

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on April 16, 2015 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Mrs. Bond-Nelson called the meeting to order and made the following announcement: In accordance with NJSA 10:4-10, required advance notice of this meeting was filed with the Borough Clerk; submitted to the COURIER NEWS, STAR LEDGER, AND Comcast; posted at Watchung School, Borough Hall and the North Plainfield Public Library and the school district website. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

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

A quorum was established

Also present were Dr. James V. McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools; Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator; and Michelle Vella, Assistant Superintendent, as well as, Amaree Gardner, Student Representative and approximately 30 members of the staff and public.

Mr. Sternberg administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Bianka Butler who then took her seat as a member of the Board.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and approved by a vote of 5 to 2 with Ms. Butler and Mr. Kasper abstaining to accept the amended public session minutes of April 1, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and approved by a vote of 5 to 2 with Ms. Butler and Mr. Kasper abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of April 1, 2015.

Financial Report

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approve by roll call vote that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated March 31, 2015, in the amount of \$5,944,850.64.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approve 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 February 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.

Comments from the Public

Several members of the public expressed concerns regarding settling the contract with the NPEA.

Student Representative Report

There were none.

Presentation

There were none.

Superintendent's Report

It is my sincere hope that the Spring Recess provided everyone with an opportunity to recharge their batteries as we now enter the final portion of the school year, a time that I am sure will pass rapidly and will be filled with many activities both inside and outside of the school day.

Our Spring sports schedule is in full swing and I encourage our school community to see our students on the field of athletic competition. I am confident you will be impressed by their dedication, their skills and the true sense of sportsmanship that is present here among our North Plainfield students.

A recent NJ School Boards bulletin reflected on the arts. Schools were encouraged in their continuing efforts toward the visual and performing arts, citing research that shows students who are involved in the arts have improved attendance, increased academic performance, decreased drop-out and discipline rates and higher levels of college attendance. It is important to state that the North Plainfield Schools are and will continue to be highly committed to this critically important area of learning. This is a wonderful time of the year to see the engagement of our students in the arts with Spring concerts, drama and dance:

Thursday, May 7	High School Drama Club Improv Night	7:00PM
Wednesday, May 13	Teen Arts (high school students at RVCC 8:30am-2:00pm)	
Tuesday, May 19	Middle School Choral & Band Concert	7:30PM
Thursday, May 21	High School Choral Concert	7:30PM
Tuesday, May 26	Somerset School Choral & Band Concert	7:30PM
Thursday, May 28	High School Band Concert	7:30PM
Tuesday, June 9	West End Choral & Band Concert	7:00PM
Wednesday, June 10	East End Choral & Band Concert	7:00PM
Wednesday, June 10	High School Dance Recital	7:30PM
Thursday, June 11	Stony Brook Choral & Band Concert	7:30PM
Friday, June 12	High School Drama Club Theatre Showcase	7:30PM

A great deal of student talent to see and hear! The high school administration along with Mr. Mazur are also giving consideration to new elective offerings that will expand the opportunities available to our students in the area of visual and performing arts.

As I noted in our last board meeting, the End of Year schedule for PARCC has been posted. There are fewer sessions and shorter time allotments for this portion of the assessment as compared to the PBA in March. The board is aware that our district accommodated parent refusal requests

prior to the start of testing. The preliminary refusal percentages for our district are as follows: Elementary (including Somerset's 5th grade) 8.9%, Middle (including Somerset's 6th grade) 8.2% and High School 7.1%. This week the NJDOE published preliminary statewide refusal rates for grades 3-6 of 3.8%, 3-8 of 4.6%, 9th grade 7% and 11th grade 14.5%. It is important to indicate both local and state data are preliminary numbers from our calculations that may change through the verification process. It is also our hope that increased familiarity with this assessment will provide greater assurances to parents, which will result in decreases to the refusal rates cited.

On a final note, please be aware that I met with representatives from the district's PTA's/PTO's yesterday. We are indeed fortunate to have the commitment of our parents as partners in education and I extend my thanks for their many contributions on behalf of our students. I look forward to regular meetings with the combined members of our parent organizations to further strengthen our coordinated efforts.

Recommendations from 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 Judith Ziccardi, paraprofessional in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on July 1, 2015, and

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Ziccardi 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 April 16, 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. Ziccardi.

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 Diane Signorelli, school counselor in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on July 1, 2015, and

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Signorelli 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 April 16, 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. Signorelli.

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 Patricia Bailey, teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that she wishes to retire on July 1, 2015, and

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Ms. Bailey 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 April 16, 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. Bailey.

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 accept with regret the resignation of Ronald Fisher, Director of Technology and Information Services, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

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 accept with regret the resignation of Florence Ward, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

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 accept the resignation of Chelsea Bryan-Howson, teacher of English at NPHS, effective July 1, 2015.

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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the transfer of Susan Feibush, education media specialist, from NPHS to Stony Brook School, effective April 13, 2015. (Ms. Feibush will replace Anne Corkery.)

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 following fall student teacher and/or internship placement from Fairleigh Dickinson University:

<u>Student Teacher</u>	<u>School/Class</u>	<u>Cooperating Teacher</u>
Jennifer Dejesso	East End School/Elementary	Kitty Jedra

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 2014-2015 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	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 accept with regret the resignation of Anne Rusher, special education teacher at NPMS, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

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 adjustment in position of Nancy A. Schreck, elementary teacher at West End School, to that of LDTC in the Department of Pupil Services, at the 2013-2014 MA/Step 11 (12-14 (13) annual salary rate of \$63,360 plus 375 longevity entitlement, plus LDTC stipend of \$6052.47, for a total salary of \$69,787.47, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective September 1, 2015. (Ms. Schreck will replace Amanda Hempel.)

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

Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and approved by a roll call vote of 6 to 1, with Ms. Butler abstaining that be it resolved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves a long-term suspension for student id: 16042 through May 4, 2015.

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

Finance, Purchasing & Agreements

Mr. Branán 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 February 28, 2015.

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

Mr. Branán 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 April 16, 2015.

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

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education authorize an increase in the approved amount for the services of Charisse Hamada-Gutierrez for the purpose of updating Board of Education policy changes and revisions, previously approved (October 1, 2014) and for future updates, not to exceed an additional \$1,500.00 for the 2014-2015 school year.

David Branán-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 approved by a roll call vote of 6 to 1, with Mr. Branan abstaining that for the **2015-2016** school year, the Board of Education extend the contract of the following pre-school providers to provide pre-kindergarten programs for eligible residents of North Plainfield:

Growing tree Pre School
Holy Cross Nursery School
Taylor Learning

David Branan-Abstain	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 approved by a roll call vote of 6 to 1, with Mr. Branan abstaining that for the **2015-2016** school year, the Board of Education approve the following tuition rate for approved pre-school providers to offer pre-kindergarten programs for eligible residents of North Plainfield:

\$5,702 per enrolled eligible child

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

Correspondence

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Curriculum – Meeting scheduled for April 23, 2015.

Finance & Facilities – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – Mr. Branan mentioned meeting scheduled for April 22, 2015 at 5:00 pm.

Negotiations – Mr. McKeever read a Statement of Fact regarding the Board's position on negotiations with NPEA.

NJSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.

SCSBA – Meeting scheduled for April 29, 2015. Mr. Kasper mentioned he is now a Master Board Member. Ms. Bond-Nelson is a Certified Board Leader.

SCESC –Ms. Mullen mentioned the opening of the Career Center.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

New items requested to be placed on the Agenda-there were none.

Ms. Bond-Nelson mentioned presentation of the school budget for 2016.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Several members of the public expressed concerns relative to settling of the contract with the NPEA.

Future Agenda Items

Per presentation calendar.

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, May 6, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at West 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 that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session at 8:12 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 reconvene to public at executive session at 8:40 pm.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and approved by a roll call vote of 4 to 3, with Mr. Branan, Mr. Fellin and Mr. Kasper abstaining that the Board of Education, having tabled the recommendation for the previously held meeting on April 1, 2015, now accept and approve the agreement between the North Plainfield Board of Education and the North Plainfield Association of Educational Administrators and Supervisors for the years covering July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED: Donald Sternberg