

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on January 20, 2016 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs David Branan called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. David Branan requested the call of the roll:

|                         |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| David Branan – Aye      | John Fellin, Jr. – Aye             |
| Bianka Butler – Aye     | Thomas Kasper – Aye                |
| Sandra Dodd – Aye       | Kathleen Mullen – Absent, Notified |
| 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 as well as Brenda Okereke and Yanqing Liang, Student Representatives, and approximately 10 members of the staff and public.

### **Introduction of New Staff**

There was none.

### **Minutes Approval**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; to accept the public session minutes of January 6, 2016.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; to accept the executive session minutes of January 6, 2016.

### **Financial Reports**

Mr. Kasper 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, 2015, in the amount of \$6,449,063.55.

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| David Branan – Aye  | John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  |
| Bianka Butler – Aye | Thomas Kasper – Aye     |
| Sandra Dodd – Aye   | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

Mr. Kasper 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 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  |
| Bianka Butler – Aye | Thomas Kasper – Aye     |
| Sandra Dodd – Aye   | Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye |

### **Comments from the Public**

There was none.

### **Student Representative Report**

Brenda Okereke reported that recently at North Plainfield, exemplary students were awarded the Student of the Month designations and are being interviewed for exposure. These interviews will appear in the hallways, on bulletin boards and on the school website.

Yesterday, the Heroes and Cool Kids club went on their first visit to Somerset School to mentor the 6th grade students. Before the visit, mentors went through a training session with former NFL player Harry Flaherty. Mr. Flaherty was an exuberant teacher that engaged the mentors, properly preparing them for the visit. At Somerset, kids were able to listen to stories geared towards teaching them valuable morals such as perseverance and determination. The kids also participated in fun games and were able to write down questions they may have for the mentors to answer at the next visit.

Club Updates, Canuckling Literary Magazine has recently heard back from the American Associated Press and received the Gold Award for last year's issue of Canuckling titled, "It's All About Perspective". Drama club members are preparing for STANJ Auditions. Interact is continuing their volunteer efforts at Rutgers Basketball Games and the PTO will be hosting the Mr. Canuck 2016" Pageant this Friday at 7:00pm which is sure to be an interesting event.

Yanqing Liang reported that the Interact Club had two representatives attend a Rotary Club dinner at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield, where they presented their works in front of other Rotaract Clubs from Somerset County. A video made by Brenda Okereke was presented and all enjoyed a great dinner while hearing about activities that other schools were involved in.

Athletics continue to practice through the winter season. The wrestling team and, boys and girls basketball have officially begun their games and matches against other schools, with the boys basketball team already at a 7-2 record. During these basketball games, the STEP and Cheer teams bring wonderful performances to entertain the crowd during halftime and throughout the game as well. Additionally, the tradition of the VolleyCheese Tournament continued at NPHS last Friday, where students created teams of 10 and compete against each other to earn the ultimate title of Volley Cheese Kings/Queens.

On Martin Luther King Jr Day, the ROTC at NPHS had a competition while many students were enjoying their day off. The varsity ROTC placed second overall. In the choral department, six students were chosen to become a part of the NJ Regional choir, which is a great honor. The talent show, scheduled for February, had their auditions this week.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Armento, Supervisor of Testing & Data Analysis presented the Annual Testing Results completed in 2015 to the Board.

### **Superintendent Report**

Dr. McLaughlin provided a report on Violence, Vandalism and HIB for September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. A comparison from the prior year was also provided.

January 20, 2016

Ms. Vella and I attended the NJ State Board of Education meeting which was held on Monday January 11th. Our primary purpose for attending was to hear the proposed changes to the state standards. Ms. Vella will address the particulars of those recommendations in her report tonight.

The State Board also provided special recognition to local boards of education as January is the month put aside to recognize the efforts of our local leaders. Commissioner Hesse provided a plaque and added his words of praise for local boards of education and the countless volunteer hours they devote in the interest of New Jersey's children. On behalf of our district administration and staff I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the very special board of education we are privileged to have in place in this community. We are indebted to the consistent vision of this board who always places children first in their decision making and who sacrifice so much of their time attending committee meetings, board meetings, trainings, school events and community functions as well as time at home reading and responding to the vast amount of documentation that requires their attention. Thank you - we are truly gifted to have your leadership and support.

I am happy to present for the board's consideration several policies which will be elaborated upon in the policy committee report. Accompanying the majority of policies will be regulations formulated and issued by the administration in our commitment to provide clear guidance and understanding to the implementation of policy in our district. Completed regulations are posted on our website under the Board of Education tab.

In regard to our website, I am happy to share that our new template is poised to debut on Wednesday. Changes may not appear to be drastic but we are confident that the new look offers a less cluttered look and more direct way to access information for those who visit [nplainfield.org](http://nplainfield.org). I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Ms. Megan Schutz and all the school webmasters for their work on this important project.

On Friday January 8th, our principals had the opportunity to receive a presentation from the New Jersey Department of Health on the topic of Immunizations and response to outbreaks. The presentation was extremely informative and provided wonderful resources that will be very useful in our efforts to ensure all our students are appropriately immunized. It is important to state that our district is firmly committed to ensuring all students have their required immunizations and that we are equally committed to providing resources to families who may require assistance and support in this regard. I extend my thanks to Mr. Karl Gordon for arranging this presentation - according to the NJ Department of Health we are the first district to offer them a forum to speak to school leaders.

During the month of January a committee came together and commenced its work on our district code of conduct. The goal of the committee is to develop a comprehensive code of conduct addressing behavioral expectations on a PK-12 basis in a developmentally appropriate way. Codes of Conduct are based on district Core Values and the important work that has been completed in establishing and promoting those core values provides a solid basis for the work ahead. It is important to emphasize that the work of the committee is not only to create a code of conduct but also to provide supports, interventions and to develop other proactive measures inclusive of our character education work that promote positive behaviors among our students and in their relationships with staff. Our goal is to reach our goals.

**Recommendations from the Superintendent of Schools:**  
**Personnel**

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

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that WHEREAS Lucille Minichino, paraprofessional in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on February 29, 2016, and

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

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

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on January 20, 2016, and be it further

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

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that WHEREAS Diane Forino, kindergarten teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on June 30, 2016, and

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

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

RESOLVED that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the public meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education on January 20, 2016, and be it further

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

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 individual as a K-12 district substitute teacher/substitute paraprofessional.

Amy Fitzharris

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 Shadelle Hernandez as a secretary at the Department of Pupil Services for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 21, 2016 Shadelle Hernandez shall be placed on Secretary II/Step 1 of the secretarial salary guide and will be paid the annual salary \$41,660. (Ms. Hernandez will replace Thanya Mendez.)

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 employment of the following individual as a district substitute custodian, to be called on an as-needed basis, to be paid at the rate of \$18.29 per hour, effective January 21, 2016.

Joseph Marsigliano

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 guide and salary of Kimberly Annette, social studies teacher at NPMS, from the BA Guide to, effective February 1, 2016, MA Guide/Step 10 at the salary rate of \$62,260, to reflect her attainment of a Master's Degree.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 guide and salary of Dale Smith, district LDTC, from the MA Guide to, effective February 1, 2016, MA+30 Guide/Step 17 at the salary rate of \$80,510 plus \$375 longevity entitlement and \$6,052.47 LDTC stipend for a total of \$86,937.47, to reflect her attainment of a Master's Degree plus 30 credit hours.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education increases the salary of Edison Torres, Jr., assistant principal at NPMS, by \$2,700 prorated, effective February 1, 2016, to reflect his attainment of a Master’s Degree plus 30 credit hours.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accepts with regret, the resignation of Louise Eyring, special education teacher at NPMS, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 staff be reimbursed for graduate courses taken between September and December 2015.

| Name                                     | Course                                | School                         | Crds | Paid       | Reimb.     |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------------|------------|
| Kelli Beard<br>(Social Studies/NPHS)     | Colloquium in<br>Global History       | Rutgers University             | 3    | \$2,402.25 | \$1,201.13 |
| Brian Bigden<br>(Elementary/WE)          | Military<br>History                   | William Paterson<br>University | 3    | \$2,081.50 | \$1,040.75 |
| Michelle Vella<br>(Asst. Superintendent) | Research<br>Seminar                   | Kean University                | 3    | \$2,294.00 | \$1,720.50 |
| Cynthia Crawford<br>(Elementary/SB)      | Brain Based<br>Teaching &<br>Learning | The College of<br>New Jersey   | 3    | \$1,500.00 | \$ 750.00  |

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education grants Therese Boulanger, special education teacher at NPHS, a leave of absence retroactive to December 4, 2015, using accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through June 7, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education grants Jessica Giron, paraprofessional at East End School, a leave of absence effective February 19, 2016 or sooner, if necessary, using no accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through May 16, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education grants Isabel Roca-Lizarazu, Spanish teacher at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence for personal reasons from February 4, 2016 to February 14, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Alisa Denisov and Isabel Gonzalez Havlik for school visitation from February 2, 2016 through February 25, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accepts with regret, the resignation of Daryl Robinson, head custodian at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective June 30, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 William Saccardi to NPMS after school detention at the rate of \$25 per session.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Debbie Ledger as a substitute teacher in the North Plainfield High School Alternative Program, at the rate of \$32.00 an hour for up to 4 hours per night.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 staff be appointed to supervise Student Infraction Time (SIT) and Saturday detention at the rate of \$80 per day:

Christopher Tyler  
 Elba Velazquez

Shona Wright  
 Kimberly Nydick

Nora Leary  
 Michael Mulry

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 staff members as home instructors, at the rate of \$52.24 per hour.

Monika Kupczak

Dana Kim Gargiule

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 change in paraprofessional hours, effective January 21, 2016 through May 13, 2016.

| <b>Name</b>  | <b>From</b>      | <b>To</b>        |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Robert Foote | 17.50 hours/week | 14.00 hours/week |

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 Mario Restrepo as a temporary instructional paraprofessional at NPHS for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 21, 2016 through May 13, 2016, Mario Restrepo shall be placed on Instructional Non-Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$16.02 per hour for 3.50 hours per week. (Mr. Restrepo will temporarily replace Robert Foote.)

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 Molly Gasior as an academic support teacher at Somerset School for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 21, 2016 Molly Gasior shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the annual salary \$57,460 prorated. (Ms. Gasior will replace Susan Kurtzer.)

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves Alfred Streicher, teacher of mathematics, to teach an extra period at the additional annual salary of \$12,645 prorated, effective January 7, 2016. (Mr. Streicher will temporarily replace Therese Boulanger.)

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Curriculum, Instruction & Pupil Services**

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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\_19      2016\_20      2016\_21      2016\_22      2016\_23

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\_19      2016\_20      2016\_21      2016\_22      2016\_23

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 additional funds necessary to allow classified student VVV-15-16 to continue to receive speech/language therapy services at Cranford Achievement Program at a cost of \$1,377.00, effective September 8, 2015 through June 22, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Finance, Purchasing & Agreements**

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 November 30, 2015.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson 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 January 20, 2016.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education, having tabled the recommendation at the reorganization meeting held on January 6, 2016, 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  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approves change order number CRMS-001, for the Classroom Reconfiguration Project – Middle School, in the amount of \$4,440.97 (Four Thousand Four Hundred Forty Dollars and Ninety Seven Cents) for a total project cost as follows:

|                            |               |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Original Installation cost | \$ 55,000.00  |
| Change Order Allowance     | \$ 4,440.97   |
| Project Allowance          | - \$ 5,500.00 |
| Total Final Project Cost   | \$ 53,940.97  |

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approves PenServ Plan Services, having offices located at 102 Trade Zone Drive, West Columbia SC 29170, for the purpose of providing plan administration of the districts 403b, and 457 plans, for the balance of the 2015-2016 school year.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approves the following field trips:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Purpose</u>                  | <u>Location</u>   | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Transportation</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 1/20//16    | Kindergarten Science Curriculum | West End School   | \$0.00      | District Bus          |
| 1/26//16    | Rehearsal for Dance             | Watchung Hills HS | \$0.00      | District Bus          |
| 1/28//16    | Performance of Dance Recital    | Watchung Hills HS | \$0.00      | District Bus          |
| 2/01//16    | Kindergarten Science Curriculum | West End School   | \$0.00      | District Bus          |

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education acknowledges that emergency exit fire drills were conducted on all pupil transportation vehicles during the month of September 2015 in accordance with NJSA 6:21-11:4.

David Branan – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Kasper – Aye  
 Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Curriculum Updates/Current Events in Education

Ms. Vella discussed that the North Plainfield School District was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the NJDOE for the 2016 New Jersey Achievement Coaches Training Program. This is a state-funded initiative designed to empower New Jersey’s outstanding educators to provide direct support to their peers through high quality training and resources through the development of high quality training modules. The three content focus areas are: Teacher Practice, Standards Alignment and Using Assessment Data to Drive Instruction. We will be meeting with DEAC on February 3rd to review the grant.

On Friday, January 15, 2016, Mr. Branan accompanied us on a visit to the preschool classes in Taylor Learning Center, Growing Tree and Holy Cross.

We are pleased to share that the North Plainfield School District has been selected to serve as a COHORT 3 member of the innovate NJ Community. Innovate NJ is a network of districts consistently using innovation and is guided and supported by the NJDOE. This distinction is a recognition of the work the North Plainfield School District has been a part of for many years and our continued drive for innovation.

Google Coaches met with the trainer on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 to continue the journey of supporting the district with GAFE. Google certification and planning for February 12, 2016 was a part of the work. They will lead three differentiated levels of workshops, and staff members will choose two courses to attend.

The Logo Contest has concluded, and we are proud of the many submissions received. Mr. Mazur led the review of the submissions and narrowed the pool. The District Character Education Committee has reviewed the logos, and we look forward to the Board of Education reviewing and voting on the final submissions.

North Plainfield is a currently a customer of Branching Minds for the 2015/2016 pilot program with classroom teachers in grade K-8 (primarily with I&RS teams). Branching Minds is applying for grant funding that would extend our pilot free to the 2016/2017 academic year, and would aid in research on the usability and feasibility of their integration with DIBELS data system for any students in academic support, the general education classroom or referred to I&RS. This would provide greater insight, training and usability of this tool in I&RS/RTI meetings, classroom settings, and the feasibility of integrating with teachers' daily routine to assess satisfaction level.

### **Correspondence**

There was none.

### **Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – Mr. Fellin provided an update on various topics and mentioned that the new website is completed and discussed social media accounts.

Curriculum – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Finance & Facilities – Ms. Bond-Nelson provided an overview of the meeting that was held on January 19, 2016 in which the 2016-2017 proposed budget was discussed. Next meeting is scheduled in February.

Policy Meeting – Ms. Butler discussed policies on agenda for approval.

Negotiations – Ms. Bond-Nelson noted that contracts are signed.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper provided an updated on the resent meeting and topics that were discussed.

SCSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCESC – A presentation will be presented to the Board at the upcoming meeting.

### **Old Business**

There were none.

### **New Business**

Ms. Butler discussed revised policies for approval.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Ms. Bond-Nelson and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve and adopt for second reading the following new policy:

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the following policies as revised:

|      |                                      |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| 4116 | Evaluation of Teaching Staff Members |
| 5113 | Attendance, Absences, and Excuses    |
| 6173 | Home Instruction                     |

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the following job description:

Facilitator

David Branan – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Kasper – Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

**Comments from the Public**

There were none.

**Future Agenda Items**

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

Character Education – February 3, 2016

Middle School Update – February 17, 2016

**Adjournment**

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that be it resolved that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, February 3, 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.

Ms. Bond-Nelson moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg