

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on February 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:

Thomas Allen
David Branan
Sandra Dodd-absent
John Fellin, Jr.

Thomas Kasper
Kathleen Mullen
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 and Board Attorney, Anthony Sciarrillo, as well as, Amaree Gardner, Student Representative and approximately 22 members of the staff and public.

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 February 4, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to accept the public session minutes of February 9, 2015.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and approved by a vote of 5 to 1 with Ms. Mullen abstaining to accept the executive session minutes of February 4, 2015.

Financial Report

Mr. Kasper moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that the Board of Education approve the list of bills and payrolls dated January 31, 2015, in the amount of \$5,719,562.88.

Mr. Kasper moved, seconded by Mr. Branan and unanimously approved 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 December 2014, 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

Lynette Chambers asked Dr. McLaughlin about Superintendent's meeting with Commissioner regarding PARCC testing.

Jim McGovern expressed concerns over delayed openings and asked about the status of teacher's contract.

Student Representative Report

HS Talent Show Feb. 26 & 27 7PM

HS Musical Production March 26, 27, 28 7pm Guys & Dolls

MS Talent Show April 2 7pm

Presentation

There were none.

Superintendent's Report

I would like to thank the board for their support of my recommendation on February 9th appointing Ms. Michelle Vella as our new Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. Ms. Vella's present district expects to release her on or about April 5th. In the interim she is reviewing district information and communicating with district leaders regarding key areas in our instruction, assessment and specialized programs.

Recently, Ms. Delaney, Ms. Araneo and I visited Farleigh Dickinson University and met with Dr. Mary Farrell to discuss a satellite program located here in our district that will train interested teachers in the Orton Gillingham method of reading. This method builds upon past programs such as Project Read and Wilson Reading, which also have an Orton-Gillingham basis. This multi-sensory, language-rule based program has proved to be very successful in teaching students who do not respond to typical reading instruction. This includes, but is not limited, to those students who are considered dyslexic. It is anticipated that this four course graduate program would begin as early as this Summer and participating teachers will utilize the district tuition reimbursement program, presenting no new costs to the district. I will update the board as this initiative progresses.

There are several very exciting presentations that will be provided to the board of education at its March meetings. These include a song preview for our Spring musical Guys & Dolls, a demonstration of effective instructional practices occurring with our 1:1 I pad initiative, an appearance by two of North Plainfield HS athletes who have achieved career milestones in wrestling and basketball, and a look at innovative programming presently occurring at Somerset School for our students and their families.

March is fast approaching and with it, our first administration of the PARCC assessment. Our PARCC Parent Academy presentations have been well attended and our parents have actively engaged in these events. Questions, reflections, concerns – all have been shared and have contributed to the districts preparation. One PARCC Academy presentation remains at Somerset School and I thank our parent community for their active partnership with the district in this endeavor.

This evening we have several retirements that are before the board. I would like to acknowledge these individuals for their service to the North Plainfield Schools and I extend my very best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement filled with life's new adventures.

In addition to my comments I would highlight to the board the written information that has been provided from each school, which will serve to update board members on achievements, important events, personnel changes and items of significance. These one-two page summaries will be provided for each board meeting.

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 the Board of Education accept with regret the resignation of Linda Remolino, director of school counseling services, for reasons of retirement, effective July 1, 2015.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 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, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective February 19, 2015:

Harvey Nix

Maria Alvarado

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve Christopher Sepesi to serve an administrative internship at West End School during the spring of 2015, with Beth Sobel, principal of West End School, and Marilyn Quinones, assistant principal at West End School, serving as his supervisors.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 spring 2015, the Board of Education approve the following individuals to work during central registration in the positions and at the rates indicated, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement:

Registration Clerks - \$21.14 per hour

Deysi Aldas Up to 25 hours
Wendy Gaetan Up to 25 hours

Nurse - \$49.74 per hour

Miriam West Up to 150 hours

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Gino Capodiferro as a custodian at the Step 1 rate of \$38,195, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective March 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 accept the resignation of Amanda Hempel, district LDTC, effective April 14, 2015.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education temporarily adjust the hours of Silma Cardona, paraprofessional working in the office at NPHS, from 3.75 hours per day to 5.00 hours per day, effective February 17, 2015.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of AVECITA JUSTO as a paraprofessional working in the preschool disabled program at East End School for 17.50 hours per week at the rate of \$21.14 per hour, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective February 19, 2015. (Ms. Justo will replace Antoinette Burns.)

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-Aye
Kathleen Mullen-Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Mr. Branán 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 employment of the following individuals as district substitute paraprofessionals at the hourly rate of \$21.14, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement, effective February 19, 2015.

Marcia Perez

Mario Restrepo

Tatiana Navarro

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branán-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-Aye
Kathleen Mullen-Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Mr. Branán 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 following individuals as district K-12 substitute teachers:

Naida Arocho

Steven Fisher

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branán-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-Aye
Kathleen Mullen-Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that or the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education grant Anthony Lella, custodian, an unpaid leave of absence effective February 11, 2015 through March 31, 2015, pending further physical evaluations.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branán-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-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 the appointment of Jody Karcher as Interim Director of Operations and Auxiliary Services at a rate of \$350.00 per day, commencing Monday, March 2, 2015 through June 30, 2015, or earlier should an appropriate replacement be employed. (Ms. Karcher is temporarily replacing the position held by Edward Ostroff.)

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branán-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-Aye
Kathleen Mullen-Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Mr. Branán moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved by roll call vote, that for the 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education adjust the hours of Concettina Campo, paraprofessional in the afternoon preschool disabled class at East End School from 2.50 hours per day to include additional hours three mornings per week for a total of 20 hours per week, effective February 19, 2015.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branán-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the employment of Leigh Robert Steinberg as a part-time teacher of art for the North Plainfield Alternative High School Program, at the hourly rate of \$32.00, for a total of five hours per week, effective February 20, 2015. (Mr. Steinberg will replace Lucy Pimpinella.)

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-Aye
Kathleen Mullen-Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Curriculum, Instruction, and 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 numbered:

15-02-04-001	15-02-04-003
15-02-04-002	15-02-04-004

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 numbered:

15-02-04-001	15-02-04-003
15-02-04-002	15-02-04-004

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 2014-2015 school year, the Board of Education approve the out-of-district placement of classified student PPPP-14-15 at New Road School of Somerset at the rate of \$42,728.40 per year, to be prorated effective February 11, 2015. (This replaces the student's placement at Montgomery Academy.)

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 acceptance of sponsorship and presenters provided by Empower Somerset/Botvin LifeSkills Training Program.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-Aye
Kathleen Mullen-Aye
Linda Bond-Nelson-Aye

Finance, Purchasing, Facilities and 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 December 31, 2014.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 payments from the Cafeteria Account in accordance with the attached list dated February 18, 2015.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-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 is awarding the following bid for the purpose of replacing boiler controls at the high school/middle school:

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2015, the North Plainfield Board of Education (“Board”) conducted a public bid opening for the award of boiler control system replacement at the North Plainfield High School/Middle School; and

WHEREAS, two vendors submitted a bid for consideration at the bid opening; and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Board’s Architect, Parette Somjen Architects, has evaluated the bids received and the Board has determined to award the contract for the Project; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq., the Board has determined that ***ATC Systems Inc.***, having offices at ***207 Blackford Avenue, Middlesex, NJ 08846***, is the lowest responsible and responsive Bidder for the Project, with a Lump Sum Base Bid of \$90,000.00 (ninety thousand dollars), including an allowance of \$7,800.00 (seven thousand eight hundred dollars).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board make the following award of contract:

ATC Systems Inc. is hereby awarded the contract for the Project,
for the total base bid sum of **\$90,000.00 (ninety thousand dollars)**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this award is subject to ATC Systems Inc. executing the Owner/Contractor Agreement for the Project, and providing Performance/Payment Bonds and an Insurance Certificate(s) evidencing coverages in accordance with the Project Specifications (“Contract Documents”); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board’s Counsel is authorized to prepare and transmit for signature the Owner/Contractor Agreement applicable to this award, as

well as to secure from ATC Systems Inc. such other documentation as required by the Project Specifications and this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Thomas Allen-Aye
David Branan-Aye
John Fellin, Jr.-Aye

Thomas Kasper-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 – Mr. Felling discussed meeting date of Tuesday, March 3, 2015.

Curriculum – Meeting was held on February 18, Mr. Maroun spoke about Science Curriculum.

Finance & Facilities – Will meet in next several weeks.

Policy Meeting – Mr. Branan discussed meeting date of Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 6pm.

Negotiations – Fact Finding meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

NJSBA – Mr. Kasper mentioned attending recent meeting.

SCSBA – Mr. Kasper discussed meeting next Wednesday, March 25, 2015.

SCESC – Ms. Mullen mentioned topics from recent meeting.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

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

Board Retreat scheduled for March 2, 2015.

Current Events in Education

There were none.

Comments from the Public

Ginger Fiola mentioned willingness to meet.

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, March 4, 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 that be it resolved that the Board of Education will adjourn to Executive Session at 7:50 pm 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 session at 8:25 pm.

Mr. Branan moved, seconded by Mr. Kasper and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg