

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Ms. Bond-Nelson, Board President, 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, Ms. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. - Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

A quorum was established

Also present were Michelle Aquino, Superintendent of Schools; and Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, Joanne Sung, Assistant Superintendent, Jasmine Zaher, Student Representative and approximately 8 members of the staff and public.

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

None.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote to accept the public session minutes of November 20, 2019.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote to accept the executive session minutes of November 20, 2019.

#### **Financial Report**

None.

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

None.

#### **Student Representative Report – Not in attendance**

##### **Student Representative: Marta Hernandez**

Good evening everyone, I hope you all had a nice holiday!

Marta could not make today's meeting due to the mentor's trip, however, I will read her part today. Interact held their annual blood drive two weeks ago in the high school gym and it was a total success. Many teachers and students were able to donate a pint of blood to those in need.

Interact was also holding their annual food drive for those in need of food, which ended right before Thanksgiving. It was an amazing way to help others in need, specifically for the holidays. Also, the homeroom with the most donated items was going to win a Dunkin Donuts breakfast, which was a great way to encourage kids to bring in items.

The Spanish Honor Society is holding a clothing drive, and they are encouraging both students and teachers to try to donate at least one item. Everyone has the ability to do so until December 18<sup>th</sup>, right before winter break.

College instant decisions are still going and many students are getting accepted into their dream schools with lots of financial aid. On Monday, Ramapo was in school and a total of five students got accepted. Yesterday Farleigh Dickinson was in school doing interviews as well, and I know many students were able to get in.

There is also voting going on in school for the Governor's Educator of the Year. Both students and staff can vote, so I can't wait to see who gets chosen for this award.

Marta also wanted to inform everyone that she will unfortunately not be at the next Boar of Ed meeting because her surgery is next week, however, hopefully she will be able to see everyone soon.

### **Student Representative: Jasmine Zaher**

Continuing on, I'm now going to talk about the sports events occurring throughout the high school.

To begin, as the fall sports have now come to a complete end and the winter sports are beginning, I wanted to mention and commend all of the players who were nominated by their coaches for a Student Athlete award for doing a great job on the team as well as academically in school. Lindsey Depaz was nominated for field hockey, Audrey Arias was nominated for girls tennis, Abraham Menjivar and Brandon Rosa were nominated for boys soccer, Madeline Kruzczynski for girls soccer, Arianna Vira for cross country, Betsy Murillo for cheerleading, and Adam Elsaïs for football.

Next, the winter track season has started as tryouts were taking place during late November. The team has already started practicing and preparing for their upcoming meets. Boys basketball tryouts have also begun and the wrestling team is also beginning to approach their season as well. Also, continuing on from the football season, the cheer team has begun practicing for their competition season and cheering at the upcoming basketball games.

I hope everyone has a great rest of the night and I'll see you at the next meeting.

### **Presentation**

Ms. Aquino introduced Mr. Ross Haber who presented an overview of a recent demographic study completed for the district. The Board asked several questions to which Mr. Haber responded.

Mr. Sternberg introduced Ms. Patty Fragioudakis, Regional Supervisor and Mr. Ken Torcia, CEO of Maschio's Food Services, Inc. and two other staff members who provided an overview of the 2018-2019 food service program results and provided samples of new product offerings.

### **Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools**

#### **Personnel**

**It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process including S-414/3381 documentation.**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education accepts the resignation of Eric Gomes, custodian for the District, for reasons of retirement, effective August 1, 2020.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education grants the employees listed leaves of absence as indicated.

Employee	Position	School	Effective	# Sick Days Used	FMLA
#5595	Social Worker	EE	12/2/19 – 12/16/19	None	12/2/19 – 12/17/19
#5764	Teacher	WE	12/11/19 – 1/26/20	24	None

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointments of the individuals indicated to the positions specified, at the stipends/rates noted.

Name	Position	School	Effective	Stipend/Rate
Cedric Thomas	Winter Guard Volunteer	HS	12/5/19	Volunteer
Denise Pereira	Chaperone	District	12/5/19	\$30.00/hour
Sonya Russomanno-Rizzo	SIT/SAT Detention	MS/HS	12/5/19	\$30.00/hour
Raul Figueroa	SIT/SAT Detention	MS/HS	12/5/19	\$30.00/hour

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the donation of 3 sick days to employee #4408 from employee #4942, as per the previously approved sidebar agreement between the North Plainfield Board of Education and the North Plainfield Education Association regarding employee #4408.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the individuals indicated for clinical experiences in the District.

Student Name	College	School/Class	Assignment	Date	Coop. Teacher
Melissa Paczos	Drexel University	HS/ELA	Clinical Internship	Spring 2020	Christine Mattei
Gina Plaitakis	Rowan University	WE/ELL	Clinical Internship	Spring 2020	Hollyn Konkowski

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the Board member and/or staff conference and travel expenses as per the attached list.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board hereby approves the employment of Marcia Fiorentino as a per diem Interim Supervisor of Mathematics for the District for the 2019-2020 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective January 6, 2020 through April 20, 2020, Marcia Fiorentino shall be paid the rate of \$393.00 per day, for up to five days per week, per the terms of the contract. (Marcia Fiorentino will temporarily replace employee #5575.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Michelle Robertson – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
 John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
 Thomas Allen – Aye

**Curriculum, Instruction & Student Services**

Ms. Butler 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 a report regarding HIB incident #

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and the investigation which was conducted following these complaints; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education was advised of any consequences and/or remedial measures related to this matter as well as the Superintendent's recommendations regarding the results of the investigation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education votes to affirm the Superintendent's recommendations on HIB case #

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Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the use of the Marlana Montgomery, school psychologist, to provide bilingual psychological evaluations for the District, at the rate of \$500.00 per evaluation, not to exceed \$5,000.00.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that for the 2019-2020 school year, the Board of Education approves the funds necessary to allow EEE-19-20, classified student at Green Brook Middle School, to receive the therapies indicated, effective October 3, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Occupational Therapy: \$87.75/month, not to exceed \$877.50/year  
Speech/Language Therapy: \$340.00/month, not to exceed \$3,060.00/year

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

**Finance, Purchasing & Agreements**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education acknowledges the results of the annual school election held on November 5, 2019 as outlined on the Certificate of Election, provided by the Board of County Canvassers of Somerset County.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves educationally related field trips per the attached list.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education approves the appointment of Environmental Safety Management Corporation Extraordinary Unspecifiable Professional Certified Industrial Hygiene Services additional environmental testing at a rate of \$175.00 not to exceed \$30,000.00 for the period of November 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that  
A RESOLUTION ADVISING THE SOMERSET COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN  
FREEHOLDERS OF BOARD OF EDUCATION PARTICIPATION IN THE SECOND  
UPDATE OF THE SOMERSET COUNTY MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL HAZARD  
MITIGATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the current Somerset County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) includes a Jurisdictional Annex for the North Plainfield Board of Education, North Plainfield Borough, New Jersey, through which the North Plainfield Board of Education is eligible for potential pre- and post-hazard mitigation planning and mitigation funding; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to reduce hazard risks, strengthen community resiliency, and remain eligible for potential FEMA funding, the North Plainfield Board of Education, North Plainfield Borough, New Jersey hereby commits to participating in the development of second update of the Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED on this 4<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019, by the governing body of the North Plainfield Board of Education, North Plainfield Borough, New Jersey that:

1. The North Plainfield Board of Education, North Plainfield Borough, New Jersey agrees to participate in the update of the Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

2. The following two school district representatives; Ms. Jody Karcher, Municipal Hazard Mitigation Officer and Mr. Brian Shanley, Alternate Municipal Hazard Mitigation Officer; are hereby authorized to serve on the Multi-Jurisdictional HMP Planning Committee; actively participate as requested throughout the process, and lead a North Plainfield Board of Education Hazard Mitigation Planning (HMP) Committee tasked with carrying out local participation requirements.
3. The following additional member is hereby named to the North Plainfield Board of Education HMP Committee; Mr. Donald Sternberg, Business Administrator.
4. At the end of the project, when FEMA deems the updated plan approvable, The North Plainfield Board of Education, North Plainfield Borough, New Jersey will, as required, pass a resolution formally adopting the final updated Somerset County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which will include an updated municipal annex. This resolution will be provided immediately to the Somerset County Planning Division for submittal to FEMA, who requires the resolution on file.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a signed copy of this Resolution will be provided to both the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Somerset County Planning Division.

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

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes the payout of accumulated vacation days for Melissa DeCos-Palma in the amount of \$5,399.24. Amount to be adjusted pending final contract amount.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education authorizes Kyle Skrivanek to apply for a grant through DonorsChoose.Org for the purpose of purchasing Gemeinhardt 3SHB flutes for the concert band at NPHS at a total value of \$2,500.00.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Michelle Robertson – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

Sandra Dodd – Aye  
John Fellin, Jr. – Aye  
Thomas Allen – Aye

### **Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – Next meeting date and time to be determined.

Communications – Next meeting scheduled for February 5, 2020 at 5:30 PM.

Curriculum – Next meeting date and time to be determined.

Finance & Facilities – None.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for December 18, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Negotiations(NPEA) – None.

NJSBA – None.

SCSBA – Next meeting scheduled for February 19, 2020 to be held at Somerset County Vocational Technical High School.

SCESC – Next meeting scheduled for February 5, 2020.

Personnel – Next meeting scheduled for February 6, 2020 at 5:45 PM.

### **Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum and Instruction Report**

□ HIB Preventative Programs Update: Led by the District Anti-Bullying Specialist, Casey McKeen, the district engages in robust and multi-tiered anti-bullying education and prevention efforts. Some highlights for this year include:

- “Steered Straight” Programming for HS and MS students, staff and parents.
- MS and SS students participate in the “Be an Upstander, Not a Bystander” speaker program to address relevant topics regarding HIB and what students can, and should, do when they observe concerning behavior.
- SS students have the opportunity to be recognized for exhibiting high levels of character, and can earn NY Jets gear, NY Jets game tickets, or a visit from a NY Jets player for being an Upstander.
- SB students participate in a visit and presentation by St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center, to infuse the concepts of kind choices, safety and respectful interaction.

□ Parent Support Update: The Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee held its first meeting of the 2019-2020 school year. Based upon feedback from parents, this session, focused on several facets of high school expectations, including, but not limited to, attendance and credit requirements, grading, and graduation pathways. The meeting presentation was prepared in English and in Spanish by Ms. Cobbs, High School ESL teacher and ELL Facilitator. The next meeting will be held on January 29, 2020. A survey will be sent to families of ELLs in Grades 5-8 to identify future meeting topics.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Superintendent’s Report**

#### **Report of the Superintendent**

December 4, 2019

- Alumni Survey Update: Our flyer inviting alumni from the past three graduating classes to participate in a focus group has been delivered. We are beginning to receive responses from alumni interested in participating. Focus group meeting dates are available for alumni throughout the month of December. Joanne Sung and Jackie Fields will assist me in the facilitation of these groups.
- Mercury Vapor Update: Garden State Environmental (GSE), the District's industrial hygiene consultant, performed a second mercury-related indoor air quality assessment of the Middle School gymnasium on October 31, 2019. I received the report on November 25th and immediately posted it on the *Mercury Flooring Update* section of our website.
- Additionally, Dr. Lynch sent me the report from his October 31 - November 16, 2019 mercury assessment conducted at the Middle School. It has been posted on the website, as well.
- North Plainfield Education Foundation will tentatively have a meeting January 22, 2020 in an effort to recruit additional members to their board. We hope to have a representative appointed by each PTO/PTA. We will be organizing and planning forward.
- Thank you to Brian Shanley, who has been serving in two positions since October 25th. We welcome Ms. Karcher to serve as Acting Director of Operations.
- On November 24<sup>th</sup>, the Livingston School District experienced a data breach. I am very appreciative that upon learning about this attack, Darrell Taylor proactively had an assessment of our District's firewall performed. This spring, Don Sternberg, Darrell Taylor and I will work with our partner PKF O'Connor Davies to conduct a thorough technology audit.
- *VISTA Visit to RVCC (written by Erin Scott): On November 15th, the VISTA class from the High School rode the Community Access Transit (CAT) bus to Raritan Valley Community College. Linda Rapacki from RideWise accompanied the class and provided valuable travel training throughout the trip. Upon arriving at RVCC, the students met with Bob Hulit from the Achievement Center, a collaboration between RVCC and the ARC of Somerset and Hunterdon Counties, to discuss their program to assist students with intellectual and developmental disabilities transition into college.*

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Ms. Robertson asked about Maschio's donating food not consumed.

December 4, 2019

**Comments from the Public**

None.

**Future Agenda Items**

The Board discussed and agreed to starting executive session earlier. The Board will meet for executive session at 6:00 PM on December 18, 2019.

Per the presentation calendar [2019-2020 Special Presentations Calendar](#)

**Adjournment**

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday December 18, 2019 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. It is anticipated that Executive Session will last approximately one half an hour.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg

