

May 8, 2014

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 16, 2014, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board Vice President, Mr. Dibble.

Present on roll call were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Adam Smith and Mr. Wolak. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Educational Services; Dr. Paul Casarico, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and 39 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.

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 welcomed everyone then turned the meeting over to Mrs. Searing.

Presentation of the 7th Grade New Language Arts Instructional Model

Mrs. Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, along with Mr. Hough, Middle School Principal, Ms. Melissa Hatfield, Department Head Language Arts Grades 7-12, and Ms. Kristie Arnold, Department Head Language Arts Grades K-6 presented the 7th Grade new language arts instructional model.

The presentation is the implementation of the new 7th grade model for an 80 minute time period every other day for language arts classroom instruction. The necessity of scheduling a larger block of time for reading and writing has added importance with the new common core standards and the PARCC testing. The rationale behind this new program is to engage students in reading across a range of texts, allowing them to explore different points of view on topics while working to develop independent thinking. This will allow for analysis of resources and media critically for their reasoning and perspective. Also allowing them to develop, and engage in logical arguments with grounded evidence while using textual evidence in daily reading, writing, and speaking. The district has been looking at making this change for a few years and now is the time. Most of the surround districts have already implemented this increased language arts instructional time, which is necessary and in the best interest of the students.

Mr. Wolak asked if there were any alternate ways for this instructional time. Mr. Hough responded not without overhauling the entire school schedule or extending the school day.

Mr. Smith commented, the district's language arts assessment scores have always lagged and with the new PARCC testing now is the time to address this issue. There is no additional cost to the district, as well as addressing staffing needs on the 2014-2015 budget.

Mrs. Hansen responded that when she was principal of the Middle School, she tried to work on this for six years and could not move the plan forward.

Mr. Wolak thanked all the presenters for their comprehensive presentation.

Public Hearing

Mr. Wolak opened the meeting to the public at 8:01 p.m. The following residents comments are recorded below:

Mr. Haas
49 Bradford St.

The audio quality of the budget hearing was very poor and could hardly be understood. What are the rules for passing this instructional model? Why were parents not notified of this change? The school should have sent out some type of flyer or information to the parents. In today society it is important for students to know another language.

Mr. Wolak

Agreed that the sound quality on the taping of the budget hearing was poor and they will look into having it corrected.

Resident
13 Boorkside Dr

Three days a week for a foreign language is not enough time for student to learn another language. Parents should be made aware of the changes in instructional time.

Mrs. Zane

A second language is very important in today's society. The district should not take the time from world language, it should find another way to do this. Fears if this is done to Spanish what will happen to the other languages. The district has already lost Latin what is next to go?

Mrs. Searing

This new model is only for 7th grade students. The instructional time will not only address language arts but have a consistency across all other subject matters.

Mrs. Haas

The 6 grade mod classes should be addressed to be used for something more constructive. Thinks the In The News mod should be done in social studies class. The reading mod which is a six week time frame has no feedback on how students are doing. Why are there no progress reports?

Mr. Hough

Explained the In The News mod is going through some changes to make it a nonfiction reading class, which will use current events, with online resources. The reading mod is part of comprehensive reading related to understanding all different types of text.

Mrs. Hansen Informed Mrs. Haas that she would look into her concerns of a progress report for the reading mod and get her feedback on her child.

Mrs. Rispoli Critical thinking is important for a student to learn with collaborative discussion with other students and teacher groups, it can not be taught. Student can no longer just memorize facts but must understand what is behind a decision.

Mr. Wolak thanked the residents for their comments.

There being no other comments from the public, Mr. Wolak declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:23 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS
Finance Actions

Mr. Smith, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

April 2014 Transfers Approved

From:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-262-420	Repair & Maintenance	4,500.00
11-000-291-270	Employee Benefits	43,800.00
		Total: \$48,300.00

To:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-262-490	Utilities- Water	4,500.00
11-000-291-290	Other Employee Benefits	43,800.00
		Total: \$48,300.00

Seconded by: Mr. Krauss

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Yea Mr. Dibble Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman Yea Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Wolak

Education Actions

Mr. Hasenkopf moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below:

Superintendent's HIB Recommendations Approved

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent regarding the following 2013/2014 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	5
Salt Brook:	2

Speech/Language Therapy Rates Approved

2. Approve Jill A. Pila, M.S. CCC-SLP, for Speech/Language Therapy for the 2013/2014 school year at a rate of:
 - \$70 per out-of-district session
 - \$110/hour in-district

Seconded by: _____ Mr. Dinerman _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Yea _____ Mrs. Cuccaro _____ Yea _____ Mr. Hasenkopf

_____ Yea _____ Mr. Dibble _____ Yea _____ Mr. Krauss

_____ Yea _____ Mr. Dinerman _____ Yea _____ Mr. Smith

_____ Yea _____ Mr. Wolak

Personnel Action

Mr. Dibble moved to approve Items 1 through 7 as listed below:

2013/2014 Personnel Appointment Chapter 116 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 2013/2014 school year:
 - a. John Cranley, III, substitute teacher
 - b. Kristen Matos, long term substitute speech therapist, effective 5/28/14, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$284.17 (prorated Step 3, Column I, base of \$52,572) (subject to criminal history review procedures)

2014/2015 Personnel Appointments Chapter 116 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 2014/2015 school year:
 - a. Kristy McCauley, guidance counselor, \$70,319, effective 9/1/14
 - b. Mary Beth Puccio, secretary I (12 month; 7.5 hrs/day), \$43,219, effective 7/1/14 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - c. Lana Boyle, long term substitute teacher, \$61,690, effective 9/1/14
 - d. Nicholas Sommo, teacher, \$52,572, effective 9/1/14
 - e. Laura Small, teacher, \$65,712, effective 9/1/14

- f. Doreen Peritore, teacher/reading specialist, \$65,712, effective 9/1/14
- g. Kimberly Wantz, long term substitute teacher, \$58,258, effective 9/1/14
- h. Maria Savino, teacher, \$59,802, effective 9/1/14
- i. Rebecca Bucossi, teacher, \$53,072, effective 9/1/14
- j. Christine Demareski, teacher, \$60,421, effective 9/1/14

2014/2015 Personnel Revisions Approved

- 3. Approve the following revisions due to newly created positions for the 2014/2015 school year:
 - a. Christine Carman, from teacher to reading specialist
 - b. Vanessa Allen, from teacher to reading specialist

2014/2015 Personnel Not Renewed for Employment Approved

- 4. Move that the Board of Education, in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, not offer employment contracts for the 2014/2015 school year to the non-unit staff members whose names are on file with the Board Secretary.

Resignations Approved

- 5. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
 - a. Michael Pensock, maintenance, effective 9/1/14, due to retirement
 - b. Christine MacBurney, teacher, effective 6/30/14, due to retirement
 - c. Judith Hartpence, teacher, effective 6/30/14, due to retirement

2013/2014 Appointment Rescinded Approved

- 6. Rescind the following appointment for the 2014/2015 school year:
 - a. Kristy McCauley, long-term substitute guidance counselor, effective 9/1/14

2014/2015 Appointment Revision Approved

- 7. Approve the following revision for the 2014/2015 school year:
 - a. Peter Soccodato, from bus driver/maintenance helper, to mail/school bus driver/maintenance helper, effective 7/1/14

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call Vote:

 Yea Mr. Dinerman Yea Mr. Krauss

 Yea Mr. Dibble Yea Mr. Smith

 Yea Mr. Hasenkopf Yea Mrs. Vogel

 Yea Mr. Wolak

Old Business

Dr. Miceli stated that the board discussed the preparations for the planning and development of five year district goals. The last time the board did this they hired an outside consultant to gather the information at a cost of \$5000. They did this with community input and held two meetings; one in October and one in December with approximately 100-150 people in attendance at each meeting. The consultant's reported the results to the superintendent's office, which then were presented to the board for discussion and implementation. Dr. Miceli presented the board members with a file copy of the previous consultant's report.

Mr. Smith suggested that we try to hire a firm before this June, so they can get started on the project during the summer.

Mr. Wolak suggested that we revisit the last consultant to get a proposal along with one or two others.

Dr Miceli said he would contact the consultant to see if they would be interested in coming back to work with us again.

New Business

No new business was discussed at this time.

Public Hearing

Mr. Wolak opened the meeting to the public at 8:45 p.m.

Mrs. Zane Concerned with the District's transparency. Why were the parent not informed of the changes that are occurring with language arts? Asked when this new model will be voted on.

Mr. Wolak The agenda for board meetings are on the school website and that parents are welcomed to attend the meetings and give there input. The vote on the language arts model will take place at the next board meeting.

There being no other comments from the public, Mr. Wolak declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 9:00 p.m.

Closed Session

Mr. Dinnerman moved to adopt the following resolution:

1. This body shall on May 8, 2014 at 9:01 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:
 - Litigation- Case # 1121440
 - Student Matters related to Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying



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.

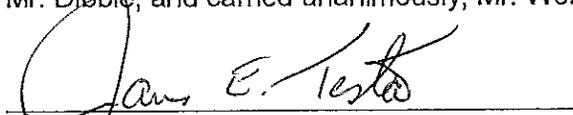
Mr. Krauss seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:18 p.m. Mr. Dibble called the Board to order.

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

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Hasenkopf, seconded by Mr. Dibble, and carried unanimously, Mr. Wolak declared the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.



James E. Testa
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
5/8/14