

May 14, 2012

The Business Meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on May 14, 2012, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President Mr. Wolak.

Present on roll call were William Dibble, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Nancy Opperthausen, Adam Smith, and Mr. Wolak. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Educational Services; Dr. Deborah Feinberg, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and 21 member of the public.

Mr. Wolak led in the salute to the flag.

Mr. Wolak 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 10:00 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 any other business that may be before it and the public will then be given an opportunity to be heard before the meeting is adjourned.

Mr. Wolak moved to begin with the Action items then return to the Discussion item. All Board members concurred.

ACTION ITEMS

Finance Actions

Mr. Smith, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below:

Application for Anti-Bullying Funds Approved

1. Approve the New Providence Board of Education to apply for funds to support implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act for the purposes described in the application, in the amount of \$944.00, for the period starting July 1, 2011 and ending June 30, 2012.

Lieder Field Bleacher Renovation Bid Award Approved

2. Bids were received in the office of the New Providence School Business Administrator/Board Secretary on May 11, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. The project below will be funded by the 2012/2013 adopted budget.

Award as indicated:

Lieder Field Bleacher Renovation Project

Contractor: Landsite Construction Company

Base Bid: (Includes a \$10,000.00 contingency) \$179,000.00

Alternate #1: \$ 49,500.00

Total: \$228,500.00

Seconded by: Mrs. Opperthausen

Mr. Smith commented on Item #2 regarding the bid award. The bids award is under budget. Mr. Testa added that this bid needed Board approval tonight to allow for lead time on the materials. In addition to the bleachers, the renovations will include railings, fencing and ramps. The project will begin in the summer after school is out and should be completed by the end of August.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>Yea</u> Mr. Dibble	<u>Yea</u> Mrs. Opperthausen
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Hasenkopf	<u>Yea</u> Mr. Smith
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Krauss	<u>Absent</u> Mrs. Vogel
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Wolak	

Education Action

Mrs. Opperthausen moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

2012/2013 Professional Development Plan Approved

1. Approve the New Providence School District Professional Development Plan 2012/2013, and its submission to the Union County Executive Superintendent of Schools, as per Superintendent's Memo #17, copies in the hands of each Board member.

Seconded by: Mr. Hasenkopf

Mrs. Opperthausen commended the staff for a very comprehensive Professional Development Plan for the 2012/2013 school year. It is a wide range plan and they did an excellent job on it.

Roll Call Vote:

<u>Yea</u> Mr. Dibble	<u>Yea</u> Mrs. Opperthausen
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Hasenkopf	<u>Yea</u> Mr. Smith
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Krauss	<u>Absent</u> Mrs. Vogel
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Wolak	

Discussion Item – Curriculum Initiative

Dr. Miceli gave an introduction and history about the Curriculum Initiative which the District has been engaged in since 2007. There have been three major elements involved: understanding by design, differentiation in all classrooms, and the integration of technology, (i.e. projectors, smart boards, laptops). This process has been a collective effort from the operating budget, PTAs, New Providence Education Foundation, and community. The administration identified areas to expand upon for the next five years. They are: changes in curriculum standards, the assessment process, and technology. The administration and department heads met to discuss mobile technology and evaluate mobile devices. Mobile devices were purchased for the staff, and student focus groups were set-up for grades 9 through 12, as well as Professional Development workshops in September. All input, participation, and concerns from all perspectives, were incorporated into the initiative. The findings were discussed at the administrative level. A pilot group was established in December. The technology department researched and invested a great deal of time looking into mobile devices. There was also a lot of time spent on infrastructure. After collecting all of the data, the administration decided to develop a pilot program with iPads. The teachers were very creative integrating the iPad into the framework of the classroom as the next instructional tool. Both teachers and students were engaged in different ways on content and grade level. The Board members observed the pilot program in the classrooms. They were very pleased with the dynamics they witnessed. The game plan is to move forward and integrate this plan into the 2012/2013 school year. The summer is an opportune time to get staff acclimated to the iPad. Professional Development is critical to the success of the plan, and will continue into the fall and winter. The plan includes providing an iPad to each student in grades 9, 10 and 11, beginning in February 2013. Structure and framework for this plan are in place. Also, the State, as well as the Nation, are moving forward with online assessments. All testing is scheduled to be online by 2014/2015. It is critical that our students are prepared to test online. This program is a great opportunity to look at the overall infrastructure, and prepare our students for the future. The infrastructure work will begin during the summer. The high school staff will receive iPads before summer, with Professional Development throughout the fall and winter. The students will receive their individual iPads in February 2013. We are moving forward in a fiscally responsible and structurally sound way. Dr. Miceli continued discussing the financial details of the 3-year lease program with Apple, to assure stability upfront with the initial costs. The initial cost of this infrastructure is approximately \$378,000 which includes \$112,000 in infrastructure costs, as well as productivity and content application costs. Additionally, First Class will be changed to Gmail to allow students to send documents to their teachers. Gmail will begin in September in the high school. Eventually, all staff using First Class will rollover into Gmail. The District will work with a third party vendor, MDM. They will monitor the applications on the devices. The second year costs will be approximately \$261,000 for the entire student body and staff. Dr. Miceli explained that the District was able to put \$200,000 into the curriculum initiative, consistent to what has been done in the prior five years, except when the state aid was zero. There were a number of unanticipated retirements and with these savings, the District can support this project financially. Mr. Testa further explained that the \$200,000 is already built in the 2012/2013

budget. Keep in mind that the tax levy and budget will remain the same. Mr. Smith commented that we need to commit to this project. If the circumstances change and there is no state aid, the program cannot stop. Mr. Smith reported that the Finance Committee discussed the following issues. They agreed there should be insurance on the iPad devices. There will be a mandated minimal cost to the parents of approximately \$50.00 per year per student to insure the devices, with the exception of the students in the free and reduced program. At the end of the fourth year, the students will have the option to purchase or return the device. Dr. Miceli commented that in evaluating the costs associated with textbooks, workbooks, and basic essentials at the beginning of the school year, he anticipates their expenses will be reduced. Many of these items will be available on the device itself. He also anticipates a savings on these budget line items. This device will encourage accessing resources as opposed to purchasing items such as textbooks. Mr. Testa explained that the District owns the iPads. The District contracted with a third party to insure the devices. Mr. Wolak confirmed that the lease and device is owned by the District. Mr. Wolak questioned the infrastructure. Mr. Testa explained that majority of the infrastructure upgrades is related to wireless, which is a necessity for future online testing. The bandwidth must also be upgraded to support the technology needed to use these devices. Dr. Miceli noted that there is a significant cost associated with the bandwidth upgrade. Mrs. Searing commented that the District has been working on this for the last seven years to bring this technology into the classroom. We have looked at other Districts such as Monroe School District. We believe that Professional Development is key to the success of implementing the iPad into the classroom. This has been a long process, but the District is ready. Dr. Miceli recognized that while these are necessary tools, they will never replace the teachers. We must be facilitators of this process. Through the pilot program the teachers were structuring various problems to solve in different content areas. The students were able to attain solutions in various ways. The students were engaged and collaborated with their peers while the teachers observed. Mr. Casarico, High School Principal, commented that the teachers are very involved and show a tremendous interest, as do the students. Ms. Zirpoli commented that the teachers expressed their enthusiasm to her. They realize that this is a great resource for the students and themselves. Mrs. Opperthausen noted that the Curriculum Instruction, Technology Committee, Mrs. Searing and Mr. Casarico worked hard researching these devices for many months. The student presentations were very impressive. New Providence School District has been renowned for reaching further and moving faster. We have high achieving and acclaimed students who are quick learners. Dr. Miceli, Mrs. Searing, Mr. Casarico and the Technology Department keep us moving forward, while the students and faculty fully support our endeavors. The staff are fully supportive with the training and initiatives with the curriculum guidelines. Mr. Hasenkopf commented that his work makes him completely familiar with this project. Mr. Smith stated we need to put a plan in place that we can fund on a repeated basis year after year, and we must stick to the plan. Mr. Hasenkopf personally observed the students and teachers in the classroom and was very impressed with what he saw. The teacher is setting the pace for the students, allowing them time to attend to the needs of the individual student immediately. Using this device as a tool creates a positive change in the classroom. It unlocks the time for both student and teacher and provides better curriculum. It is a great opportunity for the students who will be more prepared as they move on to college. Mr. Hasenkopf fully endorses this plan.

Public Hearing

Mr. Wolak opened the meeting to the public at 8:19 p.m.

Mr. Arts
335 Charnwood Rd.

Thanked the Board for making New Providence a first class operation. He commented that he has been in technology for a number of decades and this is the common sense approach for the District to take. He questioned the infrastructure and bandwidth capability of

handling growth. He commented on the budget giving the District a significant commodity. He stated that Apple is looking for school partners and that they will provide lots of incentive and guidelines. He suggested that the Board look into this and speak to the local congressman to help with funding.

Mr. Wolak thanked Mr. Arts for his encouraging words and suggestions.

Ms. Velazques
55 Woodcrest Dr.

Had questions pertaining to students personalizing the devices and bringing in their own iPads.

Dr. Miceli responded that when speaking with Apple, they believe the students will be more invested in the device if they personalize it. The District will explore this option further. The students will not be permitted to bring their personal iPad to school.

Resident

Inquired about going to Monroe School District and using them as a "model" for New Providence.

Dr. Miceli responded that they went to Monroe to meet with Apple representatives and observe Monroe's plan. Monroe built a new high school and thru that referendum process had to identify a technology initiative. They launched their initiative in October, 2011, as a result of a brand new building and new devices. We looked at how they were dealing with the infrastructure. While we observed them as a "model", New Providence has been expanding and developing it's own curriculum for these devices for the past five years. Mr. Wolak further explained that approximately one and a half years ago the Board met with Dr. Miceli, Mrs Searing, and Mrs. Andersen to discuss curriculum initiatives, and pulled ideas from a variety of different sources. We developed our own initiative and observed Monroe's technology, user agreement, policy and curriculum. Dr. Miceli added that Monroe was very open with us and helpful when discussing their issues. He concurred with Mr. Wolak that New Providence looked at as many different resources as possible.

Resident

What size iPad is the District considering? Will devices be used for all curriculum in all classes or concentrating on math and the sciences?

Dr. Miceli responded 32gb. He further explained that it will take the next six months for the staff to become acclimated and how to fit this into their content areas. The plan is to use the iPad in all classes and curriculum areas.

Mr. Hasenkopf agreed and expanded on Dr. Miceli's comments.

Resident Asked if the devices will be integrated with the SmartBoards.

Dr. Miceli responded yes, it's included in the infrastructure cost to purchase the cables. Mrs. Opperthausen added that the Smartboards were cutting edge also. They were a wise investment that really paid off. They held up well and can now be used with the new devices. She reminded everyone that at first, there was hesitation to purchase the Smartboards, but as it turned out, they are a great tool. Mr. Dibble commented on the benefit and accessibility of having this device. Dr. Miceli commented that the elementary and middle school will be getting iPads through grants. The focal point right now is the high school. Mr. Wolak state that the New Providence Education Foundation and PTA grants purchased approximately 50 devices.

Ms. Goetke
101 Overhill Rd. Asked if the District will be getting rid of textbooks.

Dr. Miceli responded that we will begin to start that process. He cited the Criminology course as an example. We will realize savings down the road.

Ms. Strotti Commented that she did not see saving with getting apps instead of textbooks.

Dr. Miceli responded that is correct. However, if we eliminate the purchasing of textbooks and don't purchase the apps and utilize online resources, our costs will go down.

Mr. Smith commented that the next six months will be a real challenge for the administration. The iPad is a tremendous learning tool. The goal is to increase productivity and get deeper and broader content. Students will receive information at their own pace. This is important for special needs children.

Mr. Wolak commented that the above information was the feedback the Board received with the pilot program. The iPad is a very effective differential tool. He personally observed the geometry class. The students worked in groups of three while the teacher checked with each student. All the students were focusing on the same task using different solutions. It was very impressive.

Dr. Miceli thanked the students who participated in the focus groups and pilot program, the Department Heads, Administration, Central Office staff, Board members, and especially the Technology Department, for their time and research helping to provide this opportunity to the District.

There being no other comments from the public, the President declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.

Closed Session

Mr. Smith moved to adopt the following resolution:

1. This body shall on May 14, 2012 at 8:41 p.m. in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specific matters which may generally be described as follows:
 - Student Matters - Related to Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying
 - Litigation: Case #1121440
Student #1582
 - Personnel
 - Negotiations: New Providence Education Association
2. The minutes of the discussion in closed session of the aforementioned matters may be disclosed to the public after final determination of action has been reached.

Mr. Dibble seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:52 p.m. Mr. Wolak called the Board to order.

Members present were Mr. Dibble, Mr. Hasenkopf, Mr. Krauss, Mrs. Opperthausen, Mr. Smith and Mr. Wolak.

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Hasenkopf, seconded by Mr. Smith, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Opperthausen declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

James E. Testa
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
5/14/12