

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on April 1, 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-absent
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 Board Attorney, Dennis McKeever, as well as, Amaree Gardner, Student Representative and approximately 30 members of the staff and public.

#### **Introduction of New Staff**

There was none.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and approved by a vote of 4 to 1 with Mrs. Mullen abstaining to accept the public session minutes of March 18, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and approved by a vote of 4 to 1 with Mrs. Mullen abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of March 18, 2015.

#### **Comments from the Public**

Several candidates expressed various concerns regarding settling the contract with the association.

#### **Student Representative Report**

The student report was presented by Amaree Gardner as follows:

HOPE Club continues to work on the Grade 3-5 Book for use by the elementary school teachers. We hope that we will be able to disseminate the story of a bird that relies upon us to survive and that it will help in the transition to the Next Generation Science Standards. We have assigned sections of the book to members and work on it after school on meeting days. Mr. Maroun has been supportive and is providing example books for us to use as models.

On March 30th, ninth grade students participated in the North Plainfield Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest. Students spoke on the topic "How My Optimism Will Help Me Press on to Greater Achievements in the Future." Congratulations to first place winners Andre Eason and Noran Zaher, second place winner Ramy Hosny, and third place winners Jordan Grundy and Radha Patel. Andre and Noran will advance to the next level of competition.

They will compete on May 2nd in Pennsylvania against first place winners from other Optimist Clubs in NJ and PA.

### Presentation

Mr. Karl Gordon presented to the board Francesca Cherasaro and James Valley, both athletes were recognized for their athletic successes.

### Superintendent's Report

**At its meeting of March 4th the board of education approved continuing district goals as follows:**

- To continue to improve upon the level of educational excellence for everyone.
- To continue to incorporate technology into the educational process to enhance the success of students.
- To continue to develop a long-range facilities plan that balances program needs with the financial constraints of the budget.
- To continue to promote positive perceptions of the district through improved communications at all levels of the school community.

I plan to update the board regularly with ways in which these goals are actively being addressed and I am highlighting goals 1 and 4 this evening.

Educational excellence begins at the earliest age and grade. Educational research and literature continues to emphasize the importance of early education and the prerequisite learning that will form a solid foundation of skills for the instruction that will follow in a student's elementary and secondary instruction. On Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Sternberg, Ms. Vella and I visited three of our preschool education sites - Growing Tree School, Taylor Learning Center and Holy Cross School. We were impressed with the active engagement of our students in truly meaningful instruction that will yield great benefits as they transition to full day kindergarten and the grades beyond. To further strengthen our preschool program we plan to implement a master teacher position for 2015-2016. This is a recommended component of Creative Curriculum, the curriculum utilized by our in-house and partner preschool classes. We were fortunate to receive additional funding in our preschool grant to support this innovation and we are actively discussing a shared service agreement with a neighboring district that may also assist in funding this position. A master teacher will reinforce true fidelity to the curriculum and help to ensure that all the branches of our preschool tree are coordinated and providing the same quality of educational experience to our four year old learners.

District goal #4 is a critically important area. We are proud of our schools and proud of our students' achievements. Like all schools, we strive continually to improve our practice and that too should be celebrated. As the board is aware, we have implemented new outreach projects that include a district Facebook and Twitter. Additionally, we have initiated monthly news releases to provide our school community with timely announcements regarding special events, initiatives and student achievements. We know that this addresses only a part of our goal to improve communications and accordingly we have developed a community survey, which is now available via a link on our website, to help us understand the methods and manner in which our constituents would like to receive and

exchange communication regarding the North Plainfield Schools. This survey will be made known in a variety of ways and we look forward to the feedback we will receive.

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. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that:

WHEREAS Robert Ferraro, teacher in the North Plainfield School District, has indicated that he wishes to retire on May 1, 2015, and

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extend to Mr. Ferraro its thanks for the service he has given and best wishes for his 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 1, 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 Mr. Ferraro.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that:

WHEREAS Judith Fowler, 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 twenty-three 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. Fowler 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 1, 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. Fowler.

David Branan-Aye	John Fellin, Jr.-Aye
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Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that:

WHEREAS Karen Lewis, 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 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. Lewis 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 1, 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. Lewis.

David Branán-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin 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 Branán-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the temporary employment of Nicholas Kadish as a temporary teacher of English at NPHS, at the 2013-2014 BA/Step 1 annual salary of \$55,490, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective February 1, 2015 through April 2, 2015. (Mr. Kadish is temporarily replacing Kristyn Rosen.)

David Branán-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the **2015-2016** school year, the Board of Education grant Dina Glowacki, elementary teacher at West End School, a twelve-week unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective September 1, 2015 through November 24, 2015, for child care purposes.

Further, that the Board of Education grant Ms. Glowacki an unpaid leave of absence effective November 25, 2015 through June 30, 2016, for child care purposes.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Judith Ziccardi, paraprofessional at Somerset School, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Diane Signorelli, school counselor at NPHS, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Anne Corkery, education media specialist at Stony Brook School, effective July 1, 2015.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Ghada Bassiony, paraprofessional at East End School, effective April 1, 2015.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education grant Zoraida Otero, secretary at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence under the Federal Family Leave Act, effective October 6, 2015 through December 20, 2015. (Ms. Otero will begin her leave on August 17, 2015 using accrued sick and vacation days.)

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the following certificated staff be reimbursed for courses taken between August and December 2014:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Course</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Crd</u>	<u>\$Paid</u>	<u>\$Reimb.</u>
Adriana Pequeno	Literary Theory	The College of New Jersey	3	\$2634.32	\$1266.34

(Eng.NPHS)

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Patricia Bailey, teacher of reading at NPMS, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2015-2016 school year, the Board of Education grant Jennifer Riolo, teacher of mathematics at NPMS, an unpaid leave of absence for child care purposes, effective September 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education accept the resignation of Jenna Dzurilla, district paraprofessional, effective April 14, 2015.

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

#### Curriculum, Instruction, and Pupil Services

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that:

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Schools has provided the Board of Education with reports regarding HIB incidents #

2015_2	2015_4
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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 #

2015_2	2015_4
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David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student XXXXXX-14-15 at Greenbrook Academy at the rate of \$70,796 per year, to be prorated effective March 30, 2015. Transportation will be required.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student UUUUUU-14-15 at Hunterdon Preparatory School at a cost of \$43,200 per year, to be prorated effective April 2, 2015. Transportation will be required.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

#### Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and Agreements

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that:

Resolved, that the Board of Education rescinds the contract with Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C. ("Lindabury") effective March 31, 2015 and enters into a contract with Sciarrillo, Cornell, Merlino, McKeever & Osborne, LLC ("Sciarrillo") effective April 1, 2015, for the balance of the term of the Lindabury contract. Hourly rates and all other terms and conditions of the Sciarrillo Contract will continue as in accordance with the Lindabury contract, for an amount not to exceed \$50,000.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to enact the attached corrective action plan based on the findings detailed in the review of annual results of the Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, in accordance with the documentation provided to the Board:

#1. That the procedures for obtaining parental consent forms be improved to meet assigned benchmarks.

#### Corrective Action Plan:

The District will train all case managers on the SEMI program, to ensure they are able to accurately explain the form to parents/guardians.

The District will include the SEMI consent form in all student registration packets.

The District will ensure consent forms are brought to all IEP meetings.

The District will do mass mailings for all students regardless of current Medicaid eligibility.

The case managers will report no response consent forms.

Parental meetings will be held to explain the purpose of the SEMI Parental Consent Form.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve reimbursement to the following Administrator for unused vacation days earned and pro-rated amount of medical and prescription waiver based on retirement/resignation:

		Retirement	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Resignation Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Edward Ostroff	36	3/20/2015	\$16,026.12
Medical and Prescription waiver		3/20/2015	<u>812.49</u>
		Total	\$16,838.61

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the following field trips:

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Transportation</u>
HS	4/21/2015	Students will tour campuses, meet with admin.counselors, learn about academic prog. and admission process.	Rutgers University New Brunswick & Seton Hall University	0.00	Contracted
HS	5/1/2015	To gain an appreciation and understand the significance 3D sculpture can make in different environments.	Grounds for Sculpture 18 Fairgrounds Road Hamilton, NJ 08619	0.00	District

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the services of James Shoope to provide consultative services for the development of a proposal and purchase/acquisition of Extraordinary Unspecifiable Services (EUS), related to the procurement of Health Brokerage Services, for an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to table the following recommendation:

That the Board of Education 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-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that:

Resolved, that the Board of Education increase the expenditure limit established in June 2014 by an additional \$50,000.00 for Lindabury, McCormick & Estabrook, as advisor on all legal matters including, but not limited to, negotiations and labor relations for a new, not to exceed amount of \$125,000.00, effective February 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015.

David Branan-Aye  
Sandra Dodd- Aye  
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

John Fellin, Jr.-Aye  
Kathleen Mullen-Aye

### **Correspondence**

Letters were received as follows from: there were none.

### **Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.  
Communications – Mr. Fellin mentioned survey to be completed.  
Curriculum – Meeting scheduled for April 23, 2015.  
Finance & Facilities – No meeting scheduled at this time.  
Policy Meeting – Mr. Branan mentioned voting on four policies.  
Negotiations – Meeting scheduled for April 15, 2015.  
NJSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.  
SCSBA – Mr. Kasper appointed voting delegate for the SCSBA.  
SCESC – No meeting scheduled at this time.

### **Old Business**

Meeting date change from April 14, 2015 to April 16, 2015.

### **New Business**

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

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

5141.8	Sports-Related Concussion and Head Injury
6147.1	Evaluation of Individual Student Performance

6145 Extracurricular Activities  
6146 Graduation Requirements

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

**Current Events in Education**

Dr. McLaughlin mentioned concluding first phase of PARCC testing with second phase to come.

**Comments from the Public**

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

**Future Agenda Items**

Per presentation calendar.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved that be it resolved that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 6:00 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. Fellin and unanimously approved that the Board of Education adjourn to Executive Session at 8:40 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. Fellin and unanimously approved to reconvene to public at executive session at 9:00 pm.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education appoint Ms. Bianca Butler to fill the unexpired term of the current vacant seat.

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

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:                      Donald Sternberg