

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on November 4, 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 –Absent, Notified	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; with Mr. Kasper abstaining to accept the public session minutes of November 4, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote; with Mr. Kasper abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of November 4, 2015.

### **Financial Reports**

There was none.

### **Comments from the Public**

Ms. Ramos inquired about the use of Google specifically regarding security issues and requested a presentation on the use of Google. Ms. Ramos also inquired about the size of classes in the lower grades.

### **Student Representative Report**

Many exciting events have transpired at NPHS since the last update. First, the kick off dance of the year, Homecoming happened and was a huge success. The court was announced at the Homecoming Football game the night prior and a Prince, Princess, King, and Queen were selected out of the nominations during the dance. Student Council put a tremendous effort into transforming the cafeteria into an enchanted harvest theme and the students enjoyed the night. Sports update, several teams held their senior night to highlight their teammates. The Canuck Cheerleaders held their annual “Pink Out” game as an effort to raise awareness for Breast Cancer. The drama club put on an Anti-Bullying presentation which students then reflected on; the Canuckling Club received their results from the judging of last year's issue and received an incredibly high score of 985/1000 points, the Gold Award, and 3 All-Columbian Honors from the Columbia Scholastic Press

Association. Finally, the Interact club will kick off both the Blood Drive and their volunteer efforts at Rutgers Basketball games this month.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Jane Delaney presented an update and overview of the current status of the districts I&RS Program, processes and procedures.

### **Superintendent Report**

District goal progress continues in communications, technology, academic achievement and facilities.

Communications: Frequent use being made of Honeywell Instant Alert System. District website continues to be refined, with and the new template prepared for January. Reorganization has occurred to give the site a less cluttered appearance and to be more user-friendly.

Technology: A parent portal has been added to our IEP Direct program, allowing parent access directly through Genesis to children's current IEP's and IEP related material. Progress toward our Google Launch continues as we approach our target date for January. November 3rd was a significant step in this direction with all staff receiving training. The West End I&RS team is piloting the Branching Minds program, which provides a database of interventions targeted toward a child's area of need and an assessment vehicle which tracks the success of interventions that are implemented.

Academic Achievement: Teachers have confirmed their SGO's and School Leaders have established their goals for the school year – all committed to rigor and meaningful academic gains for our students. A focused effort is occurring in regard to student attendance, increasing time in class for all students with a special focus on decreasing chronic absenteeism, which is currently below state standards in several of our schools.

Facilities: Progress relative to the Harrison School moves with all pupil service moves completed with the exception of the high school and middle school personnel who will move, along with the Pathways Program, to Room 118 of the high school in January. These moves allow the child study team staff to be based near students and staff. It also facilitates an increased student program capacity for Harrison School.

Extra-Curricular: The Marching Canucks continue to have a stellar performance season . . . 23 high school marching bands participated in Division 3A at Union High School for the State Championship competition on Saturday. The North Plainfield Marching Canucks took third place over 20 other high school bands. Congratulations to members of the band and color guard. This weekend our band will compete in Nationals.

On Friday, our Boys Soccer Team defeated Bound Brook 4-2 and secured the Skyland Mountain Division Title. Yesterday the boy's soccer team was victorious against Delaware Valley in the first round of the NJSIAA State Tournament and will play the winner of Johnson-New Providence in Round 2. Our team is 14-3 on the season.

Our Middle School report shares exciting news regarding a very successful Halloween Party with just under 200 students attending and an all-time high participation rate in Student Council of approximately 50 students.

North Plainfield Borough Road Construction: On or about Thursday, November 5th, road construction will begin on Somerset Street. The contractor plans to mobilize and begin removing the concrete crosswalks between Park Place and Chatham Street (duration of project– several days). Road milling and paving between Grandview Avenue and Chatham Street will follow immediately thereafter. Police will be utilized for traffic control/detours.

**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 approve the employment of the following individuals as K-12 district substitute teachers/substitute paraprofessionals.

Niquette Bowman	Eric Castillo	Elyse Climes
Kathryn Lucy-Hughes	Agnes Johnson	Katherine Lee
Carmella Ferrara	Anjum Siddiqui	

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 Lucas Miller, to perform four piano tunings at NPHS, at a rate of \$100 per tuning.

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 following changes in paraprofessional hours.

Name	School	From	To	Effective
Vivianette Rivera	West End	4.0 hours	4.50 hours	Oct. 22, 2015
Gerri Burns	East End	4.25 hours	3.50 hours	Oct. 23, 2015
Concettina Campo	East End	3.00 hours	4.00 hours	Oct. 23, 2015

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 following staff members to assist at district athletic events, at a rate \$28.35 per hour.

David Miller

Alexandra Vergara

David Branan -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –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 appointment of the following individuals as instructors for Somerset School Extended Day Program, for up to 3 hours per week for 8 weeks, at the rate of \$40 per hour.

Jennifer Mariani – Language Arts  
Caitlin D’Armiento – Language Arts

Eileen DeMeo – Mathematics  
Sabrina Cruz – Mathematics

Substitutes: Eleftheria Fiotakis, Laura Chamberlain, Maria Koukouras

David Branan -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –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 employment of the following individuals as district substitute custodians, to be called on an as-needed basis, to be paid at the rate of \$18.29 per hour, effective November 9, 2015.

Derron Fareed

Delores Galimore

Gary Noel

David Branan -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –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, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment of Caitlin Pinto as a temporary elementary teacher at Stony Brook School for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 4, 2016 through May 13, 2016, Caitlin Pinto shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the salary of \$57,460 prorated. (Ms. Pinto will temporarily replace Carla Basile).

David Branan -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –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 appointment of the following individuals as instructors for the West End School Extended Day program, at the rate of \$40 per hour.

Michelle dos Santos  
Heather Morgan

Erica Gara

Kourtney Karl  
Angela Steger

David Branán -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –Aye

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

Mr. Branán 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 staff be reimbursed for graduate courses taken between June and August 2015.

Name	Course	School	Crds	Paid	Reimb.
John Tarnofsky (Asst Prin/Alt. HS)	Educational Leadership	Rutgers University	6	\$10,883.84	\$5,442.92

David Branán -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –Aye

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that, for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approve David Miller, teacher of mathematics, to teach a sixth period at the additional annual salary of \$10,376.67 prorated, effective November 3, 2015 through December 17, 2015. (Mr. Miller will temporarily replace Debra Foote).

David Branán -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –Aye

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that, for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approve Laurie Pfundheller to serve as a mentor at the stipend rate of \$550.

David Branán -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –Aye

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

Mr. Branán 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 Christopher Davis as a probationary custodian for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective November 9, 2015 through February 6, 2016, Christopher Davis shall be placed on Custodian /Step 1 and will be paid the salary of \$39,520 prorated. (Mr. Davis will replace Gino Capodiferro).

David Branán -Aye  
Bianka Butler -Aye  
Kathleen Mullen –Aye

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

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

that, the Board of Education accept with regret, the resignation of Susan Kurtzer, academic support teacher at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective January 1, 2016.

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 funds necessary to reimburse the following district speech therapists at their hourly rates as listed below, not to exceed a total of \$4,000.

Loren Figurelli - \$45.91/hour	Ronit Jacobs - \$50.14/hour
Patricia Nemeckay - \$60.35/hour	

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Kathleen Mullen –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, the Board hereby approves the employment of Meaghan Sherwood as a speech/language specialist at East End School and Somerset School for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective November 23, 2015, Meaghan Sherwood shall be placed on MA/Step 1 and will be paid the salary of \$60,460 prorated. (Ms. Sherwood will replace Nicole James-Pieters).

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – Aye
Kathleen Mullen –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, the Board hereby approves the employment of Stephanie Feldman as a school psychologist for the 2015-2016 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective December 7, 2015, Stephanie Feldman shall be placed on MA/Step 1 and will be paid the salary of \$60,460 prorated. (Ms. Feldman will replace Annarella Valdivia).

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

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\_2

2016\_3

2016\_4

David Branan -Aye

John Fellin, Jr. -Aye

Bianka Butler -Aye

Thomas Kasper – 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 out-of-district placement of the following classified student as indicated, effective November 9, 2015. Transportation will be required.

Name	DOB	Class	Placement	Tuition
WWWWW-15-16	9/23/12	Preschool Child with a Disability	Crossroads School (UCESC)	\$377.78 per day \$219.44 per day

David Branan -Aye

John Fellin, Jr. -Aye

Bianka Butler -Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen –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 authorize Ms. Nancy Rodino to apply for the Target Arts Education Grant to provide funding for the purpose of conducting professional teaching artists and an artist in residence program at Somerset School. District will provide supplies and time for teacher involvement grant will pay for artists.

David Branan -Aye

John Fellin, Jr. -Aye

Bianka Butler -Aye

Thomas Kasper – 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 approve the district’s Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the 2015-2016 school year:

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities as listed in the attached document for the various school facilities of North Plainfield School District are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Plainfield School District hereby authorize the School Business Administrator to submit the attached Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the North Plainfield School District in compliance with Department of Education requirements.

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 approve change order number SSA/CGYM-001, for the A/C Gym Project – Somerset School, in the amount of \$15,225.00 (Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Five Dollars) for a total project cost as follows:

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

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 and accept a grant from the BASF Corporation in the amount of \$5,000.00, applied for by Ms. Sarah O'Donnell, for the purpose of funding the purchase of supplies necessary for students to do research into biological sciences at North Plainfield High School.

David Branan -Aye	John Fellin, Jr. -Aye
Bianka Butler -Aye	Thomas Kasper – 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 tentative field trips for the students in NPHS, Somerset School, and Stony Brook School as per the attached list.

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

Curriculum Updates/Current Events in Education

Ms. Vella discussed that on October 26, 2015, the following conference call took place with Dr. McLaughlin, herself and Peter Shulman, Chief Talent Officer/Assistant Commissioner of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness, and James Riddlesperger, Special Assistant at the New Jersey Department of Education. During their conversation, the following issues was addressed, how the mSGP would be calculated for teachers even with the new baseline of PARCC. Following the discussion an email was forwarded with a list of questions

November 4, 2015

pertaining to the October 26, 2015 conference call, Ms. Vella and Dr. McLaughlin invited Mr. Riddlesperger and Mr. Shulman's team to an NP Leadership team meeting.

The first day of literacy coaching was held on October 29, 2015, by Ms. Barb Golub. The day included third and fourth grade teachers and administrative training. An attached article was included for the board to review that was shared with the Leadership Team. As a result of the meeting, Ms. Golub will be presenting environmental learning walks with building/district leadership in each elementary school on December 9 & 10, 2015.

Two half days of training will be dedicated to ESL teachers with a coach. An area of focus for these sessions will include Ms. Mary Cappellini's stages of learning, and how we are studying student work. ESL teachers work is to balance instructional strategies, to develop language acquisition, along with developing/improving reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. ESL teachers were asked to participate in responding to the following question: What are you wondering about with teaching reading to ELLs? And reply to Ms. Vella by November 15, 2015. This information will be compiled and shared with our consultant Ms. Barb Golub.

Ms. Vella mentioned that they are excited to kick-off the first PARCC Parent Meeting on Monday, November 9 and handouts of the State BOE resolution for cut scores would be available

District Character Education Team is scheduled to meet on November 10, 2015. They are in the process of finalizing details for the LOGO contest this month.

November 3, 2015 District In-Service Program was a success. Teachers were exposed to Google Training for three hours, viewed a one hour webinar on PARCC ISRs and worked on infusing SGOs into instruction with available PLC members.

On February 1 and 8, 2015, Dr. Tracey Severns will be leading a conference on Evidence-Centered Leadership. Her focus will be on leaders who improve schools: Build Capacity, Develop Culture, Create Coherence, and Use Courage. This will be an opportunity to continue to develop the ability of leaders to engage in tasks that produce evidence to support the claims of true instructional leaders. Approximately 11 leaders have shown an interest in attending, Melissa Stager has officially started as the Educational Specialist for Somerset County. Ms. Stager is arranging meetings for ELA, Math & Technology Supervisors. North Plainfield plans to have strong representation at meetings that will be held.

Academic Support Think Tank met to finalize criteria and placement recommendations.

### **Correspondence**

There was none.

### **Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – Meeting scheduled for November 9, 2015 at 6:30 pm at West End School.

Finance & Facilities – Mr. Branan provided an overview of the meeting held on November 3, 2015. The committee reviewed a preliminary 2016-2017 school budget.

Policy Meeting – A second meeting will be scheduled.

Negotiations – No meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper provided the results of attendance at the NJSBA annual conference.

SCSBA – Next meeting will be held on November 17, 2015 and November 21, 2015 assembly.

SCESC – No meeting scheduled at this time.

**Old Business**

There were none.

**New Business**

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that, the Board of Education approve for second reading of the following new policy 6171.5 Independent Educational Evaluation.

David Branán -Aye

John Fellin, Jr. -Aye

Bianka Butler -Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen –Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson -Aye

Mr. Branán provided information on second policy reading. Ms. Bond Nelson requested that the board hosts a retreat for a year end review.

**Comments from the Public**

There were none.

**Future Agenda Items**

Per presentation calendar.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved that be it resolved that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at approximately 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.

David Branán -Aye

John Fellin, Jr. -Aye

Bianka Butler -Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye

Kathleen Mullen –Aye

Linda Bond-Nelson -Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg

November 4, 2015