

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on November 18, 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 – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Arrived at 8:10 pm
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; with Ms. Dodd abstaining to accept the public session minutes of November 18, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved; with Ms. Dodd abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of November 18, 2015.

Financial Reports

Mr. Kasper moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated October 31, 2015, in the amount of \$6,221,674.04.

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 Mr. Branan and unanimously approved 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 September 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

Student Representative: Brenda Okereke

A handful of significant events have occurred at North Plainfield. The school's library also referred to as the "Media Center" now features a 3D Printer. 3D printing, is a process of making three dimensional solid objects from digital files. So the addition of a 3D Printer presents a unique opportunity for North Plainfield students. Club updates, the Canuck Mentors are gearing up for their annual camping trip to Fairview Camp. The senior mentor leaders are excited about the December 2nd to 4th trip. The trip will be an opportunity for the invited mentors to go through mental and physical challenges, and to also serve as a productive outlet for the kids. The PTO club hosted their annual Color Wars which was an exciting and competitive event. All grades sent out representatives in hopes of winning the coveted Colors Wars trophy. However, the reigning champs from last years Class of 2016, were victorious.

Student representative: Yanqing Liang

Men's night of singing took place on October 28th, where male singers from all across the district gathered together for a performance. The third annual cabaret dinner night will be taking place this Friday in the cafeteria. Also relating to music, a select few students went to the Vermeule Center on November 17 to entertain senior citizens with jazzy music. The marching band, attended the National competition last week, they placed eighth out of twenty seven schools and were one and a half points away from first place.

Last night, about thirty juniors and seniors were inducted to the National Honor society in the cafeteria. The event was held by the president and advisor of the National Honor Society. The Interact Club has been diligently at work promoting their Blood Drive, which will be held on Friday. Students will go to Rutgers University on Thursday, November 19, 2015 to man the concession stands.

Sports update, the varsity canuck cheerleaders placed second last night in their competition. Although the football team did not make it into the playoffs, they won their consolation game against Carteret (35-14). The canucks will be back on the field on Thanksgiving day to play against South Plainfield.

Presentation

There was none.

Superintendent Report

Veteran's Day Ceremony at NPHS another wonderful ceremony. Held during 1st period with HS classes attending. Mr. Del Priore, HS faculty member and member of the US Air Force spoke at the ceremony and shared later in the day that he was selected to a commission as a second lieutenant congratulations!

Hall Decorating at NPHS on last day of Battle of the Classes demonstrated the tremendous spirit of our students as well as their artistic and creative talent.

Alumni Mentors On Wednesday before the HS PTO meeting, alumni mentors met with parents to explain the program to parents of interested students. We have a wide array

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of mentors who are all NPHS graduates and have graduated from an array of colleges in the last few years. Mentors will support our efforts as a district to assist students to discover and access emerging career pathways. Mentors will assist with the college search and application process while modeling for our students that there are multiple paths and possibilities available to them. Many thanks to Dr. Stephenson and Ms. Rodriguez for their work on initiating this program.

Last week, our HS auditorium sustained significant water damage as a result of a burst heating coil. The auditorium is expected to be unavailable through March 1st and events will be rescheduled using alternate spaces in the district. The concert band performances for both middle and high school need a large space to accommodate all our students that is also acoustically appropriate (no gym). Greenbrook Middle School has graciously offered their space for those concerts on December 15th at no cost. We thank Greenbrook for being a true educational partner and extending their hand to us at this time.

On Thursday November 12th a group of North Plainfield Educational Leaders participated in the National Virtual Summit on Attendance. The Summit and national initiative to promote student attendance aligns with our own district's efforts to decrease chronic absenteeism and maximize student presence in school. Data was shared to show how early grade absenteeism can dramatically decrease the likelihood of HS graduation and college acceptance and how as little as two absences a month can exceed the level of chronic absenteeism. Guidance and resources were shared in the Summit and more is expected with the launch of My Brother's Keeper a national campaign to decrease absenteeism, in January.

On Monday November 9th a first presentation was provided on the PARCC Parent Score Report. Our next presentation is scheduled for December 7th. At that time some of our parents will have received their children's reports and will be able to reference them against the information we provide. Our intent is to post both the PARCC Score powerpoint and a recorded copy of the presentation for parents who are unable to attend the sessions.

On November 9th the district received notification that the North Plainfield School District was chosen by the Center for Dyslexia Studies at Fairleigh Dickinson University for the 2015-2016 Innovator Award, given to school districts who initiate and support pioneering programs to students with dyslexia and their families. Special thanks are extended to Ms. Maria Araneo for her leadership in this area.

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
WHEREAS Susan Kurtzer, academic support teacher in the North Plainfield School District,
has indicated that she wishes to retire on January 1, 2016, and

November 18, 2015

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Kurtzer 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 November 18, 2015, 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. Kurtzer.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – 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, that for the 2015-2016

school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers/substitute paraprofessionals.

Summer Thomas	Maritza Castillo
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David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 approve the appointment of Cara Colabelli to serve as a volunteer assistant to the coach for the winter track program at NPHS.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 approve the appointment of Cara Colabelli to serve as a track and field coach at NPMS, at a stipend of \$4,056.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 grant Zoraida Otero, secretary in the NPHS counseling office, a five-week unpaid leave of absence effective February 1, 2016 through March 4, 2016.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Stephen Masterson, custodian at East End School, effective November 30, 2015.

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

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
 Thomas Kasper – Aye
 Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 approve the following students for Junior Practicum:

Student Name	College Name	Class/School	Dates	Cooperating Teacher
Maria Doroteo	Kean University	Grade 3/WES	Spring – (1) day per week	Marianne Harris
Frank Harpster	Kean University	8 th Grade Social Studies/NPMS	Spring – (1) day per week	Kimberly Annette
Ryan Sawchuk	Kean University	PE/SSS	Spring - (3) hours per week	John Vogel

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Jacqueline Porter, payroll bookkeeper,

effective December 6, 2015.

David Branam – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye

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

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

the Board of Education approve the temporary transfer of Cynthia Henry from secretary to the Director of Facilities, to payroll bookkeeper, effective December 6, 2015 until January 31,

2016. Ms. Henry will be provided a stipend of \$882.50 per month prorated. The term of transfer will be contingent on the hiring of a permanent payroll bookkeeper.

David Branam – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 grant Kelley Albanese, paraprofessional at NPMS, a sixteen-week unpaid leave of absence effective January 20, 2016

through May 12, 2016.

David Branam – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 approve the appointment of Mario DellaFortuna to serve as an assistant girls' basketball coach at NPHS, at a stipend of \$6,756.

David Branam – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – 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, the Board hereby approves the employment of Jessica Perdomo-O'Hara as a preschool ESL teacher at East End

School for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 2, 2016, Jessica Perdomo-O'Hara shall be placed on MA+30/Step 6-7(7) and will be paid the salary of \$64,070 prorated. (Ms. Perdomo-O'Hara will replace Frances Ehrlich).

David Branam – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Kasper – Aye

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_5	2016_6	2016_7
David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye	
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye	
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye	
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye		

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent of Schools to submit the Annual Statement of Assurance of Comprehensive Equity Plan implementation and will support full implementation in school year 2015-2016.

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Kathleen Mullen – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 approve the use of the following services to be provided by Douglas Developmental Center (Rutgers University) at the rates indicated.

Service	Rate
Assessment of the district's two autistic programs	\$150 per hour, up to 4 hours
Training & staff development for paraprofessionals & teachers involved in the district's autistic programs	\$150 per hour, up to 10 hours

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that WHEREAS, a residency hearing was convened on November 18, 2015, upon the request of the Superintendent of Schools with respect to student Id#16492.

WHEREAS, notices of the residency hearing was served upon the student's parents; and

WHEREAS, the student's parents were extended the opportunity to appear at the hearing, and to offer evidence and testimony as to the residency the student, and

WHEREAS, the Board has consider the testimony and evidence offered by the student's parents as well as the Superintendent and his designees;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT RESOLVED, the board finds:

1. That student Id#16492 is not domiciled in North Plainfield for the purpose of being entitled to free public education in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:38-1 and the other statutes covering such issues; and
2. That the parents of student Id#16492 shall immediately withdraw the student from the North Plainfield Public Schools; and
3. That the parents of student Id#16492 de advised that should they desire to appeal the decision of the Board of Education with respect to this issue, they must do so within twenty-one (21) days of the date of Resolution; and
4. During the appeal, if any, the student shall remain in the North Plainfield Public Schools. However, if the Commissioner of Education determines that student Id#16492 is not domiciled in North Plainfield, tuition may be assessed for the period of time that the student was determined not to be domiciled in North Plainfield.

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

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

Finance, Purchasing & Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve line item transfers in accordance with the attached list dated September 30, 2015.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated November 18, 2015.

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

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve change order number SSGYMAC-001, for the Gymnasium Air-conditioning Project – Somerset School, in the amount of \$15,225.00 (Fifteen

Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two Dollars) for a total project cost as follows:

Original Installation cost	\$ 186,853.00
Change Order Allowance	<u>-\$ 15,225.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$ 171,628.00

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education authorize the disposal of school bus #23 (as listed) whose legal useful life has reached the expiration point. Approval is also given for the bus to be auctioned

off at the Somerset County District Facility, South Garage located at 402 Roycefield Road, Hillsborough NJ 08844. The proceeds of the public auction will be provided to the district.

Make; Chevrolet
 Model; 3500 Van
 VIN #1GBHGG31R2Y1106263

David Branan – Aye	John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye	Linda Bond-Nelson – 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 approve tentative field trips for the students in NPHS as per the attached list.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve reimbursement to the following employee for unused vacation days and/or carried over days based on last day of service per the negotiated agreement and/or employment contract:

Name	Days	Last Day of Service	Amount
Joseph Napolitano	6.5	November 1, 2015	\$1,579.44

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education authorize and accept, if received, a grant from IBM Corporation

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applied for by Ms. Deanne D'Armiento for the purpose of purchasing computers for the Middle School and funding attendance at a workshop on STEM.

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 on November 5, 2015 the NJDOE published the updated graduation requirements and an updated list of assessments. The classes of 2016 through 2019 can utilize these to demonstrate that they have met the competency testing requirements needed for a regular high school diploma with the appropriate threshold scores for PARCC assessments.

In mid-November, PARCC assessment data will be released to school districts.

On Monday, November 16, 2015 a team from the North Plainfield School District attended a Technical Assistance Session in Trenton for the Achievement Coaches grant. The 2016 New Jersey Achievement Coaches Training Team Program is a state-funded initiative designed to empower many of New Jersey's educators to provide direct support to peers.

On Thursday, November 12, 2015 the team of educators whom attended the 89th Saturday Reunion at Columbia University shared the strategies learned during the day of learning.

Character Education District Committee met this week and focused upon the key areas of service learning, connection to the community, and connection to curriculum. As a result, we are hosting an after school Service Learning workshop. Eileen Dachnowitz will join us for a brief session about the characteristics of service learning in schools.

The Logo Contest forms will be going home tomorrow. We hope to have submissions to share with the Board of Education before the break.

The Hour of Code will be recognized in our district during the first two weeks of December. Activities were distributed to elementary teachers to use during computer classes.

We anticipate being able to submit our Cisco CTE application by December 1, 2015.

Our high school will be piloting the use of Aventa as an alternative health class option for the students enrolled in one of our dance classes.

Teachers are learning from the Literacy Coaching initiative, and the feedback has been positive. We anticipate doing a winter survey to assess teachers' comfort level with the strategies in order to assess the impact of coaching on classroom instruction and sustainability of practice.

Correspondence

There was none.

Committee and Delegate Report

November 18, 2015

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.
Communications – Meeting scheduled for November 19, 2015 at 5:30 pm.
Curriculum – No meeting scheduled at this time.
Finance & Facilities – Meeting scheduled for January 21, 2016 at 6:00 pm.
Policy Meeting – Meeting scheduled for November 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm.
Negotiations – Meeting scheduled for November 30, 2015 at 6:00 pm.
NJSBA – Mr. Kasper mentioned Board of Directors meeting.
SCSBA – Mr. Kasper reviewed discussion topics from November meeting.
SCESC – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Old Business

There were none.

New Business

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned that the District Safety Meeting will be held on December 1, 2015 at the Board Office in the conference room, members of the Board of Education are welcome to attend.

Dr. McLaughlin discussed that a Year in Review Retreat meeting will be held on December 9, 2015 at 6:00 pm.

Comments from the Public

Dr. Blecher mentioned ROTC fundraising program “Pennies for Push-Ups”.

Future Agenda Items

Service Milestone Awards will be presented on December 2, 2015, at East End School, in the Community Room.

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, December 2, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at East End 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 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg