

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on December 2, 2015 at 7:30 PM, East End School, 160 Oneida 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 – 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 November 18, 2015.

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

Financial Reports

There was none.

Comments from the Public

There was none.

Student Representative Report

Student Representatives report submitted by Brenda Okereke and Yanqing Liang

The Battle of the Classes the seniors were victorious in the color wars competition and also had a strong showing that Tuesday night. But you may not know that the seniors also won the hallway decorating contest with the theme “Under the Seniors”.

Clubs, the debate club, did excellently in the Franklin Model United Nations Conference. The conference serves as an opportunity for students from different schools or areas to compete against each other. The Interact club held their blood drive November 20th which was a huge success. The club and the dedicated Red Blood staff were able to collect enough blood to save 237 lives! The music department, Mrs. Six and her students held a very successful cabaret night, wowing the audience with the talents displayed by both them and the staff.

Presentation

Dr. McLaughlin presented the Service Milestone Awards in recognition of employees and their length of service and teachers that completed advanced degrees were also recognized.

Superintendent Report

PARCC Parent Reports will be sent this Friday to all parents of high school students. Letters will also be sent to parents of students who opted out of PARCC in 2014-2015 informing them of the information that would have otherwise been received. 3rd-8th grade reports have not yet been received.

A presentation on score reports is scheduled for all interested parents on December 7th at 6pm in the NPHS cafeteria. All parents of students in all grade levels are strongly encouraged to attend.

Facilities - Room 118 modifications at the middle school continue to occur according to schedule with a January relocation of our final school based CST members as well as our Pathways program on track after our return from the holiday break. Arrangements for multi-media capability in the board conference room are also underway and should occur in the near future.

Remediation to the high school auditorium continues to occur and Mr. Mazur has made arrangements for various sites in our school, in the community and in neighboring vicinities to accommodate our December music events in a manner that best showcases our student talent. Thank you Mr. Mazur.

Communication - plans are underway to post all beginning of the year notices on our website in a format that will allow parents to type directly into the report. Beginning of the year notices would be posted in July. Work is also underway to do the same with all school registration materials.

Technology - Google Apps for Education is nearly upon us. Our official launch date is January 5th.

Academic Achievement - Michele Armento will return to present to the board of education in January and share PARCC achievement data for students in grades 3-11.

Tonight we recognize staff who have achieved significant service milestones. We are grateful for the dedication of long serving staff members who have made North Plainfield their professional home. These staff make a prominent statement about their core belief in our students - in our community and underscore the importance of the work our staff is engaged in - the WHY of our organization - our most prominent reasons for the work we do.

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, the Board hereby approves the employment of Stephen Frost as payroll bookkeeper for the 2015-2016 school year at the annual salary rate of \$50,000, effective December 7, 2015. (Mr. Frost will replace Jacqueline Porter).

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

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.

Arthur Warren

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

That for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education approves the following students for Junior Practicum/ Masters Internship:

Student Name	College Name	Class/School	Dates	Cooperating Teacher
Jeffrey Sommer	Kean University	Grade 7-8/MS	Spring - 3 hours per week	Greg Kilmer
Erin Keenan (HS PE Teacher)	Montclair State University Graduate Program	HS	Spring - 10 hours per week	Karl Gordon

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 approves Patricia Psillos as a substitute secretary in the operations office three (3) days per week at the rate of \$90.00 per day effective December 7, 2015 through December 23, 2015.

David Branan – Aye
Bianka Butler – 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 previously approved webmaster at Stony Brook School to reflect a shared position as follows:

	FROM	TO
Carla Basile	\$1,200	\$600
Kathleen Landadio	\$0	\$600

David Branan – Aye
Bianka Butler – 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 the appointment of Kevin Guevara to serve as an assistant wrestling coach at NPHS, at a stipend of \$6,756.

David Branan – Aye
Bianka Butler – 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 the appointments of John Vogel and David Miller to serve as a volunteer assistants to the coach for the wrestling program at NPHS.

David Branan – Aye
Bianka Butler – 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 the appointment of the following individual as a tutor 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.

Jane Heinzelmann – English/ Language Arts

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

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Thomas Kasper – 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_8 2016_9 2016_10 2016_11
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_8 2016_9 2016_10 2016_11
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

BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the modification of the 2016-2017 calendar to remove the designation of “Holiday” from Friday, September 2, 2016, with the understanding that twelve-month staff will be in attendance on that date.

David Branan – Aye John Fellin, Jr. – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye Thomas Kasper – Aye
Sandra Dodd – 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 authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to submit the New Jersey Department of Education Achievement Goal Grant for the 2015-2016 school year.

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 authorizes the submission of the IDEA application for the fiscal year 2016, and that upon final Department of Education approval of the application, the Board accept the grant as outlined below:

Basic Grant:	\$874,884.00
Non Public:	\$ 10,559.00
Preschool Grant:	\$ 18,302.00

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 acknowledges the results of the annual school election held on November 3, 2015, as outlined on the Certificate of Election, provided by the Board of County Canvassers of Somerset County.

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 approves 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
Stephen Masterson	3	November 30, 2015	\$479.25

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 approves the following field trips:

School	Date	Purpose	Location	Cost	Transportation
HS	12/9/15	To visit the “Ashes to Ashes” exhibit dedicated to the Holocaust.	Union, NJ	0.00	District Bus

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

Curriculum Updates/Current Events in Education

Ms. Vella discussed that several staff members are interested in serving as Google Coaches. An informational meeting is scheduled for next week to discuss the training and responsibilities of the role.

Staff members that attended the Technical Assistance Session for the Achievement Coaches grant, are confident in the program and look forward to applying for the grant. Several members of the leadership team are attending a technical assistance session on December 1st for an additional upcoming grant focused on the NJDOE College and Career Readiness Goal.

Branching Minds will continue with I&RS pilot work program. Teams will have a half-day training with Maya Gat, the program developer. Ms. Gat will attend individual school's I&RS team meetings to address concerns and needs.

The high school leadership team is working hard to sort through the newly released high school graduation requirements. We are hosting an upcoming ASVAB assessment and the team is working to prepare the appeals process according to the newly released guidelines.

We are working with Ms. Araneo to organize an Orton Gillingham afterschool program led by our recently trained teachers. Teachers will use multisensory techniques to help students with decoding and spelling and the work will begin at East End School.

Correspondence

There was none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – Mr. Fellin provided an update on various initiatives under way to improve communications. Meeting scheduled for January 14, 2016.

Curriculum – No meeting scheduled at this time.

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

Policy Meeting – New policy: 5145.7 Gender Identity and Expression.

Negotiations – No meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper updated the Board on recent board meeting and delegate assembly which he attended.

SCSBA – Meeting scheduled for January 12, 2015.

SCESC – Meeting scheduled for December 3, 2015.

Old Business

There were none.

New Business

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve for first reading of the following new policy:

5145.7 Gender Identity and Expression

David Branan – Aye

John Fellin, Jr. – Aye

Bianka Butler – Aye
Sandra Dodd – Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye

Thomas Kasper – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

2121 Line of Responsibility
5131.6 Drugs, Alcohol, Steroids, Tobacco
6130 Organizational Plan

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

Dr. McLaughlin discussed changes to the 2016-2017 School Calendar with the approval of the board.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Michelle Harlin commented on the six half day recently completed.

Future Agenda Items

Per the presentation calendar (www.nplainfield.org)

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 16, 2015 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 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg