete secondary education and enroll in and graduate from institutions of postsecondary education. A presentation will be shared with the Curriculum Committee on December 21.
- Work is progressing on our high school auditorium with some significant material removal occurring this past weekend. On a related note, the Winter Concert presented by the NPHS Concert Band and the NPMS 7th & 8th Grade Bands will be held at Green Brook Middle School on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at 7:00 PM. The NPHS Choirs and the NPMS Chorus Winter Concert will be held at Green Brook Middle School on Thursday, December 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. We are thankful to our neighbors in Green Brook for their generosity and hospitality.
- IBM's MentorPlace program and partnership with North Plainfield Middle School has been in place over 10 years, since 2014. In this program, IBM pairs employees that live in the area with the middle school students to have dialogue throughout the school year on subjects related to their course work and how that translates to career paths and all types of skills needed in the workplace. The mentors and mentees meet in person, and have dialogue through the week on a cloud based mentoring tool. Over 500 students and more than 200 IBMers have participated since the program's inception in North Plainfield.
 - This year's IBM MentorPlace Program Kick Off was held on Friday, December 4, 2015 at the Vermeule Community Center. Thirty-three eighth grade students had the opportunity to meet their IBM mentors. Students and mentors shared lunch and worked on a team building activity. The volunteers from IBM will communicate with the students weekly through the IBM MentorPlace website tool beginning December 10, 2015 and continuing through June 2016.
- In mid-October district Director of Security Stuart Buckman actively re-instituted the WeTip program. WeTip is a program that allows students and/or staff to report illegal activities or other concerns anonymously. The program has been promoted through the district, and information has been made available through school websites. Anecdotally, it is important to share that students, staff and families have made use of the program assisting the district in its consistent efforts to effectively provide a safe and secure environment for learning to occur in each of its schools.

- On December 2nd, the North Plainfield Middle School and Somerset School Student Councils conducted their 12th Annual Student Council “Partnership” Food Drive.
- ASVAB reduced the total number of high school seniors who still require a passing test result to 66.

Recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools:

Personnel

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2015-2016

school year, the Board of Education approves the following changes in paraprofessional hours, effective December 17, 2015.

Name	From	To
Mary Leriche	20.50 hours/week	23.50 hours/week
Patricia DiFrancesco	21.00hours/week	23.00 hours/week
Victoria Alfaro	12.50 hours/week	17.50 hours/week

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as tutors for the before and/or after-school P.A.S.S./Extended Day Program, for up to 1.5 hours per day and for up to 3 hours per Saturday morning, at the rate of \$35 per hour.

Charles Rowan – Social Studies

Nora Leary – Language Arts

Argie Kantilierakis – Language Arts

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the following teachers to teach an additional period at the rate indicated, effective December 17, 2015.

Teacher	Department	Additional Annual Salary
Debbie Ledger	Mathematics	\$7,280.00 (prorated)
Erin Scott	English	\$10,362.83 (prorated)

David Branam – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following staff members to chaperone the December 12, 2015 ACT field trip, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour.

Michele Armento

Charles Rowan

David Branam – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers/substitute paraprofessionals.

Jennifer Polizzi

Tiffany Mack

George George

David Branam – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the unpaid leave of absence granted to Jody Rhee, reading teacher at NPMS, **from** effective October 7, 2015 through January 6, 2016 **to** effective October 7, 2015 through January 18, 2016.

David Branam – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

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

Mr. Branam moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Adult ELL as a club for parents of students enrolled in Somerset School.

Further, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Kate Moore as a volunteer advisor to Adult ELL.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Clare McEnroe, teacher of family and consumer science at NPHS, to teach an additional period at the additional annual salary of \$10,202.17 prorated.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment of Lindsay Laguna as an instructional paraprofessional at East End School for 2.0 hours per day for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective December 17, 2015, Lindsay Laguna shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.02 per hour. (This position is new).

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Chin-Ping Jen, teacher of science at NPHS, to teach an additional period at the additional annual salary of \$11,209.50 prorated, effective December 18, 2015 through February 17, 2016. (Ms. Jen will temporarily replace Debra Foote).

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the additional period assignment of David Miller, teacher of mathematics at NPHS, **from** effective November 3, 2015 through December 17, 2015, **to** effective November 3, 2015 through February 17, 2016. (Mr. Miller will temporarily replace Debra Foote).

David Branan – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the following individuals as instructors for the Stony Brook School Extended Day program, at the rate of \$40 per hour.

Meghan Zampella
Susan Garatino
Kelly Schmitz

Eram Tun
Lindsay Miller
Regina Silverii

Leanne Borbely
Caitlin Pinto
Marilyn LaMarca

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment of Gloria Patricia Garcia as a non-instructional paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for 1.50 hours per day for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, effective December 17, 2015, Gloria Patricia Garcia shall be placed on Non-Instructional/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$15.02 per hour. (Ms. Garcia will replace Kim Wilson McKay).

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Ryan Shapiro, health and physical education teacher at Stony Brook School and West End School, effective January 1, 2016.

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Ryan Dunham to serve as a volunteer assistant to the wrestling coach at NPHS.

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that

the Board of Education approves home instruction for non-classified student HI-02-15-16, for up to ten hours per week for 2 weeks, to be provided by Jamie Petraglia, academic support teacher at East End School, at the rate of \$52.24 per hour, effective December 7, 2015.

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

Curriculum, Instruction & Pupil Services

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

2016_12	2016_13	2016_14	2016_15
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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 #

2016_12	2016_13	2016_14	2016_15
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David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Zufall Health Center in Somerville to provide the Somerset Teens Education in Pregnancy (STEP) program to expectant students at NPHS.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the attached Annual Nursing Services Plan.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Finance, Purchasing & Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper 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, 2015.

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper 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 November 18, 2015.

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approves additional funds in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing legal services from Sciarrillo, Cornell, McKeever, Merlino, & Osborne LLC, for the 2015-2016 school year.

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that RESOLUTION OF THE NORTH PLAINFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION (NPBOE), APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF PROGRAM APPLICATIONS AND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT APPLICATIONS TO THE NJDOT DIVISION OF LOCAL AID/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND THE OFFICE OF BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROGRAMS BY NPBOE AND/OR BOROUGH OF NORTH PLAINFIELD.

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Plainfield Board of Education formally approves participation in the New Jersey Department Of Transportation Safe Routes to School, and since the 2010-2011 school year, NPBOE has supported the efforts of the North Plainfield Safe Routes to School Committee to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety within the Borough;

BE IT RESOLVED that the District Superintendent, Board Secretary or their assignees are hereby authorized to submit all program applications and grant applications to NJDOT related to Safe Routes to School;

BE IT RESOLVED that it is the understanding of the NPBOE, that NJDOT grant funding if awarded, it will commit local share for any approved matching requirements for all Safe

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Routes to School grant funding that may be required under Federal (USDOT) and/or State (New Jersey) grants requirements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District Superintendent and/or Board Secretary are hereby authorized to sign all grant agreements on behalf of the North Plainfield Board of Education and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approval of the execution of the grant agreement.

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Kathleen Mullen – Aye

Curriculum Updates/Current Events in Education

Ms. Vella discussed that on December 9, the U.S. Senate approved the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to replace NCLB. It is anticipated the act will scale back some of the requirements of NCLB. Under ESSA, only the lowest performing schools will be cited, and ESSA will call for interventions for the bottom 5 percent of schools based on overall results or student-achievement gaps. Two articles related to the ESSA have been included in the board's packets.

Computer Science Week, North Plainfield students participated in activities centered upon the importance of STEM skill of coding.

On Thursday, December 10, over 20 staff members came together to discuss the vision for our district Google Coaches. Google Coaches will provide professional development, create video tutorials, serve as support in the school and be North Plainfield Google experts.

The PARCC individual score reports for 3-8 students have arrived, and schools will mail reports before break. Videos and resources are posted online for the community, and teachers are working with Ms. Armento to interpret school results.

The North Plainfield High School leadership team is actively engaged in preparing the Program of Study for next year. All feedback and edits will be completed by the end of this week as we prepare the 2016-17 scheduling process.

Elementary leadership participated in literacy environmental learning walks with Barb Golub, Dr. McLaughlin and Ms. Vella, visited classrooms and focused upon the following areas: classroom libraries, anchor charts and individual book baggies. We are proud of teachers and students and look forward to using this work to guide the February 12th day of professional learning.

On December 11th, Ms. Marseglia and Ms. Vella attended a Standards Based Report Card workshop. North Plainfield School District is in a strong position in relation to the report. Dr. Blecher has been working with facilitators to create training and resources for the language arts department regarding SAT changes.

Correspondence

There was none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Finance & Facilities – Meeting scheduled for January 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Policy Meeting – Meeting scheduled for January 14, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Negotiations – No meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper updated the Board on recent issues related to legislation and the reauthorization of NCLB now ESSA.

SCSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – Ms. Mullen updated the Board on recent issues including security drills and food stores.

Old Business

There were none.

New Business

There were none.

Comments from the Public

There were none.

Future Agenda Items

Per the presentation calendar (www.nplainfield.org)

Reorganization Meeting – January 6, 2016 at 7:30 pm.

CTE- Ms. Michelle Velle

Adjournment

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that be it resolved that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, January 6, 2016 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.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg