

September 12, 2013

The Work Session of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 8:00 p.m. on September 12, 2013 at the Allen W. Roberts School, 80 Jones Drive, by Board President, Mr. Wolak.

Present on roll call were William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Adam Smith, Susan Vogel, and John Wolak. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Paul Casarico, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and 5 members 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.

This work session is a public meeting of the Board of Education and no Board action will be taken. The Board will convene to Closed Session no later than 10:00 p.m.

The following notice was posted on 8/28/13:

The New Providence Board of Education Work Session scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013, at 7:30 P.M. at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, ***will now be held at Allen W. Roberts School Media Center, 80 Jones Drive, and begin at 8:00 p.m.***

Dr. Miceli introduced Mr. Maciag.

Presentation: College Visitations

Mr. Maciag reviewed the college visitations that were completed over the summer. He visited nineteen colleges. He explained the college visits in detail. The colleges he selected to visit was based on prior student college applications, anticipated college applications for this year's senior class, referrals from colleagues and location. College representatives were impressed with his visits and wished more high schools would implement visits. He felt that it was a success and will continue in the future. He thanked the Board and Administration for the support and opportunity. All Board members asked questions that were addressed by Mr. Maciag.

Review of 9/26/13 Board Meeting Agenda

The Board reviewed the tentative September 26, 2013 Agenda items.

Review of 2012/2013 Board Goals

The Board reviewed the 2012/2013 Board and Committee Goals. They identified which goals were completed successfully and ongoing. Each committee reported on the status of the committee's goals and reviewed what took place during the year to achieve the goals.

Public Hearing

Mr. Wolak opened the meeting to the public at 9:01 p.m.

Mrs. Ibrahim
23 Stoneridge Rd.

Questioned what is the ultimate goal of the iPads?

Dr. Miceli stated based on research and the pilot program, the high school would use the full capacity of the device. This is why the District decided to implement a one to one program at the high school. Some iPads are being used at the middle school and elementary school. Also, it is not about the iPad device itself, but the development of existing curriculum to utilize new technology.

Mr. Wolak stated that the District will continue to review the personal device initiative.

Mrs. Ibrahim commented that as a parent, she would suggest offering on-line as well as a classroom course related to financial literacy. She felt that the option would be beneficial, as all children have different needs.

Mrs. Ibrahim questioned HIB rules. She questioned if an incident happens over the summer, why is it handled in September when school starts. She reviewed state statutes related to summer school and could not find anything. She feels that the investigation should take place without the waiting period over the summer.

Dr. Miceli stated that the District does not offer a summer school program. It only offers special education programs during the summer.

Mrs. Ibrahim commented on the large 6th grade class sizes at Salt Brook. She asked if the District line could be changed to send some of the students to Allen W. Roberts School.

Mr. Wolak stated that the class size policy was changed last year based on research and staff/community meetings. The current classes are within the policy and the Board monitors class sizes on a monthly basis.

Dr. Miceli stated that the District will continue to evaluate student to teacher ratios. Also, facility constraints, as well as other grade class sizes, would make it difficult to just move the District line.

Mrs. Ibrahim stated she was trying to organize a middle school basketball team and questioned the insurance requirement.

Mr. Smith stated that middle school sports were cut out of the budget a few years ago. If the Board of Education does not sponsor or support the team, it can not be covered under the District's insurance policy. There was a discussion on how she could get a certificate of insurance.

Mr. Moschetti
50 Sherwood Dr.

Congratulated Dr. Casarico on his promotion to Assistant Superintendent. He stated that he will have big shoes to fill with Dr. Feinberg retiring, but knows he is a quick learner and will succeed.

Mr. Moschetti questioned if Mr. Maciag is forwarding information to parents and students related to his findings when visiting colleges.

Mr. Maciag stated that it is turn keyed through the counselors to the parents and students when they have meetings throughout the year.

Mr. Moschetti suggested it may be a good idea to have a formal presentation at night to review with the parents and students.

Mr. Moschetti questioned what will be the character education theme this year, as he understands that it is a District wide theme.

Dr. Miceli stated that it has not been released yet and will be released in October.

Mr. Moschetti stated that the school year is only ten months and why lose 10% or one month by not releasing in September. He has been a resident for twenty eight years and is not sure what character education is doing for students, but he has seen a positive change in students' behavior. He is not sure if it is the parents or the program.

Mr. Moschetti stated that even though the location change notice of this meeting was done weeks ago, the meeting should have been changed to a different date due to the football season starting tonight. This may help with the public attendance to the meeting.

There being no other comments from the public, Mr. Wolak declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

Closed Session

Mr. Krauss moved to adopt the following resolution:

1. This body shall, on September 12, 2013 at 9:16 p.m., in Allen W. Roberts School, 80 Jones Drive, 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 HIB & Personnel
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.

Mrs. Vogel seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:47 p.m. Mr. Wolak called the Board to order.

Members present were William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Adam Smith, Susan Vogel, and John Wolak.

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Dibble and seconded by Mr. Smith, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.

James E. Testa
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
9/12/13