

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on January 22, 2024, at the Allen W. Roberts, 80 Jones Drive, by the Board President, by the Board President Mrs. Cuccaro.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Kristin Empson Hayden, Stacey Gunderman, Jennifer Killea, Amanda Marano, and Joseph Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools, Lauren Zirpoli, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jon Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and twenty-one (21) members of the public.

Mrs. Cuccaro led in the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Cuccaro read the following statement:

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL 1975, Chapter 231, in that an annual notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Whenever the business of the Board requires it to convene to Closed session, the session will begin no later than 9:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the need for Closed Session, the Board will reconvene to the public portion of the meeting. At that time the Board will complete business that may be before it and the public will then be given an opportunity to be heard before the meeting is adjourned.

BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro began her comments by treating the audience and commenting about the extremely cold winter weather from the past week. She mentioned Dr. Miceli's email from last week and said that much goes into the thought process concerning closing school, early dismissals, and delayed openings, including communication with building custodians, the maintenance department, as well as the New Providence Police Department, and the Department of Public Works. There is a lot happening behind the scenes before any of us receive the call. Balancing the safety of our students, teachers, and staff, while minimizing disruption to our instructional program is always the priority. A special thank you to our custodians and maintenance staff for their efforts last week.

Mrs. Cuccaro stated that as she opens tonight's meeting, she would like to take the opportunity to thank my fellow board members for their desire to serve our community. January is school board recognition month in New Jersey. School board members here in New Providence, like the rest of the State, volunteer extraordinary amounts of time and strive to work collaboratively to provide our students with the best education possible. She is thankful for the community work with such a cohesive and caring group of professionals.

On January 11th, the artwork of our very talented students was put on display at the Municipal Center. The student art exhibition showcases work from students in all four district schools. The municipal center is open during business hours, and I encourage all of you to stop by and look at the amazing works of art on display in the lobby that have been created by our students.

The Board of Education will once again be electing teachers, representing each of our schools for the Union County Teacher Recognition Program. An email with criteria for teacher of the year nominations will be sent next week, along with the link to make your nomination. Thank you for participating and for the support of all of our amazing teachers. Nomination forms are due no later than Friday, February 2nd.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

AJ reported the following student highlights of the month:

Thank you for having me, as always, it's my pleasure.

Looking back at this past month, Model UN participated in Philadelphia, YMCA's Andy, what are you doing buddy MUN conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania from January 5th to January 7th. This is the second year the trip has been in – person again, and I am very proud to say it was a great success for our new providence delegation. A big congratulations to Mr. Barnes for being recognized as advisor of the year and to Mayuri Rajakaruna for receiving the Curtis, Meyers Servant Leadership Award, as well as selection as an alternative, to attend the Conference of National Affairs.

Moving on, I'm also happy to say that the Programming's Club, Day of Code event, hosted towards the end of December was a big success. Between Allen W. Roberts and Salt Brook, eight 6th-grade classes were taught an interactive computer science lesson. On a similar note, the STEM, club found success, helping host a VEX IQ, middle school, robotics competition at New Providence High School, and is looking forward to participating in the TEAMS STEM competition at NJIT on February 9th, which has students write a research survey, take a rigorous engineering test, and design, and build a solution to a problem on demand.

Shifting focus, we would like to congratulate Lauren Venturella and Natalie Tom, on their outstanding musical achievements! Natalie, on the viola, and Lauren, on the French horn, both were accepted into the procedures at CJMEA orchestra, which had its concert last Saturday. This group is made up of students from a variety of counties in New Jersey and is difficult to get accepted into. They both worked extremely hard on the music, and we are happy to celebrate their important musical achievements! Congratulations!

Winter athletics are now in full swing. The track hosted its first-ever Winter Shot Put meet at New Providence High School on Wednesday, January 10th and there were a lot of personal records at the recent County Championship held at Ocean Breeze in Staten Island. Congratulations to the boys 4x4 team, and the girls 4x2 time for both winning 1st at the State relays earlier this month! Girls basketball is also thriving with a 14 to 2 record and had a big win over Cranford at Kean University on Saturday. Ice hockey also only has two losses this season, and Basketball is 10 and 3 with a big come-from-behind win against Madison on Saturday.

Admittedly, less dearly in the heart of students, midterms will be held tomorrow through Friday. A big thank you to the PTSA for again facilitating the provision of midterm, snacks, which will be distributed at the media center. Looking forward, to the Winter Semi-formal that will be held on Friday, February 22nd. Thank you for having me and have a nice night!

ENROLLMENT

Mrs. Zirpoli gave the enrollment report for the following schools: Allen W Roberts - 676 students, Salt Brook - 586 students, New Providence Middle School - 414 students, and New Providence High School - 642 students, for a total of 2,318 students. We have 34 out-of-district students, making the total 2,352 students.

DOG THERAPY PROPOSAL

Dr. Miceli invited Mrs. Feliciano-Allen to present the NP's Pals with Paws dog therapy proposal.

Mrs. Feliciano-Allen began her presentation by firstly thanking Dr. Miceli and Mrs. Zirpoli for their guidance and support regarding this initiative, she also thanked the Education Committee and full Board for their review and consideration of this potential pilot program, and she thanked her dog therapy colleagues, Mrs. Conman, Mrs. Stickle, and Mrs. Drexinger.

The Superintendent Forum of April 2023 focused on student's mental health, this forum was the impetus of this pilot program. There is a lot of research that backs the use of dog therapy in a school setting for various reasons such as; reducing anxiety levels, promoting feelings of happiness and belonging, can also assisting with de-escalation and regulation. Mrs. Feliciano-Allen reached out to various districts that have a dog therapy program and was able to get feedback and even examples of circumstances in which a therapy dog was able to regulate a student enough for a situation not to escalate.

The goals of the program are to provide social and emotional support for students (both in and out of the counseling program), and assist with de-escalation, non-aggressive crisis response, and animal-assisted activities.

Creature Comfort is the program the District will be using to provide training of the dogs and their handlers and any additional training and support. This program will be an annual program that will be funded by the Education Foundation Grant, ESSER funding, and then eventually it will be included in the operating district budget.

Mrs. Feliciano-Allen then invited Mrs. Drexinger and her dog Bailey to explain in more detail how the program would work at the school level.

Mrs. Drexinger introduced Bailey as Salt Brook's assigned therapy dog. She went over how Bailey's day would look beginning in the morning at drop off in front of the school to greet students and staff to the end of their day when he will also say goodbye to the students. She also went over more details found in the slide show presentation.

Next, Mrs. Conan came up with her dog Phoebe to introduce themselves as the Allen W. Robert's therapy dog. She also went over in detail what Phoebe's day would look like at Allen W. Robert's. Phoebe will help greet students and help reduce the anxiety of school, separation anxiety, and additional tasks that can be found on the slide show presentation.

Lastly, Mrs. Stickle and her dog Finny came up to introduce themselves as the Middle School therapy dog. Mrs. Stickle went over what Finny's day would look like at the Middle School and mentioned that the High School at this time does not have their own designated therapy dog, however, through Creature Comfort, the High School will be able to schedule visits on a need basis. At the end of her presentation, Mrs. Stickle showed some of Finny's fun tricks.

All the therapy dogs mentioned will be able to be scheduled by teachers to have class visits and to provide any additional support in crises or to boost morale in the classroom.

Mrs. Feliciano-Allen then invited Mrs. Zirpoli to speak on the policy and regulations of the program.

Mrs. Zirpoli explained Policy 5337- Therapy Dog that requires proof of registration as a therapy dog handler with the individual therapy dog to be used. Such registration shall be from the board-approved, third-party certified program with proof of an evaluation or certificate. Also, there will be a need for proof from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy dog is in good health and has been immunized against diseases, common to dogs. Such vaccination shall be kept current and up-to-date at all times. Proof of licensure from the local dog licensing authority and a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the work of the handler and therapy dog while the two are on school district property.

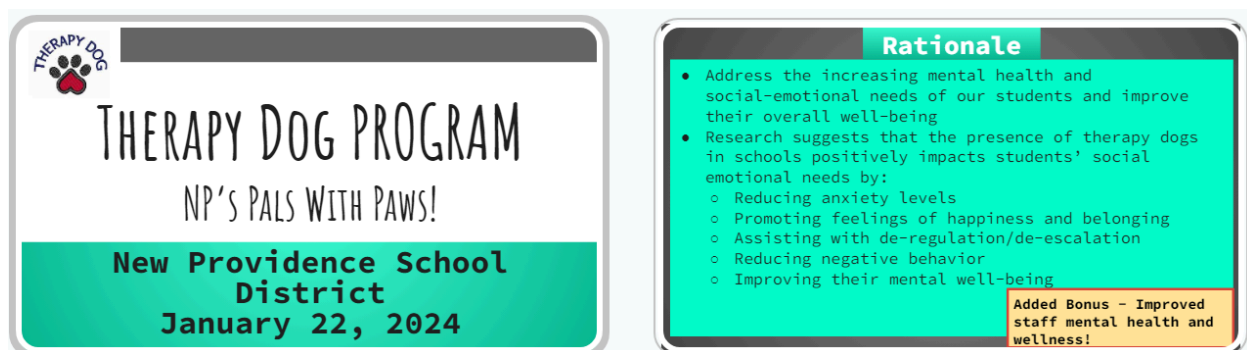
She then went over the Regulations of the therapy dog program. This includes licensing, health and safety, control over the dogs, supervision, and care of the therapy dog, authorized areas, allergies and aversions, recordkeeping, and exclusions or removal from school district property.

Parents will have the option to opt out of the program if their child has any allergies or aversions or just does not want to participate in the program.

Mrs. Feliciano-Allen then went over the next steps and timeline to get the program approved. She then thanked everyone and introduced her dog as well at the end of the presentation.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Feliciano-Allen, Mrs. Conlan, Mrs. Drexinger, and Mrs. Stickle for the presentation and for sharing their dogs. He also thanked the various members of the Education Foundation for providing the grant and coming to see the presentation.

The Board unanimously approved to move forward to approve the program and to put the policy and regulation on first reading for the next board meeting.



The image shows two presentation slides side-by-side. The left slide is titled 'THERAPY DOG PROGRAM' and 'NP'S PALS WITH PAWS!' with a small 'THERAPY DOG' logo. The right slide is titled 'Rationale' and lists bullet points about the program's benefits for students' mental health and social-emotional needs. A small orange box at the bottom right of the right slide says 'Added Bonus - Improved staff mental health and wellness!'.

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM
NP'S PALS WITH PAWS!
New Providence School District
January 22, 2024

Rationale

- Address the increasing mental health and social-emotional needs of our students and improve their overall well-being
- Research suggests that the presence of therapy dogs in schools positively impacts students' social emotional needs by:
 - Reducing anxiety levels
 - Promoting feelings of happiness and belonging
 - Assisting with de-regulation/de-escalation
 - Reducing negative behavior
 - Improving their mental well-being

Added Bonus - Improved staff mental health and wellness!

Therapy Dog Program Goals

- Provide Social-Emotional Support for Students(both in and out of the counseling program)
- Assist with De-escalation
- Non-Aggressive Crisis Response
- Animal Assisted Activities

Funding

Annual Program Fee Per School: \$750.00

- Ed Foundation Grant
- Esser Funds
- Operating Budget



CREATURE COMFORT (CCPT)

In-House Therapy Program will provide NPSPD with consistent pet therapy on a regular basis.

Creature Comfort Pet Therapy will:

- Certify person(s)/pet team(s) using CCPT Certification
- Conduct school interviews and perform a site visit and initial facility assessment
- Complete an observation visit to assess the animal at each facility and complete an annual reassessment of the program at each school
- Assist team(s) and schools to ensure program is safe and effective
- Approve a secondary facility handler using the CCPT Evaluation process.
- Track and manage team(s) certification and pet vaccinations
- Be available to provide ongoing guidance and training for the animal and program

NEW JERSEY DISTRICTS WITH THERAPY DOG PROGRAMS

- Summit
- Berkeley Heights
- Wayne
- Princeton
- Union Township
- Clifton
- Henry Hudson Regional
- Hopewell Valley Regional

On March 16, 2020, the NJ State Assembly introduced a bill to implement a therapy dog pilot program to assess the academic and health benefits of using therapy dogs in the wellness programs of various public elementary schools.

LET'S MEET NP'S PALS WITH PAWS!

- Ms. Drexinger, Salt Brook Principal - Certified handler of Bailey.
- Ms. Conlan, AWR Counselor - Certified Handler of Phoebe
- Ms. Stickle, MS Counselor - Certified handler of Finny

I'm Bailey!
(Salt Brook)



All About BAILEY

Hi! My name is Bailey. I am a 3 year old Golden Retriever. My mom and I are proud graduates of the "My Dogs Got Class" pet therapy training program and we passed our Creature Comfort AKC Pet Therapy Dog test. My mom and my dad adopted me when I was 12 weeks old. Some of you may already know me! When I was a puppy my mom featured me in her weekly school videos during the Covid Remote Instruction period. I loved being the "star" of the videos and helping my mom plan her weekly challenges. My favorite thing to do is to play with my sister, Macie and all of my human and doggie friends in my neighborhood. I love chasing balls, going on walks with my family and friends, and even riding on the back of my human friends sleds when it snows! I can't wait to come to school with my mom and to meet all of you!

My Favorite Things:
Treats, Any kind of ball
Food: Peanut butter,
macarons, bananas, and my
squirrel
Favorite Sports Team: CC
counselor Mr. NY Tardone!



WHAT WOULD BAILEY'S DAY LOOK LIKE AT SALT BROOK & WHY?

- Bailey has been trained to provide comfort, support, and affection to children and adults.
- Bailey will start his day by greeting the Salt Brook Students and Staff as they arrive in the morning.
- During the day Bailey will meet with various classes and groups of students, visit during lunch and recess times, and walk the halls.
- Students will be able to pet and talk to Bailey while meeting with Mrs. Drexinger individually and during classroom visits, as they pass in the halls, and during lunch and recess.
- Bailey will help:
 - Support Academic and Behavior Goals i.e. students can practice their reading by reading stories to Bailey, practice math skills by teaching Bailey to count, compare numbers, and learn addition through games and activities.
 - With incentive/rewards. Students can earn special time with Bailey and/or go for a walk with Bailey.
 - Provide Emotional Support and Reinforce Social and Emotional skills i.e. tolerance and acceptance, problem solving, social communication, taking turns, ask/answer questions. Bailey will also help to de-escalate situations and provide non-aggressive crisis response by calming a student's intense emotions/feelings, stabilizing their mood, and helping to alleviate disruptive behavior.
 - Be a calming presence and create an atmosphere of joy!
- Bailey will end his day by saying goodbye to students and staff!

I'm Phoebe!
(AWR)



All About Phoebe

Hi, my name is Phoebe aka "Phinbo". I was named after my mom for the character from the TV show, "FRIENDS". I am a hypoallergenic Hirschenpon and turn 2 years old in April! My mom got me when I was just about 8 weeks old. She chose me because of all the different white spots I have! Besides my first loves - children & liver - I absolutely LOVE people, especially children! My mom says that I am a "big snuggler" whenever that means I LOVE to play and snuggle with humans. Not only did I graduate from my AKC Good Citizen Program, I am a certified therapy dog through Alliance of Therapy Dogs and Creature Comfort Pet Therapy! I am super excited to meet the students & staff at AWR and give them lots of love and snuggles!

My Likes
• Children & Liver
• S.B.
• Balls
• Buses
• Baby Rats



My Dislikes
• The vacuum
• Getting a bath

WHAT WOULD PHOEBE'S DAY LOOK LIKE AT AWR & WHY?

- Increase in anxiety based needs – school phobia/refusal, separation anxiety.
- Increase in crisis counseling: significant emotional dysregulation, risk assessments and "at-risk" students.
- Research has shown that when dogs and humans interact, they both release oxytocin, dopamine and serotonin – hormones that are linked to a positive, calm, and regulated emotional state of mind.
- Research supports the positive correlation between therapy dogs and improvement of reading skills and self-esteem.
- The child is reading without being judged and practicing the skill of reading, associating reading with something pleasant which promotes a positive self-esteem.
- Phoebe will start her day in the front entrance of AWR greeting students/helping a particular student in need.
- Teachers will have the opportunity for Phoebe to come listen to their students read, join in a classroom read aloud on the rug or any other academic skill such as learning how to count.
- Phoebe will join Miss Conlan outside for recess duty and watch/greet students in between classes.
- Phoebe will provide students (and adults) comfort, support and affection during counseling sessions and intense situations where de-escalation is needed.
- Phoebe will be utilized as an incentive or reward to promote prosocial behavior (special visits, "hugs" etc).
- In turn, her presence in the aforementioned areas will aim to alleviate disruptive behavior, foster emotional regulation, increase positive student behaviors and add to the positive school climate at AWR!

PHOEBE IN ACTION!



I'm Finny!
(NPMS)

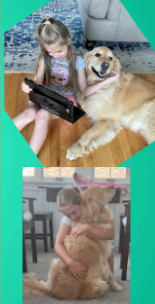


Meet Finny

About Me
Finny is a 7-year-old Golden Retriever who was adopted from the ABC Canine Rescue Center program and is currently living with his owner, Mrs. Jane Doe. He is a very friendly and loving dog who loves to play and cuddle. He is also a very smart dog who can perform several tricks.

When? Where?
Finny is available for adoption on a first-come, first-served basis. He is currently living with his owner, Mrs. Jane Doe, and is available for adoption at the ABC Canine Rescue Center.

My Favorites
Finny's favorite things are: playing fetch, going for walks, and cuddling with his owner. He also loves to eat treats and play with his toys.



NPMS PLAN

- The high school currently does not have a certified dog and handler in house.
- High School visits will be facilitated through Creature Comforts, our third-party vendor.
- Visits to relieve test anxiety and assist with emotional support.

POLICY/REGULATION & INSURANCE

First Reading: February 22, 2024
Second Reading: March 14, 2024

Policy 5337- Therapy Dog

The following information will be kept current and on file with the Board approved third-party vendor:

- The proof of registration as a therapy dog handler with the individual therapy dog to be used. (Note: Such registration shall be from the Board approved third-party certified program with proof of an evaluation or certificate.)
- Proof from a licensed veterinarian that the therapy dog is in good health and has been immunized against diseases common to dogs. Such vaccinations shall be kept current and up to date at all times.
- Proof of licensure from the local dog licensing authority.
- Copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the work of the handler and therapy dog while the two are on school district property.

POLICY/REGULATION & INSURANCE

Regulation 5337- Therapy Dog Therapy Dog Standards and Procedures

Licensing

Health and Safety

Control

Supervision and Care of the Therapy Dog

Authorized Area(s)

Allergies and Aversions

Recordkeeping

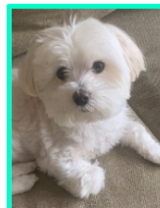
Exclusion or removal from School District Property

If the above standards and/or procedures are not followed in any capacity, the dog must be immediately removed from school grounds by the handler. The dog is the sole responsibility of the handler and/or back-up handler at all times while on school grounds.

Utica Insurance – Best Practices for Schools Considering Therapy Dogs
Additional Coverage \$400 per dog
(above and beyond insurance provided by third-party vendor)

TIMELINE

Ed Committee Meeting	January 19, 2024
Presentation to the BoE	January 22, 2024
Policy & Regulation- Therapy Dog (First Reading)	February 22, 2024
District Letter to Staff & Parents	February 29, 2024
School Based Letters	March 1, 2024
Student/Staff Pre-Survey	Week of March 4, 2024
Policy & Regulation- Therapy Dog (Second Reading)	March 14, 2024
Pilot Program Starts	March 15, 2024
Student/Staff Post-Survey	Week of June 3, 2024



THANK YOU!



Questions

2023/2024 BOARD COMMITTEE GOALS

Dr. Miceli went over the board committee goals, the completion of some goals and the status of other goals.

2023/2024 Strategic Planning Goals and Objectives

Goal #2

Objective a. - to consider level math programs in order to address advanced math in elementary school

- This objective will be pushed out to the 2024/2025 school year as this year is the first year that the i-Ready math program has been implemented and need to see the results of the new program.

Goal #3

Objective g. - Expand the Senior Internship Program

- Mr. Henry, alongside his staff, has been looking into this and the possibility of doing a Capstone project that will be done in school, instead of having students go out to get an internship. This will expand the various opportunities for students

Objective h. - the addition of STEM classes for the Middle School due to the new bell schedule

Mr. Keaney through Project Lead the Way grant money will add Robotics/Automation and a new coding curriculum.

Objective q. - Consideration of adding Chinese to the World Language Department

- There weren't enough students to be able to have Chinese as a language that students can take, however, there may be a possibility of working with the Chinese School, that have classes at the High School over the weekend, to provide the opportunity to interested students.

Goal #4

Objective ci. - Formalize a way to measure student growth

- This will be pushed out to the 2024/2025 school year as there is a need to reevaluate the data collection system.

Objective ciii. - Insure that Social Emotional Learning is infused in the curriculum teaching practices, and evaluation tools

- Regarding the curriculum and teaching practices it has been implemented district-wide. In terms of evaluation tools, this was something that was put on hold for the meantime as the DEAC committee did not see a need to adjust the tools at this time.

Goal #6

Objective c. - Installation of AC at all four schools

- This is something that will be started this Summer

Mr. Testa stated that the contractor updated him and let him know that "make ready" work will begin this week at Allen W. Roberts. This means that they will begin running piping and

electrical wiring through the building. This will make the installation of HVAC units quicker once the units are received.

Objective g. - Considering modernizing the gymnasiums and cafeterias

- Allen W. Roberts and Salt Brook gyms had new bleachers installed
- Salt Brook cafeteria was updated
- Allen W. Roberts cafeteria will also be updated with HVAC in the future

Objective i. - The High/Middle School Restrooms Upgrades

- The renovations have been completed.
- The PTA donated new appliances for the faculty rooms

Goal #7

Objectives e. and f. - will be pushed out to the 2024/2025 school year

Objectives j. and k.- In-school professional development

- These professional development opportunities will be early school dismissals or delayed openings
- These items are on for approval on tonight's agenda.

Objective l. - Future opportunities for leadership for teachers and staff at each other buildings

- This will be looked at in the 2024/2025 school year

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Committee

- Monitor the new NPMS bell schedule. Evaluate potential new mod offerings- in progress
- Monitor the implantation of a full-day Kindergarten program- in progress
- Monitor the District classroom design project, evaluating new furniture and use of our current space to enhance the personalized learning goal- in progress
- Monitor the implementation of personalized learning modules throughout the District- in progress
- Evaluate the elementary school specialist position, paid for through the ESSER funds. Monitor the new K-6 math curriculum- in progress
- Determine possible goals based on the DEI report results- in progress

Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security Committee

- Present, 2024–2025 budget within the state-mandated cap- in progress
- Monitor the completion of the bond, referendum projects, taking place in the Summer of 2023- in progress
- Monitor the bidding process and planning of the district-wide HVAC project that will take place in the summer of 2024- in progress
- Complete the negotiation process with the teachers, secretaries, and maintenance/custodian union groups- in progress

- Monitor, enrollment projections, ongoing community, housing updates, and the elementary schools redistricting plan- in progress

Personnel, Management, and Communication Committee

- Evaluate and update as necessary, communications plan for the 2023–2024 school year- in progress
- Evaluate the professional development plan for staff members- in progress
- Complete the website, transition and audit check for ADA compliance so people with disabilities can have access- completed
- Complete the Superintendent of Schools during the 2023/2024 school year- in progress

Board Goals

1. Evaluate the 2024/2025 calendar for possible revisions/or and or considerations - on for approval at tonight's agenda
2. Monitor the NJQSAC process in evaluate the results- onsite visit will happen on 2/29/24
3. Continue to monitor, enrollment projections, in progress, housing, updates, and the redistricting plan at the elementary schools- in progress, Dr. Gripp's proposal on for approval on tonight's agenda
4. Complete the negotiation process with the teachers, secretaries, and maintenance/custodian union groups- in progress
5. Complete the fiscal year 2024/2025 budget process in a timely and compliant manner while staying within the 2% tax levy cap restrictions- in progress
6. Evaluate the outcomes of the diversity, equity and inclusion report and development action plan- in progress
7. Successful completion of the superintendent of school search- in progress, interviews to begin February 15th.

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:16 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:16p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	December 14, 2023
Closed Meeting:	December 14, 2023

Mrs. Gunderman seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman

Yea
Yea
Yea
Yea

Dr. Empson Hayden
 Mrs. Killea
 Mrs. Marano
 Mr. Walsh

ACTION ITEMS

Mrs. Marano, the Finance Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 12 as listed below:

BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for December 2023. No major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

BILL LIST APPROVED

2. Approve the payment of bills for January 2024, in the amount of \$6,510,882.54.

VOIDED CHECK APPROVED

3. Approve the following voided checks:

<u>Voided</u> <u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
362682	09/28/23	20-000-100-730-00	\$5,450.00	Lost
363108	11/16/23	11-190-107-610-05	\$3,780.00	Lost
363021	11/16/23	11-000-261-612-00	\$392.00	Lost

<u>Reissued</u> <u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Reason</u>
363421	09/28/23	20-000-100-730-00	\$5,450.00	Lost
363465	11/16/23	11-190-107-610-05	\$3,780.00	Lost
363368	11/16/23	11-000-261-612-00	\$392.00	Lost

CLASS OF 1960 DONTIONS APPROVED

4. Approve the generous donations to the New Providence High Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$5,020.00.

NAVIGATE 360 VISITOR MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT APPROVED

5. Approve the service agreement with Navigate 360 Visitor Management, in an amount not to exceed \$675.00.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM DONATIONS APPROVED

6. Accept the generous donation from the Drive for Autism Foundation to Allen W. Roberts School in the amount of \$1,000.00 for new carpets in the two new Kindergarten classrooms.

DRIVE FOR AUTISM DONATIONS APPROVED

7. Accept the generous donation from the Drive for Autism Foundation to Salt Brook School in the amount of \$2,000.00 for Calming Corners in LLD classrooms.

MORRIS UNION JOINTURE TUITION FEES APPROVED

8. Approve the Reimbursement for Services Per Pupil Fees (New Providence School District tuition rates for members of the MUJC), as a member of the Morris-Union Jointure Commission for the 2023/2024 school year, as follows:

Pre-School Disabled (Half Day Program)	\$30,823.00
Pre-School Disabled (Full Day Program)	\$45,866.00
Early Primary LLD-1	\$24,825.00
Primary LLD-2	\$31,164.00
Primary LLD-3	\$29,299.00
LLD-4	\$26,447.00
LLD-5	\$58,767.00
Middle School Resource Center	\$19,193.00
High School Resource Center	\$18,043.00

MORRIS UNION JOINTURE TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENTS APPROVED

9. Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Morris Union Jointure Commission and the New Providence School District for the 2023/2024 school year as stated below:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Per Annum</u>	<u>Aide Per Diem</u>
984S	\$ 8,567.12	\$ 97.05
992S	\$ 1,729.70	N/A
919S	\$ 3,532.85	\$ 88.96
920S	\$ 8,317.41	\$ 64.64
925S	\$ 5,753.55	\$ 72.79
952S	\$ 2,070.75	N/A
980S	\$ 18,017.85	\$ 177.93

ACCOUNT TRANSFERS APPROVED

10. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2023/2024 school year

December 2023

From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-562	Tuition- LEA in NJ	\$37,001.00
11-000-262-107	Lunchroom Aides- Salaries	2,343.00
11-000-262-420	Custodial- Repair & Maint	5,000.00
11-000-270-512	Trans.- Contracted Services	4,000.00
		Total: \$48,344.00
To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-262-199	Custodial- Unused Vacation Pay	\$ 2,343.00
11-000-262-610	Custodial- General Supplies	5,000.00
11-000-270-420	Trans.- Repair & Maintenance	4,000.00
11-000-270-515	Trans.- Contracted Services	19,401.00
11-150-100-320	Purchased Prof. Services	17,600.00
		Total: \$48,344.00

BUS COMPANY APPROVED

11. Approve the following bus company for athletics, extra-curricular, and field trip transportation in the event the Morris-Union Jointure Commission is unable to provide transportation for the 2023/2024 school year:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>2023/2024 Rates</u>
Byram Bus, Inc.	Hopatcong	Prices to be determined based on the trip

UNION COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION AGREEMENT APPROVED

12. Approve the Resolution/Agreement for Participation in Coordinated Transportation Services between the Union County Educational Services Commission and the New Providence Board of Education for the 2023/2024 school year.

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTION

No Items for approval.

EDUCATION ACTION

Mrs. Coniglio, the Education Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 4 as listed below.

2023/2024 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING INVESTIGATIONS APPROVED

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2023/2024 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	4, 5, 6
Middle School:	8, 9
Salt Brook:	6, 7
Allen W. Roberts:	2
District:	3

STATISTICAL FORECASTING LLC APPROVED

2. Approve the use of Statistical Forecasting LLC to provide a Demographic Study Update at the cost of \$7,000.00 and for such update to additionally include projections by individual schools at a cost of \$1,900.00 for a total cost of \$8,900.00.

SCHOOL CALENDERS APPROVED

3. Approve the following school calendars:
 - a. 2023/2024 (format change only)
 - b. 2024/2025 (revised)
 - c. 2025/2026 (new)

REVISED UNIFORM STATE MEMORANDUM APPROVED

4. Approve the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials as revised for the 2023/2024 school year.

Mrs. Coniglio seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTION

Mrs. Coniglio, the Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 9 as listed below.

2023/2024 APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

1. Approve the appointment of the following people with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Matthew Misiukiewicz, lacrosse (spring), boys, volunteer
 - b. Hailey Hogan, lacrosse (spring) girls, first assistant, \$6,103.00
 - c. Alyssa Magliaro, teacher, \$34,199.00 (base \$56,999.00), effective 1/1/24
 - d. Hanna Bartel Migon, field experience at Salt Brook School, for a total of 10 days between 2/1/24 and 4/30/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - e. Michael Makmur, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, \$2,280.00 (base stipend \$8,000.00), effective 1/5/24-3/28/24
 - f. Laina Magnani, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, \$2,280.00 (base stipend \$8,000.00), effective 1/5/24-3/28/24
 - g. Leah Bromley, HS, for teaching above three (3) classes as a K-12 department head (five (5) classes total), \$2,280.00 (base \$8,000.00), effective 1/5/24-3/28/24
 - h. Jennifer Pasuit, HS, for teaching above three (3) classes as a K-12 department head (four (4) classes total), \$2,280.00 (base \$8,000.00), effective 1/5/24-3/28/24
 - i. David Aprill, long term substitute teacher, \$18,427.00 (base \$58,499.00), effective 1/29/24 through 4/30/24
 - j. Michael Criscitello, assistant principal, \$45,106.00 (base \$108,255.00), effective 2/1/24
 - k. Laura Freeman, AWR STEM club advisor, 5th grade, \$2,064.00
 - l. Kevin Harris, custodian, night, \$24,465.00 (base \$58,715.00 (\$58,070.00 plus night stipend \$645.00)), effective 2/1/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - m. Deanamaria Salvadore, school psychology practicum student, 1 day per week, effective 1/22/24-6/14/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - n. Kayla Wager, student teacher, effective 1/17/24-6/14/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - o. Zander Marenberg, lacrosse (spring), boys, volunteer (subject to issuance of certification)
 - p. Jennifer Dowden, student teacher, effective 1/23/24-6/14/24

2023/2024 NPEF GRANT APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

2. Approve the appointment of the following people with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2023/2024 school year. These teachers will be paid through the NPEF grant awarded for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Rachel Fintz, Esports club advisor, \$2,064.00
 - b. Brandon Hilf, Esports club advisor, \$2,064.00

2023/2024 ESSA APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

3. Approve the appointment of the following people with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for

the 2023/2024 school year. These teachers will be paid through the Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant “ESSA” for the 2023/2024 school year:

- a. Kristina Berrios, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- b. Charles Carell, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- c. Colleen Hasson, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- d. Melissa Hatfield, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- e. Wendi Kane-Millard, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- f. Abigail Nickerson, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- g. Peter Schaefer, HS Title I teacher, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- h. Kristina Berrios, HS Title I coordinator, not to exceed 20 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

2023/2024 ESSER APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

- 4. Approve the appointment of the following people with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2023/2024 school year. These teachers will be paid through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant, “ESSER,” for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Dina Artale, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - b. Brandee Conover, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - c. Colleen Cortese, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - d. Laura Damico, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - e. Erin Doherty, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - f. Laura Freeman, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - g. Kathleen Joyce, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - h. Kathryn King, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - i. Jill Lepre, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - j. Jennifer Limone, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - k. Marla Malinauskas, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - l. Jennifer McSweeney, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - m. Angela Pace, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - n. Darryl Petruccio, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not

- to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- o. Michele Picarelli, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- p. Michelle Testa, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- q. Dana Branstetter, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- r. Janet Calvert, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- s. Joanne Catlett, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- t. Danielle DeKunchak, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- u. Gianna Del Viscovo, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- v. Christine Demareski, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- w. Michelle Demich, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- x. Tara Garcia, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- y. Brittany Heaslip, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- z. Gwen Hermann, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- aa. Hailey Hogan, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- bb. Kristen Hubert, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- cc. Cherilyn Johnson, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- dd. Jaclyn Kaufmann, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ee. Amy Kautzmann, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ff. Deborah Leonard, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- gg. Alyssa Magliaro, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- hh. Susan Mansueto, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ii. Sydney Marciano, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

- jj. Jennifer Minich, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- kk. Allison Parlapandis, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ll. Doreen Peritore, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- mm. James Vopal, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- nn. Nicola Zipeto, SB winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- oo. Monica Burgos, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- pp. Alessandra Finis, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- qq. Alicia Hennessy, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- rr. Wendi Kane-Millard, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ss. Lauren Koppel, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- tt. Scott Rahner, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- uu. Joseph Route, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- vv. Leah Russo, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ww. Joan Rykus, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- xx. Jenna Stickle, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- yy. Brandee Conover, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program coordinator, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- zz. Kathleen Joyce, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program coordinator, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- aaa. Michelle Demich, SB winter/spring academic achievement program coordinator, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- bbb. Kim Chrisostomides, MS winter/spring academic achievement program coordinator, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ccc. Jenna Stickle, MS winter/spring academic achievement program coordinator, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- ddd. Kaitlyn Conlan, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- eee. Kim Chrisostomides, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- fff. Jenna Stickle, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

- ggg. Christine Noppenberger, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- hhh. Michele Adkins, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- iii. Danielle Roglieri, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

RESIGNATIONS APPROVED

5. Accept the resignations of the following employees:

- a. Robert Romeo, teacher, effective 6/30/24, due to retirement
- b. Arthur Cattano, teacher, effective 6/30/24, due to retirement

2023/2024 REVISIONS APPROVED

6. Approve the following revisions for the 2023/2024 school year:

- a. Gladis Varghese, teacher, from Step 8, Column V (\$72,476.00), to Master's, Step 8, Column VI (\$75,306.00), effective 12/12/23, due to change in evaluation of course credits
- b. Rachel Fintz, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, \$5,000.00 (base stipend \$8,000.00), effective 9/26/23-4/8/24
- c. Laura Boehler, long term substitute teacher, \$44,054.00 (base \$75,306.00), effective 1/8/24 through 6/30/24
- d. Kaitlyn Conlan, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 40 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- e. Kathy Yanni, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 40 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- f. Christine Noppenberger, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 40 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- g. Kim Chrisostomides, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 40 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- h. Jenna Stickle, mental health/counseling, not to exceed 40 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- i. Leah Russo, MS fall academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 40 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
- j. Laura Freeman, teacher for ESSER Evidence-Based Beyond the School Day Activities, not to exceed 45 hours \$ \$75.00/hr.
- k. Scott Rahner, teacher for ESSER Evidence-Based Beyond School Day Activities, not to exceed 45 hours \$ \$75.00/hr.
- l. Erin Siek, HS diversity club advisor, \$826.00 (base \$2,064.00), effective 9/1/23-12/18/23
- m. Aracely DiGirolamo, HS diversity club advisor, \$1,238.00 (base \$2,064.00), effective 1/1/24-6/30/24

RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

7. Rescind the following appointments for the 2023/2024 school year:

- a. Rescind the following appointments as HS fall academic achievement program teachers, not to exceed 20 hours @ \$75.00/hr.:

- i. Charles Carell
- ii. David Goldstein
- iii. Colleen Hasson
- iv. Melissa Hatfield
- v. Wendi Kane-Millard
- vi. Peter Schaefer
- vii. Erin Siek

FLMA APPROVED

8. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Rebecca Ratner, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 5/13/24 and ending 10/18/24 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. Approve an extended leave pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, from 10/21/24 through and including 1/31/25. (Based on 4/13/24 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

FLMA APPROVED

9. Approve the request for additional unpaid maternity leave for Sydney Bleach, teacher, under the federal Family Leave Act for an additional period of four weeks commencing 3/7/24 and ending 4/8/24, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

Dr. Miceli recognized Mr. Romeo and Mr. Catano for their contribution to the District and congratulated them on their retirement. Dr. Miceli also congratulated Mr. Crisitello on earning tenure as Assistant Principal. He also welcomes Mr. Harris as Allen W. Roberts's new custodian.

Mrs. Killea seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

BOARD POLICY

No policies or regulations for approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: The Committee will meet next Friday to discuss the proposed dog therapy program.
2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: No comments

3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: The committee will continue to work on the communications plan revisions.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cuccaro gave an update on the Superintendent of School search. The New Providence Board of Education contracted with the New Jersey School Boards Association to assist with the search for a new superintendent due to Dr. Miceli's retirement this June. The advertisement that was placed resulted in thirty-one (31) applications. Twenty-eight (28) were completed and filed with School Boards for consideration. Fourteen (14) candidates have met or exceeded the search criteria.

The applicant pool is made up of:

- 13 current Superintendents
- 6 Assistant Superintendents
- 6 Principals
- 1 Director
- 1 Business Administrator
- 1 Classroom Aide

Eighteen (18) of the applicants have earned a doctorate, and another three (3) are anticipating to earn a doctorate in the next year.

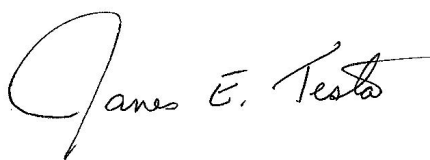
The Board is excited about the application pool and is currently reviewing all applications and will be looking to begin interviews on February 10, 2024.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:23 p.m. There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:23 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Marano, seconded by Mrs. Gunderman and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary