

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Ms. 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, Ms. Bond-Nelson requested the call of the roll:

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

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, Student Representatives Jasmine Muhando and Radha Patel and approximately 21 members of the staff and public.

Introduction of New Staff

There was none.

Minutes Approval

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote with Ms. Mullen abstaining; to accept the public session minutes September 20, 2017.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote with Ms. Mullen abstaining; to accept the executive session minutes September 20, 2017.

Financial Report

None.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Marcy Penny and several additional parents commented on various concerns related to the district marching band program.

Ms. Jackie Tose commented on specific problems she is having with her daughters' educational plan.

Student Representative Report

Student Representative: Radha Patel

Good evening everyone, it's nice to see you all again. Since the last time we met there are many new happenings in NPHS.

The student activities club began organizing the pre-homecoming game festivities. They have opened up the opportunity for all clubs and activities in the high school to participate in the homecoming event and are working on inviting programs from the other schools in the district along with local businesses to have a stand at the event.

October 4, 2017

The mentors had an extended homeroom this previous Thursday and discussed with their freshman the topic of goal setting. They, along with the rest of the high schoolers, did a goal setting worksheet which will be checked in the end of the year again to see if they reached their goals.

Two big events occurred this past week; the back to school night for the high school and also the fall pep rally. The back to school night was very successful this past Tuesday. Parents were able to meet their child's teachers along with getting exposure to all the activities offered in the high school. Jasmine and I were also able to talk on behalf of being student representatives for the high school and explain to parents why it is so important for their children, our students to get involved in our school and community.

Also, the pep rally went amazing this past Thursday. Each class was spirited and excited to cheer for their graduating years. The varsity and j.v. cheer leaders displayed an amazing performance along with the color guard and marching band. The yearbook students were clicking away beautiful pictures of all the fall sports teams who were excited to be announced. Overall the fall pep rally was a huge success!

Student Representative: Jasmine Muhando

Good evening, I am glad to see you all again.

In addition to what Radha said, the Canuck sports teams are still playing hard as of the last time we met. The marching band, also known as the Marching Canucks received first place at the Metuchen High School competition that took place two Sundays ago. They received an 80.87 which was the best score of the day. Also, last Sunday they astonishingly won first place again, with an even better score of 83.34. They received uplifting comments about their music choice and about having the best visuals, hopefully their winning streak continues. The previous week, the freshman football team enjoyed playing Governor Livingston with a victory of 28-14. Credit was given to their quarterback Jarde Grant for his successful touchdowns that aided them in winning. Overall the freshman boys played hard with an amazing teamwork that paid off in the end. The Lady Canuck varsity soccer team defeated Bound Brook with Ashley Atubi scoring five goals and assisting the team in their 5-1 win. Also, last week the Canucks Cross Country team brought home a win against Belvidere with a score of 17:56. Five other North Plainfield male athletes took top 5. In addition to that, junior Courtney Thomas won the race for the girls with a time of 25:59.

The other sports such as varsity football, tennis and hockey have done their best in their games so far, but even their best has not been enough to bring home a win for our school. However, win or lose, the Canuck sports teams were able to have fun and represent North Plainfield High with pride.

Presentation

None

Superintendent's Report

Full Time Preschool in North Plainfield began this Monday, October 2nd. I am happy to report that classrooms were carefully prepared by Ms. Onofri along with our newly hired teachers consistent with the expectations of Creative Curriculum. Materials, furniture, lunch and breakfast arrangements were in place and all was ready for our students for their new full day experience. Our community partners at Growing Tree and Holy Cross were similarly prepared with smooth transitions at every site.

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On Friday, Mr. Sternberg and I attended a meeting at the Department of Education for all Awardees of the PEEA grant. We received some updated clarifications regarding the grant and also learned that the NJDOE did not award its entire \$25 million, but made their awards based on the strength of application - again signalling the achievements of our application team. I had a closing conversation with Dr. Laura Morana, chief Academic Officer, who indicated her desire to visit North Plainfield and see both our preschool and biliteracy program.

Mr. Taylor received the district's NJ Trax report last week. Our technology, network, and device ratings received the highest scores possible. These ratings are attributable to key improvements overseen by Mr. Taylor that include the new core switch, capable of providing our district with a 10gb capacity (we are using 2 gb at this time). Additionally the district has purchased dark fiber that runs to each school possessing a capacity of 10-40 gb. Our bandwidth is strong, allowing the district not only PARCC readiness, but an ability to run 25 devices in every classroom without a problem. The capacities I have mentioned leave a great deal of room for growth - utilizing a look forward perspective that will serve the district well in the future and accommodate the technological advances that are sure to arrive.

On Thursday and Friday of this week I will be attending the annual two day Somerset County Association of School Administrators Workshop in Bethlehem, PA. This year we will be joined by the Morris County superintendents as well. The agenda includes legal training, technology updates, best practices to close the achievement gap and guidance on cyber and physical security. I look forward to sharing information from the workshop at our next board meeting.

On Monday evening I attended the joint Joint Hunterdon/Somerset SBA Meeting - addressing the topic, "The Arts in Our Schools". The New Jersey Arts Education Partnership recently completed a census to document arts education in every school in the state, and combined the data with the results of a public opinion survey completed by the Eagleton Center for Public Polling, to create a 360 degree view of arts education in our schools. Representatives of the research team provided an overview on the status of arts in Somerset and Hunterdon counties. Our district's participation in this meeting underscores the importance we place on the Fine and Performing Arts in North Plainfield. As indicated in a recent letter to our parent community, this commitment is rooted in the core belief that the arts are a critical area of expression for our students and that each student's creativity and talents must always be nurtured and expanded upon.

Mr. Mathis recently reported that newly required carbon monoxide detectors have been installed in all our schools.

I am happy to recommend Ms. Dawn Cuccolo this evening for the Interim Supervisor of Special Education position. Ms. Cuccolo has experience in similar positions in Franklin, Princeton and West-Windsor and will be an important support for the parents, students and staff.

Recommendations from Superintendent of Schools
Personnel

It is understood that the employment of all new personnel is pending completion of the employment process.

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 Sandra Orejarena as an instructional paraprofessional at West End School for the 2017-2018 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective October 5, 2017, Sandra Orejarena shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.37 per hour, for 3.00 hours per day. (This position is new.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education grants Tara Venturino-Scott, elementary teacher at West End School, a leave of absence effective January 8, 2018 or sooner, if necessary, using accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter on an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through April 17, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education rescinds the previously approved recommendations to appoint Roger Graubard to the positions indicated.

Boys' head tennis coach at NPHS
Girls' assistant tennis coach at NPHS (volunteer)
Athletic event assistant for the district

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 attached Accounts Payable Bookkeeper job description.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education grants Catherine Pate, school psychologist at East End School, a leave of absence effective December 11, 2017 or sooner, if necessary, using accrued sick days until released by her physician and thereafter on an unpaid leave of absence under the Family Leave Act through April 23, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 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
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves Julianne Jimenez as a volunteer in the district.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves an afterschool American Sign Language conversational group as an extracurricular activity at NPHS.

Further, that for the 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves Julianne Jimenez as a volunteer advisor to the American Sign Language conversational group.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the individuals indicated as Parent Advisory Facilitators for the Kindergarten Biliteracy and K-12 ESL Parent Advisory Committees, as needed, at the hourly rate of \$28.35.

Kate Moore
Erika Gambuti

Gabriela Colon
Jessica Perdomo-O'Hara

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education grants Gordon Cain, maintenance worker for the district, a leave of absence effective September 22, 2017, using accrued sick days until released by his physician and thereafter on an unpaid leave of absence through December 18, 2017.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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, that for the 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of Caryn Feder as a K-12 district substitute teacher/substitute paraprofessional.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the transfer of Gloria Garcia **from** a floater paraprofessional position for three self-contained classrooms at Stony Brook School for 3.25 hours per day at the rate of \$17.43 per hour **to** a preschool paraprofessional position at Stony Brook School for 4.00 hours per day at the rate of \$17.43 per hour, effective October 2, 2017. (This position is new.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 Sonia Alvarenga as an instructional paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for the 2017-2018 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective October 2, 2017, Sonia Alvarenga shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.37 per hour, for 3.25 hours per day. (Ms. Alvarenga replaced Gloria Garcia who transferred to another position.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 Doris Halley as an instructional paraprofessional at East End School for the 2017-2018 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective October 2, 2017, Doris Halley shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 1 and will be paid the rate of \$17.37 per hour, for 4.00 hours per day. (This position is new.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 Casey Sobel as an instructional paraprofessional at Stony Brook School for the 2017-2018 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective October 2, 2017, Casey Sobel shall be placed on Instructional Degree/Step 3 and will be paid the rate of \$18.43 per hour, for 4.25 hours per day. (This position is new.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the assignments of the listed paraprofessionals as indicated.

Name	From (hours/day)	To (hours/day)	Effective
Esperanza DeOlio	HS – 3.75	HS – 4.00	Sept. 29, 2017
Beatriz Murillo	SB – 4.00	SB – 4.25	Oct. 2, 2017

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Diana Sefchik, supervisor of ESL and world languages for the district, for reasons of retirement, effective December 31, 2017.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 Dawn Cuccolo as a per diem interim supervisor of special education for the district for the 2017-2018 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Dawn Cuccolo will be paid the rate of \$384.62 per day, effective October 5, 2017 and until the return of the special education supervisor. (Ms. Cuccolo will temporarily replace Maria Araneo.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 Rebecca Keller as a temporary special education teacher at Stony Brook School for the 2017-2018 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective October 18, 2017 through February 1, 2017, Rebecca Keller shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the prorated annual salary of \$59,430. (Ms. Keller will temporarily replace Meghan Musumecchi.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Marla Miksa, secretary at NPHS, for reasons of retirement, effective January 1, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND PUPIL SERVICES

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that for the 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the following curricula:

Dance III (new)
Academic Support: High School (new)
Grade 6 Honors Mathematics (revision)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves Jula Klesy and Linnea Madita as exchange students at NPHS, effective October 9, 2017 through November 3, 2017.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the use of Education Inc. to provide bedside instruction as needed, at the rate of \$45.50 per hour.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the out-of-district placement of the classified student as indicated, effective October 23, 2017. Transportation will be required.

<u>Name</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Placement</u>	<u>Tuition</u>
EEEEEE-17-18	9/23/12	AUT	Bright Beginnings	\$54,360.00/yr. prorated
			1:1 Paraprofessional	\$37,260.00/yr. prorated

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

FINANCE, PURCHASING AND AGREEMENTS

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent of Schools to accept the North Plainfield Youth Service Commission grant for West End, East End, Stony Brook and Somerset Schools in the amount of \$625 per school (\$2,500 district total) to implement one season of the *Girls On The Run (GOTR)* program during the 2017-2018 school year.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
 Bianka Butler – Aye
 David Branan – Aye
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 and accepts the donation of padlocks and tool boxes from Home Depot for Ms. Buaron of Somerset School, to create classroom escape rooms, approximately valued at \$50.00.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – 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 and accepts the donation of padlocks and tool boxes from Lowe's for Ms. Buaron of Somerset School, to create classroom escape rooms, approximately valued at \$115.72.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye
Bianka Butler – Aye
David Branan – Aye
Kathleen Mullen – Aye

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

Correspondence

There were none.

Committee and Delegate Report

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Communications – Next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Curriculum – Next meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Finance & Facilities – No meeting scheduled at this time

Personnel – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Negotiations – No meeting scheduled at this time.

NJSBA – Mr. Fellin provided an overview of recent legislation affecting education.

SCSBA – Mr. Fellin reviewed topics discussed at recent joint meeting with Morris County.

SCESC – Ms. Mullen updated the Board issues related to the commission.

Old Business

Dr. McLaughlin updated the Board on the Kean University study and reconfirmed Board approval.

Dr. McLaughlin discussed the status of high enrollment numbers at Somerset School and outlined possible solutions.

New Business

None.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Everett Merrill mentioned Dr. McLaughlin's presentation to the Borough Council.

Future Agenda Items

Per the presentation calendar (www.nplainfield.org)

October 4, 2017

Adjournment

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin that and unanimously approved by roll call vote that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 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. It is anticipated that Executive Session will last approximately one and a half an hour.

Ms. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 8:45 P.M. executive session for approximately 70 minutes and no action will be taken upon return to public session.

Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Fellin and unanimously approved to adjourn at 10:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg