

The Work Session of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on September 11, 2014 at the HS/MS Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Board President, Mr. Wolak.

Present on roll call were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, Ira Krauss, Adam Smith, and John Wolak. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Deborah Feinberg, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision, there were no public present.

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.

### Comments

Dr. Miceli commented that the State rejected the District's teacher evaluation waiver request. Dr. Miceli suggested an alternative of requesting a waiver to complete one long (forty-minute) and one short (twenty-minute) observation. The District should receive an answer from the State within the next two weeks. He noted that this alternative will help the administration focus on staff members who may need more assistance. Dr. Miceli spoke with the Association on his recommendation and had a positive response.

### Strategic Planning

Dr. Miceli discussed the Strategic Planning sessions. A schedule of the sessions will be sent out in the next week to all staff and community. It is hopeful that there will be participation and meaningful discussions on the topic for each session.

Mr. Wolak suggested that the sessions be recorded.

Dr. Miceli commented that Rosalie DiNardo agreed to take the minutes as well as record the sessions. He also commented that the focus will be to collect all data on the topics.

Mr. Dibble asked about the structure of the sessions.

Dr. Miceli and Mr. Wolak suggested that the sessions be informal. The board committee that handles the topic can assist to facilitate the discussions and help focus on the topic for that specific session.

Mr. Smith asked if all board members can attend.

Dr. Miceli replied that Board Members can sit in the audience as well as participate in the discussions. He commented that these sessions would be to solicit input and ideas from the community, and provide an opportunity to voice their opinions on what they would like to see in the future.

Mr. Dibble suggested that each committee have a list of thoughts before the meetings to suggest to the public in order to engage discussions on each topic.

Mr. Wolak commented that identifying questions for the public before each session will be helpful. Each meeting should not be a presentation, rather a gathering of information sessions, "the plan is to develop a plan".

Dr. Miceli commented that a paper survey will also be available at each session for everyone to submit any suggestions. This will be for people who are not comfortable voicing their opinion.

Mr. Wolak suggested that an agenda be prepared for each session and a report be generated.

Dr. Miceli commented that sessions will start in October and end in May giving the Board, June, July and August to discuss the results.

Mr. Krauss asked about the STEM program incorporated K-12. He would like the administration to identify, publicize and promote the program so that there can be more involvement.

Mrs. Searing commented that they are identifying STEM in curriculum as well as encouraging students to participate in competitions. STEM is largely involved in the competition level such as, robotics, technology, mathematics and the arts. Mrs. Searing commented that Mr. Keaney will chair and coordinate the program.

Dr. Miceli commented that identifying it in the curriculum is key and incorporating it throughout kindergarten through grade 12, not just the high and middle schools. He wants the programs re-evaluated with course descriptions added. He noted that the curriculum is rigorous, but does not suggest STEM in the descriptions of courses.

### **Review of Tentative September 22, 2014 Agenda**

The Board reviewed the tentative September 22, 2014 Agenda.

Dr. Miceli reported on the enrollment numbers. The District enrollments are: 661 total students at the High School, 379 at the Middle School, 665 at AWR and 637 at Salt Brook School. There are three sections of kindergarten at Salt Brook School, one less than last year. There are 38 students out of district.

Mr. Wolak asked about full-time kindergarten in the District.

Dr. Miceli replied that there were no suggestions from the community about a full-time kindergarten.

Dr. Miceli reported that Mrs. Zirpoli will be presenting the findings of a District survey relating to the use of iPads at the September 22, 2014 board meeting. Dr. Miceli will present the January 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014 Violence, Vandalism, Substance Abuse, and HIB Report. Lastly, Dr. Feinberg will present on the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

Dr. Miceli reported on QSAC. The Statement of Assurances are due October 15, 2014, prior to the on-site visit. DPRs are not available, but as soon as they are, copies will be sent electronically to all board members. This report is in preparation to the on-site visit, which will be in the early Spring, 2015.

### **Final Review of 2014/2015 Board Goals**

#### **Curriculum, Instruction and Technology**

Mrs. Cuccaro reviewed the committee goals for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, they are as follows:

- Continue to monitor Year 3 of the Personalized Learning Initiative at the HS
- Determine the appropriate technology for use at the MS
- Monitor the online Financial Literacy course and review the possibility of additional online courses
- Monitor preparations for the first operational administration of PARCC
- Monitor the implementation of the Reading Specialists in the elementary schools
- Continue the implementation of Common Core Curriculum Guide review
- Monitor the effectiveness of the additional block of time in Grade 7 Language Arts
- Monitor the district-wide Character Education Program
- World Language review and recommendations
- Support Superintendent with STEM action plan development and review
- Developing a district set of expectations for writing within all content areas and monitor implementation/effectiveness
- Involve department heads and teachers in the Strategic Planning process

#### **Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security**

Mr. Smith, Committee Chair reviewed the committee goals for Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security, they are as follows:

- Personalized Learning Initiative
  - Monitor cost effectiveness
  - Consider potential efficiencies and expansion

- Review facility needs for upcoming bond referendum
- Continue to investigate alternative revenue sources
- Present the 2015/2016 budget within cap
- Continue to research shared service opportunities, including partnership with the Borough
- Complete negotiations with teachers, secretaries and custodian/maintenance units
- Monitor District's technology infrastructure for future needs at all schools
- Review enrollment projections for the next five years

### Personnel, Management and Communication

Mr. Dibble, Committee Chair reviewed the committee goals for Personnel, Management and Communication, they are as follows:

- Assess with the Superintendent the personnel needs, K-12, for the 2015/2016 budget
- Review the implemented teacher and principal evaluation systems
- Assess how those individuals who participate as coaches, leaders or supervisors in the co-curricular, extra-curricular and sports programs are evaluated
- Continue to discuss and identify public relations options with the Superintendent
- Continue to assess the methodology and process to evaluate the Superintendent's performance

### Comments

Mr. Krauss asked if Journalism is still a course at the High School.

Mrs. Searing replied that it is no longer part of the curriculum.

Mr. Smith asked about the iPads use in Middle School classes.

Mrs. Searing commented that there are a total of 90 students in the Middle School that are taking advanced Math, 75 in Algebra, 15 in Geometry. The Algebra students have a 2:1 ratio of iPad usage and Geometry students each have an iPad during class. An iPad cart is borrowed from the Media Center. Middle School students are not allowed to take the iPads home.

### PUBLIC HEARING

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Wolak declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:52 p.m.

### CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Smith moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall, on September 11, 2014 at 8:54 p.m., in the New Providence High/Middle School, 35 Pioneer 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

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 10:29 p.m. Mr. Wolak called the Board to order.

Members present were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, Ira Krauss, Adam Smith, and John Wolak.

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Krauss and seconded by Mrs. Cuccaro, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James E. Testa", is written over a horizontal line.

James E. Testa  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
9/11/14

