

September 5, 2018

The minutes of the regular meeting of the North Plainfield Board of Education held on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 at 7:30 PM, Watchung School, 33 Mountain Avenue, North Plainfield, NJ. Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary 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  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. - Aye

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

A quorum was established

Also present were Michelle Vella, Superintendent of Schools; and Donald Sternberg, Board Secretary/School Business Administrator, Joanne Lee-Sung, Assistant Superintendent and approximately 6 members of the staff and public.

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

Ms. Vella introduced and welcomed Ms. Joanne Lee-Sung as the new Assistant Superintendent.

#### **Minutes Approval**

Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote; to accept the public session minutes of August 22, 2018.

Mr. Butler moved, seconded by Mr. Allen and unanimously approved by roll call vote; to accept the executive session minutes of August 22, 2018.

#### **Financial Report**

None.

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

Ms. Robertson thanked the Board for the refurbishment of the district athletics fields.

Ms. Beth Caruso asked about Somerset School administration.

Ms. Julie Klikus welcomed Ms. Lee-Sung to the district and mentioned concerns related to band equipment at Somerset School and Spanish instruction.

#### **Student Representative Report**

None.

#### **Presentation**

Mr. Taylor presented upgrades to district technology upgrades and changes accomplished over the summer.

Mr. Mathis presented an overview of construction and maintenance projects accomplished over the summer.

## Superintendent's Report

### **Superintendent Report/Curriculum Report**

**Mentorship Opportunities for NPHS Students:** On Wednesday, August 28th, Jackie Fields, High School counselors Nancy Reyes and David Raupp, and I attended a Somerset County Business Partnership meeting to present our career mentorship program. Several local businesses, organizations and schools such as Habitat for Humanity, The Jewish Federation, The Maxx Challenge, United Way of Northern Jersey and others attended the meeting to gain insight on the program. The purpose of this meeting was to network with local businesses to find internship placements for our students. Additionally, we invited businesses to partner with North Plainfield to assist with workshops on employment skills. As a result of this meeting, several organizations, including NJIT, have already reached out to express interest in partnering with North Plainfield High School.

**Additional Preschool Classroom Space:** John Tarnofsky, Maria Araneo, and Michelle Onofri are exploring available space in North Plainfield in the event that additional classrooms are needed for our preschool program. Last week, they toured Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church. While a portion of the building was formerly used by Head Start, this classroom space does not meet current NJDOE preschool requirements. This team will continue to explore potential options in the area.

**School Year Opens with Teacher's Convocation:** NPSD welcomed the opening of the 2018-2019 school year with Convocation on September 4th. Teachers from across the district had the chance to reconnect with each other and administrators as we opened the day with breakfast. I then had the opportunity to address our staff and present our vision and goals for the upcoming school year. Our NPEA Co-Presidents followed with their first meeting of the school year. The remainder of the day and the entirety of September 5th was dedicated to staff in-service training. I am pleased to report that we welcomed 30 new teachers, 1 new school counselor, 1 new LDTC, and 2 new administrators to the district. We are fully staffed and ready to educate and achieve.

**HS Achieves Bronze Certification from Sustainable Jersey:** We are very proud to announce that North Plainfield High School has met the rigorous requirements to achieve 'Sustainable Jersey for Schools' Bronze Certification. Our High School earned 165 points for 13 actions in 8 categories.

Sustainable Jersey for Schools is a program for New Jersey schools that encourages recognition of the importance of conservation and sustainability. The certification process requires that a school complete a balanced portfolio of sustainability actions to attain a minimum of 150 points. Actions completed by North Plainfield High School include:

- Community Education and Outreach - Anti-Littering Campaign
- School Gardens – HOPE Club Salad Barrels Project
- Access to Healthy Water in Schools
- Anti-idling Education & Enforcement

And district-wide initiatives such as:

- Green Purchasing & Cleaning Policies
- Promoting Locally Grown Foods
- Breakfast After the Bell Program
- Buying Renewable Energy

Our High School will be recognized during the NJSBA Workshop on October 23rd, 2018.

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 WHEREAS Diane Olsen, school nurse in the North Plainfield School District, notified the Board of Education on August 22, 2018 and was accepted as retiring effective August 1, 2018, and

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

RESOLVED that the Board of Education of North Plainfield extends to Ms. Olsen 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 September 5, 2018, 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. Olsen.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 temporary employment of Kimberley Leary as an elementary teacher at West End School for the 2018-2019 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective September 1, 2018 through November 26, 2018, Kimberley Leary shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the prorated annual salary of \$59,430, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Ms. Leary will temporarily replace Erica Moyer.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Paramjit Kaur, paraprofessional at NPHS, effective August 27, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

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

September 5, 2018

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 Andrea Torres, paraprofessional at NPHS, effective September 4, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education grants employee #5674, special education teacher at Somerset School, a leave of absence effective September 17, 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 December 3, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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, that for the 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the employment of the individuals indicated as K-12 district substitute teachers/substitute paraprofessionals.

Noah Bell

Nydiadra Rivers  
Sandy Marrow

Khaleedah Wright

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of Alexandra Vergara, non-instructional paraprofessional, to work in the NPHS Guidance Office, at the rate of \$22.00 per hour, on an as needed basis.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 rescinds the previously approved recommendation to employ Caroline Nucatola as a temporary special education teacher at Somerset School for the 2018-2019 school year.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

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

September 5, 2018

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 Caroline Nucatola as a special education teacher at Stony Brook School for the 2018-2019 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective September 1, 2018, Caroline Nucatola shall be placed on MA/Step 1 and will be paid the annual salary of \$62,430, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (This position is new.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the appointment of the staff indicated as team leaders at NPMS, at the stipend rate of \$550 each.

Sabina Astafovic  
Aimee Michalski

Andrea Rodgers

Jennifer Mariani  
Danielle Fauci

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 summer of 2018, the Board of Education rescinds the recommendation to appoint Piedad Escamilla as a non-instructional paraprofessional at Somerset School.

Further, that the Board of Education appoints Tina Gurrere-Shallo as a non-instructional paraprofessional at Somerset School during the summer of 2018, at her negotiated hourly rate. (Ms. Gurrere-Shallo will replace Piedad Escamilla.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 having been authorized and approved by the Executive County Superintendent for Somerset County in a letter dated August 28, 2018, the Board of Education authorizes and approves payment to Dr. James V. McLaughlin for Quantitative Goal 1 in the amount of \$3,718.50, Quantitative Goal 2 in the amount of \$5,577.75, and Quantitative Goal 3 in the amount of \$5,577.75, for a total Quantitative Goal amount of \$14,874.00, for the 2017-2018 school year.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education adjusts the assignments of the listed paraprofessionals as indicated.

<b>Name</b>	<b>From (hours per day)</b>	<b>To (hours per day)</b>
Esther Domiciano	SB – 3.50	SB – 3.25
Jennie Dubose- Eure	SB – 4.50	EE – 4.50
Tina Gurrere- Shallo	SS – 3.00	SS – 3.75
Sandra Orejarena	WE – 3.50	WE – 4.00

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Mariastella Leandri Marrapodi, Italian teacher at NPHS, effective October 27, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 Kanwal Sayani as a special education teacher at NPHS for the 2018-2019 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective September 1, 2018, Kanwal Sayani shall be placed on BA/Step 2-3 (2) and will be paid the annual salary of \$59,630, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (This position is new.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Absent  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education continues the medical leave of absence for employee #4261, maintenance employee for the district, using accrued sick days and thereafter an unpaid leave of absence, until released by his physician.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the participation of the teachers indicated in the required summer GOLD Assessment training, at the rate of \$28.35 per hour, for the hours noted. Funding is provided by the PEEA Grant.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hours Not to Exceed</b>
Lauren Bamber	15
Allison Hessemer	15
Megan Horezga	15
Andrea Legiadre	15
Michelle Onofri	20

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 temporary employment of Katherine Fallon as a special education teacher at Somerset School for the 2018-2019 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, effective September 17, 2018 through December 3, 2018, Katherine Fallon shall be placed on BA/Step 1 and will be paid the prorated annual salary of \$59,430, to be adjusted pending settlement of the negotiated Agreement. (Ms. Fallon will temporarily replace Sabrina Cruz.)

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2017-2018 school year, the Board of Education approves the individuals indicated as a volunteers in the district.

Jed Feibush

Joseph Gyurian

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education grants employee #5819, elementary teacher at West End School, a leave of absence effective December 3, 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 June 30, 2019.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of June O'Neill, paraprofessional at Somerset School, effective August 30, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 Cheryl Clark as a per diem part time acting principal at Somerset School for the 2018-2019 school year. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cheryl Clark shall be paid the rate of \$250 per day half-day/ \$500 per full-day, on an as needed basis, for up to five days per week, effective September 6, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 accepts the resignation of Cecilia Griffiths, paraprofessional at West End School, for reasons of retirement, effective October 1, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education grants employee #5629, paraprofessional at NPHS, an unpaid leave of absence effective September 6, 2018 through December 21, 2018.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 summer of 2018, the Board of Education increases the allotted hours for Neal Dalton for summer child study team case management from 70 hours to 75 hours, at the rate of \$53.98 per hour.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – 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 2018-2019 school year, the Board of Education approves the transfer of Gabriela Colon, ESL teacher, from West End School to West End School/Stony Brook School.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
Bianka Butler – Aye  
Kathleen Mullen – Aye  
Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

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

**Curriculum, Instruction and Pupil Services**

None at this time.

**Finance, Purchasing & 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 submit an application to the New Jersey Department of Education for the Title I STEM and ARTS-Integrated Pilot Program, at a total value of \$200,000.

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 reimbursement to the following employees for unused vacation days and/or carried over days based on last day of service per the negotiated agreement and/or employment contract:

Name	Last Day of Service	Days	Amount
Kimberly Tisdale	August 31, 2018	4.67	\$1,007.55
Phyllis Prestamo	August 31, 2018	33.67	\$16,710.42

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – 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 payment to the retired/retiring administrator indicated for unused sick days earned in accordance with the negotiated Agreements.

Name	Accumulated Days	4 for 1 Conversion	Amount
Phyllis Prestamo	50 days	12.5 days	\$6,203.75

Linda Bond-Nelson – Aye  
 Bianka Butler – Aye  
 Kathleen Mullen – Aye  
 Willie Vick Jr. – Aye

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

**Correspondence**

None.

**Committee and Delegate Report**

Board Staff – No meeting scheduled at this time

Communications – Next meeting scheduled for September 26, 2018 at 5:30 PM.

Curriculum – No meeting scheduled at this time.

Finance &amp; Facilities – Mr. Fellin provided an overview of the August 31, 2018 meeting. Next meeting to be scheduled.

Policy Meeting – Next meeting scheduled for September 26, 2018 at 6:30 PM.

September 5, 2018

Negotiations(NPEA) – No meeting scheduled at this time.  
Negotiations(NPAEAS) – Completed.  
NJSBA – Mr. Fellin updated the Board on recent legislation.  
SCSBA – No meeting scheduled at this time.  
SCESC – No meeting scheduled at this time.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

Ms. Vella discussed a proposal to submit for approval of a grant to fund a district pilot program related to STEM and arts.

**Comments from the Public**

None.

**Future Agenda Items**

Per the presentation calendar ([www.nplainfield.org](http://www.nplainfield.org))

**Adjournment**

Ms. Mullen moved, seconded by Ms. Butler and unanimously approved by roll call vote; that the Board of Education will hold an Executive Session on Thursday, September 20, 2018 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 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

APPROVED:

Donald Sternberg

July 24, 2018