

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on February 26, 2015, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President, Mr. Hasenkopf.

Present on roll call were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Mary Misiukiewicz and Adam Smith. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Educational Services; 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; and 30 members of the public.

Mr. Hasenkopf led in the salute to the flag.

Mr. Hasenkopf 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.

### **Superintendent's Report**

- 1) Dr. Miceli reported on the enrollment: 660 at the high school, 377 at the middle school, 668 at Allen W. Roberts School, 645 at Salt Brook School, with 35 out of district, totaling 2,385 students, up 11 students from December to January.
- 2) Dr. Miceli reported that Kindergarten registration for September, 2015 is on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 and he is looking forward to seeing the numbers.

Dr. Miceli welcomed Kevin Stinchcomb to present the student report.

### **Student Report**

Kevin Stinchcomb reported for Katie Vigilante, who had to make a last minute trip to see colleges.

Kevin reported on sports; senior wrestlers Dan Lourakos and Carmine Boccellari won their 100th matches, senior Kelsey Quinn received the National Girls and Women in Sports Award at Seton Hall University, recognizing female athletes with outstanding athletic achievements, and

female athletes Lisa Caprara and Paige Kovacs signed with colleges to play women's soccer this fall.

Kevin commented that the girls swim team lost in a tough State meet against Summit. The boys unfortunately lost to Chatham in States. On a happier note, the basketball teams are doing well with their first round of State games on Tuesday.

In regard to colleges, more students are making their decisions. The FAFSA form was just released to help students afford college.

Kevin commented about the highly anticipated PARCC test which will begin next week. He commented that the school's technology department, led by the always patient Mr. McGeechen and Mrs. Andersen, has done numerous tests with the iPads and has reminded students to be fully prepared on test days, as to best ensure the testing goes smoothly.

Kevin thanked NPEF for a generous grant towards NPHS students to enroll in Method test prep to prepare for the SATs and ACTs. This program will help students get their scores up and is also a fantastic resource for students to have at their disposal.

Kevin, on a more personal note, thanked NPEF for helping pay for his science class's upcoming field trip to the Liberty Science Center and noted that he is beyond excited.

**Presentation – District Curriculum Report: Mrs. Searing, Mr. Hough, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Maier-Drexinger and Mrs. Andersen**

**Mrs. Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Supervision:**

Tonight we're going to take a look at our curriculum program in New Providence Schools, including the challenges we are facing, the progress we're making, and our plans and possibilities for the future.

- Principals from the elementary and the middle school will speak on technology and the ways students are leveraging new devices for learning.
- Mrs. Sandy Andersen who will give us an overview of our technology resources.
- The impact our new READING SPECIALISTS in the elementary schools have made as well as the impact of the EXPANDED LANGUAGE ARTS in the middle school.

But before we hear from the schools, let's take a look at some of our biggest challenges..

- PARCC is finally here
- Next week we will begin our first operational testing cycle with the PERFORMANCE BASED ASSESSMENT in Grades 3-11
- As you know we've been anticipating and working towards this day for a number of years now, and we believe we are as ready as we can be.
- For the past few years we've worked to develop our infrastructure, make decisions on devices, provide professional development and training, and have attended multiple

- workshops on the actual testing and the organization leading up to testing.
- We've taken sample tests, held infrastructure trials, wrestled with data management and uploads to NJDOE and PARCC and prepared students for online assessments

At the same time we have been continuing our work this year on the Common Core State Standards which are assessed by PARCC, and are a part of every curriculum in the district.

And in particular we've been working with one of the Common Core's most important components, Informational Literacy in all content areas, with Professional Development provided for language arts teachers as well as PD training in informational literacy for all teachers in all content areas.

We have continued to make progress in all content areas, to align curriculum with standards in all content areas.

We are continuing to teach the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills that will make students college and career ready: Technology in all forms, communication, responsibility, problem solving, perseverance, organization, and include these skills in all district curriculum, and this year we continued to use our technology to seek out additional opportunities for students, such as online courses (this year Financial Literacy), and textbook apps.

We are taking a hard look at STEM instruction this year. We formed a committee, chaired by Jon Keaney, and we have identified where STEM exists in the curriculum as well as where current opportunities exist.

As we look towards 2015-2016, our plans include:

- Working to develop the big idea of K-12 STEM education, and the vision of what that means for New Providence.
- Implementing online Latin through Middlebury College Interactive
- Increasing online curriculum materials
- Examining all programs, such as Gifted and Talented instruction, along with school schedules and activities; and establishing plans that align with our overall instructional vision.

So, our message tonight is that there are great things happening in all of our schools, and although we are spending a great deal of time on compliance issues, we are committed to providing the best educational experience possible for our students.

**Mrs. Gina Hansen, Principal of Allen W. Roberts:**

Mrs. Hansen thanked the Board of Education, Dr Miceli, and the community for their support with the technology initiative at the Elementary Schools.

In 6 short months the infusion of the iPad into our classrooms have given teachers a versatile tool that has increased:

- student engagement,
- student creativity,
- student access to differentiation, and individualized instruction,
- student's ability to collaborate with their peers and teachers

The iPad exposes students to 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and gives teachers the ability to infuse technology in their daily activities which provide students the opportunities that will enable them

to be successful in our global society.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words so please sit back and enjoy this imovie which will demonstrate how the iPad is being implemented at Salt Brook and Roberts.

iMovie presentation.

**Mrs. Jeannie Maier-Drexinger, Salt Brook Principal:**

Thanked the Board of Education for supporting the addition of 1.5 Reading Specialists to both Salt Brook and Roberts this year. With the additional staff, we were now able to dedicate 1 full-time Reading Specialist to Grade 1 and another full-time Reading Specialist to Grade 2. These Reading Specialists utilize both a push-in model as well as a pull-out support model. The teachers work on a rotating schedule where they focus on:

- Co-teaching with the regular education teacher
- Presenting alternative strategies for struggling learners
- Conducting separate mini-lessons for struggling or at-risk students
- Instructing guided reading groups
- Instructing word study groups
- Conferencing with students individually
- Working collaboratively in the development of units/lessons, delivery of instruction, and evaluation of students
- Helping to provide recommendations regarding the instructional procedures that will benefit students with disabilities and low performing peers.

iMovie Presentation.

**Mr. Scott Hough, Middle School Principal:**

Two major initiatives we have been working on in the MS over the last couple of years:

- First, we are in our second full year of our iPad initiative. We currently have approximately 14 iPads in each of our classrooms. We have come to rely on them as part of our everyday teaching and learning.
- Second, we are five months into our new LA extension initiative in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade with the implementation of Writer's Workshop. We have already experienced several benefits from both the teacher and the student point of view and we are looking forward to continuing to develop this into the strongest literacy program the MS has ever had.

Recently, Mr. Hough surveyed both the teachers and students about their experiences with the iPads and they are:

- The students report that the iPads are used the most in their four core academic classes, Math, Science, SS and Language Arts.
- The teachers report that the top apps used in their classrooms are Google Drive,

Notability, iMovie, Socrative, Inspiration, ConnectEd and accessing Internet resources.

Finally, according to both the students and the teachers, the top three uses of the iPads in the classroom are for in-class projects, collaboration and group work, and using the web for research.

We have prepared a short video to give you an idea of how both our iPad initiative and our LA initiative are doing. Throughout the video you will see actual quotes from both the teachers and the students sharing their experiences thus far.

iMovie Presentation.

**Mrs. Sandra Andersen, Department Head of Technology & Information Services:**

Mrs. Andersen thanked the Board for providing the opportunity to purchase online resources for the District. She outlined the District Software Resources:

**Safari Montage** video-on-demand is an instructional resource the district has for teachers and parents. With Safari Montage you can easily find, use, and integrate video and visual media that is specific to an instructional objective and content standards. Safari Montage publishers include The History Channel, Biography, BBC, WGBH, Disney Educational Productions, National Geographic, Monterey Home Video, Ambrose Video, and Schlessinger Media. Many videos even include teacher notes, handouts, and quizzes.

**Quia** is short for Quintessential Instructional Archive. Quia provides online activities using teacher's content. Teachers can create online surveys, quizzes, study guides and games for students. Each year we budget for 100 subscriptions. Subscriptions are by request only. 87 district teachers are using QUIA this year as part of their classroom activities.

**ABC-CLIO** is one of the library databases we provide for ms/hs students. It provides curriculum and reference materials as well as professional development for librarians, teachers, and students in secondary education, higher education, and public libraries.

**OverDrive** is a digital distributor of eBooks, audio books, music, and video titles. We are in the second year of providing these resources for middle school and high school students.

**BrainPop** is an educational site with over 1,000 short animated movies for students in grades K-12. The videos provide quizzes and related materials, and cover the subjects of science, social studies, English, mathematics, engineering and technology, health, and arts and music.

**Big Universe** is a balanced literacy e-book platform, providing PK-12 students and teachers, curriculum resources across subject areas. With Big Universe, you can excite students about learning, expand your school/classroom library, differentiate instruction, support standards, access 24/7 anywhere, Big Universe has 35 publisher partners and 8,278 books online.

Mrs. Andersen's requested to add for 15/16 school year:

**Core Clicks** is a dynamic nonfiction reading program built from the ground up to support the Common **Core** State Standards. Using stunning multimedia resources, this web-based supplement guides whole classes or small groups through multiple “reads” of engaging informational texts, going more in-depth with each encounter.

**Newsela** is an online news-as-literacy platform featuring current articles in seven categories such as War & Peace, Science, Health, Kids, Money, Law, and Arts. It's updated weekly, and all articles are Common Core-aligned and available in five different Lexile levels, ranging from third to 12th grade. District teachers have been using the free service it provides such as quizzes, and annotation tools. However we are hoping to provide the paid PRO subscription for teachers in grades 6-12 next year. The PRO version would offer the ability for teachers to manage students' assignments, view both individual and class results, and track progress in meeting the related Common Core standards. The PRO version will soon also be offering the ability for students' to engage students in structured writing.

Mr. Dinerman commented on how he enjoyed the presentation, especially the iMovie. He asked Mrs. Andersen how the software for the District is selected.

Mrs. Andersen commented that the District looks nationally for software and looks for the best products that will benefit the District. She looks at what the students and teachers are engaging in and what software has the ease of use. The software is then discussed with Department Heads and Principals. If affordable, valuable, and useful to teachers and students, it will be purchased by the District.

Mrs. Andersen commented that databases that aren't used are dropped, just like Nettekker, the teachers didn't use it anymore, so we dropped it.

Mrs. Searing commented that the teachers are taught and are given workshops during professional development to be comfortable and to learn the use of the software purchased.

Mr. Dinerman asked if parents have access to database/software.

Mrs. Andersen replied yes.

Mr. Dinerman commented about the 1.5 Reading Specialists in the elementary school and asked if it is benefiting the students.

Mrs. Maier-Drexinger commented that it is critical to first and second graders because it helped identify the needs of each student, this resulted better than what they expected.

Mrs. Hansen commented that the program is continuing to evolve, schedules were changed to make it efficient, kids are getting significant time, and growth is up and most importantly the need is being identified at an earlier stage.

Mrs. Maier-Drexinger commented that it will take 2-3 years to track the data, grade 3 is a good

level to track.

Mr. Krauss commented that there are 70 workshops offered in-house, this is very important for the whole District.

Mrs. Searing commented that giving time to collaborate with their peers is critical to their development and it is crucial to give time to help them, resulting to better classrooms.

Hasenkopf asked about feedback received related to the online course.

Mrs. Zirpoli commented that it is a great semester course experience. The teacher is in the building while streaming the online course.

Mrs. Zirpoli commented that the Guidance Department track the right students to take the course.

Mr. Hasenkopf asked what is our take away to help the Latin online course.

Mrs. Zirpoli commented that the take away is that in scheduling, it is allowing students to open their schedules to take an additional second language, but are made sure that they understand that it is an addition to their course load.

Mr. Hasenkopf commented that it is great to see more online courses offered, great job!

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hasenkopf opened the meeting to the public at 8:23 p.m.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dinerman moved to approve the following minutes:

Regular/Reorganization Meeting	January 5, 2015
Closed Session	January 5, 2015

Seconded by: Mrs. Cuccaro

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Yea Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

Mr. Krauss moved to approve the following minutes:

Business Meeting	January 22, 2015
Closed Session	January 22, 2015

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Yea Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Mr. Smith, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 7 as listed below:

#### **Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports Accepted**

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for January, 2015. There is no major account or fund which has been over expended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

#### **February 2015 Bills List Approved**

2. Approve the payment of bills listed for February, 2015, in the amount of \$3,498,361.59.

#### **Scholarship Fund Donations Accepted**

3. Accept the generous donation from Mr. Purcell to the New Providence High School Class of 1960 Walter McCarthy and Edward Lieder Memorial Scholarship Fund , in the amount of \$200.00.

#### **John O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation Accepted**

4. Accept the generous donation to the John O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund from Mr. and Mrs. James Prunesti, in the amount of \$50.00.

**John O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund Donation Accepted**

5. Accept the generous donation to the John O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Prunesti, in the total amount of \$100.00.

**Voided Check Approved**

6. Void the following checks:

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account Number</u>
344593	1/22/15	\$117.58	11-190-100-580-00
344636	1/22/15	\$118.07	11-190-100-580-00
344550	1/22/15	\$117.81	11-190-100-580-00
344536	1/22/15	\$116.80	11-190-100-580-00
344573	1/22/15	\$116.80	11-190-100-580-00
344546	1/22/15	\$116.80	11-190-100-580-00

**State Certified Costs Per Pupil for the 2013/2014 School Year Approved**

7. Approve state certified costs per pupil for the 2013/2014 school year as follows:

Preschool/Kindergarten	\$ 8,741
Grades 1 - 5	\$10,651
Grades 6 - 8	\$11,448
Grades 9 – 12	\$13,756
Learning/Lang.Dis.	\$41,392
Preschool Dis. - FT	\$27,984
Preschool Dis. - PT	\$22,461

Seconded by: Mr. Krauss

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Yea Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

**FACILITIES ACTION**

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

**Disposal of Athletic Gym Banners Approved**

- 1. Approve the disposal of athletic gym banners that are outdated and no longer deemed necessary for school use. They are being replaced with new banners purchased by the New Providence Athletic Booster Club.

(EXHIBIT A)

Seconded by: Mr. Dibble

Roll Call Vote:

     Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

     Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

     Yea Mr. Dibble

     Yea Mr. Krauss

     Mr. Dinerman

     Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

     Yea Mr. Smith

**EDUCATION ACTION**

Mr. Cuccaro, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 5 as listed below:

**2014/2015 HIB Investigations Approved**

- 1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent regarding the following 2014/2015 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
Middle School:	9, 10, and 11

**Submission of a Request of Waiver from Participation in the Special Education-Medicaid(SEMI) Program Approved**

- 2. In accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3, the Board of Education authorizes the submission of a request for waiver for the New Providence School District from participation in the Special Education-Medicaid (SEMI) Program. This waiver request is based on evidence estimating that the District will have fewer than 40 Medicaid-Eligible Special Education students for the 2015/2016 school year.

**Submission to Amend FY 2014/2015 NCLB LEA Consolidated Grant Application Approved**

- 3. Approve the submission to amend FY 2014/2015 No Child Left Behind (NCLB) LEA Consolidated Grant Application, in the amount of \$74,163, for the period 7/1/14-6/30/15.

**List of Additional Field Trip Destinations Approved**

- 4. Approve the attached list of additional field trip destinations for the 2014/2015 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8.

**(EXHIBIT B)**

**Submission of Amended FY 2014 IDEA Consolidated Grant Application Approved**

- 5. Approve the submission of amended Fiscal Year 2014 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA-B) Consolidated Grant Application, in the amount of \$482,860, for the period 9/1/14-8/31/15.

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Yea Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

**PERSONNEL ACTION**

Mr. Dibble, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 5 as listed below:

**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 2014/2015 school year:
  - a. Elizabeth Surman, intramural for students with special needs K-8 advisor, \$609, effective 3/12/15
  - b. Kristy McCauley, high school national honor society co-advisor, \$457, effective 2/1/15

- c. Scott Sheppard, boys lacrosse volunteer coach
- d. Lynne Melhuish, substitute teacher/teacher aide
- e. Holly Mongusa, substitute teacher/teacher aide
- f. Laura Puorro, substitute teacher/teacher aide
- g. Christopher Scarpati, substitute teacher
- h. Daniel Barletta, substitute teacher
- i. Lori King, teacher, \$18,867 (base \$58,174), effective 3/19/15  
(subject to criminal history review procedures)

### **Resignations Accepted**

- 2. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
  - a. Stacey Ellis, guidance counselor, effective 6/30/15
  - b. Marc Willemsen, intramural for students with special needs K-8 advisor, effective 3/6/15

### **Revision in Salary Approved**

- 3. Approve the following revision for the 2014/2015 school year:
  - a. Jaclyn Kaufmann, teacher, from Step 7, Column III (\$59,389), to Masters, Step 7, Column IV (\$61,690), effective 9/1/13. Pro-rated salary, for the period 2/25/15 thru 6/30/15 is \$25,343.

### **Request for FMLA Approved**

- 4. Approve the request for a family medical leave act (FMLA) absence for Sandra Schilling, secretary, for the period commencing 12/22/14 and ending 3/13/15 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

### **Contract Agreement for Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services**

- 5. Approve the contract agreement for Scott Hough, as Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, effective 7/1/15, with the New Providence Board of Education. Contract is on file in the Board Office. (Copies in the hands of each Board member.)

Dr. Miceli commented that the search for the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services has been completed. Dr. Miceli reviewed the interview process, beginning in January through all the interview levels up to the final Board interview and receiving the final approval from the County Superintendent.

Dr. Miceli introduced and congratulated the District's new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Mr. Scott Hough.

Dr. Miceli commented that Mr. Hough was an Assistant Principal for three years at the

Middle/High School and four years as Principal at the Middle School. He is looking forward to working with Mr. Hough at the Board Office. In the meantime, Mr. Hough will be working with Dr. Feinberg and will be ready to go July 1st.

Dr. Miceli commented that the position for Middle School Principal will be posted tomorrow and will begin the next process.

Seconded by: Mrs. Cuccaro

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Yea Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

### **BOARD POLICY**

Mr. Krauss, Committee Chairperson, reported that there were no Policies for Board approval at this time.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Curriculum, Instruction and Technology

Mrs. Cuccaro, Committee Chairperson, reported that the committee met yesterday and discussed the next school year.

#### Finance, Facilities and Safety/Security

Mr. Smith, Committee Chairperson, reported that the committee has been busy and met a few times.

Mr. Smith commented that the committee received three proposals from architects and they have chosen Kevin Settembrino from Settembrino Architects. The committee is familiar with him, working for the district before and does excellent work.

Mr. Smith commented that there are a couple of small items to discuss.

Mr. Smith commented that the committee was hoping to provide a proposed budget to the Board for approval and then to the County for approval, but the debt service aid was lower than anticipated. General state aid is flat, as a result, the committee will be meeting tomorrow to talk about it more.

Mr. Smith commented that a special meeting may be added in early March to give the Board a full opportunity to view the budget, so the Board can talk about it before approving at the March 16th board meeting. Mr. Smith commented that early next week, the committee should have a budget to propose to the Board.

Mr. Testa commented that a memo to the Board will be sent out tomorrow in regards to what Mr. Smith covered tonight.

#### Personnel, Management and Communication

Mr. Dibble, Committee Chairperson, had nothing to report.

#### **OLD BUSINEES**

Dr. Miceli reminded everyone of the next Strategic Planning meeting scheduled for March 5th, Athletics, Music & Performing Arts & Co-Curricular is the topic.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Testa reviewed the Code of Ethics packet the Board received, which they have signed and returned to him.

Mr. Testa commented that he will send copies to the State Department, so they are on file.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hasenkopf opened the meeting to the public at 8:39 p.m. for comments.

#### **Mr. Joe Malone, New Providence Resident:**

Mr. Malone had concerns about PARCC. He wanted to get clarity on the "Sit and Stare" board policy we have. He commented on Title I funds and that the District has a waiver on it through the State of New Jersey.

Mr. Smith commented that he is not familiar with what Mr. Malone stated as "Sit and Stare".

Mr. Smith commented that we are obligated to administer the test and that is what the District is doing, and not providing for an opt out of testing.

Mr. Malone commented that he has sent in his paperwork for his children's refusal to take the test.

Mr. Smith commented that parents can do what they want, but if students do not take the test it will be hard to assess how our teachers, administrators and students are doing.

Mr. Malone commented that he is not concerned about the testing, but sympathizes with the

District and the Board. The District always had the flexibility on what to do with teachers and kids and have done very well. His concern is that the federal government and State is forcing districts to do the testing or will loose funding.

Dr. Miceli commented that the District is obligated to follow the law and standards that our State BOE has adopted.

Dr. Miceli commented that creating an environment that students can opt out or refuse, will put the District in jeopardy, and will not be following the law.

Dr. Miceli commented that there are mixed messages out there but we have not received any letter from any authorized body of the State saying that New Providence can opt out, that being said, we will follow the law and that is our position.

Dr. Miceli commented that in the past four years, we have been writing our curriculum and implementing the Common Core, much of this evening's presentation, and we have success in it. PARCC has not been tested, but the State made it clear that this year is the base line year and should not be comparing it to prior years. As NJASK, then HSPA, we have gone through changes in the past decade in standardized testing. We have evolved with it and used to determine progress. The District has worked hard for four years to prepare and encouraged students to do the very best they can. If it provides us with meaningful data in the back end then great and if not and it falls apart, then so be it. At least, we have been doing our due diligence trying to find our very best approach. This is not only meaningful to our students but also our entire community so that it is imbedded and raised within our curriculum and not just standardized testing.

Mr. Malone commented that the students are not, but the parents have their right under the 14th Amendment to refusal.

Dr. Miceli commented that in a month from now if we start allowing students to refuse taking tests, or finals, how do we address this. It is very much a part of what we do as an institution here. There will be dramatic ramifications and the dynamic it will create in the environment. We have been a unified community forever, the advocacy needs to be taken in Trenton.

Mr. Malone commented that 190 districts are making accommodations to students that opt out.

Dr. Miceli asked why Mr. Malone thinks the districts opt out, probably in fear that they will not do well.

Dr. Miceli commented that he can only speak for this District, and we need to follow the law.

Mr. Malone commented that he had submitted the letter of refusal for his children.

Mr. Krauss asked what his kids wanted to do.

Mr. Malone commented that they are minors and it is his right to make the decision for them. He commented that the District provides accommodations for other students such as those with an IEP.

Mr. Smith commented that our policy is to take the test and if we allow students to sit someplace else and provide accommodations then that's pardoning them from taking the test and we cannot do that for the reasons that Dr. Miceli spoke about.

Mr. Malone commented that his children will then take a half day during the testing.

Mr. Smith commented that that is his choice, but will have to abide by the attendance policy.

Mr. Cuccaro commented that Mr. Malone knows the policy and that's the choice he is making.

Mr. Malone commented that the school is not required to provide accommodations but can, so the school is choosing not to provide accommodations.

Mr. Dinerman commented that we have a long standing policy.

Mr. Malone commented that in the past where in health class covering the birds and the bees, students were allowed to be exempt from taking.

Dr. Miceli comment is that there are certain elements to the school setting that parents can opt out and that is one of them, another is for religious reasons, they do not need to have their immunizations. There is no provision in the law to opt out of standardized testing. That is our position.

Mr. Hasenkopf thanked Mr. Mallone for his comments and appreciated the dialogue.

Mr. Malone thanked the Board.

**Mrs. Julie Hawkins, New Providence Resident:**

Mrs. Hawkins commented that she only wanted clarity that even with 190 districts providing accommodations when students opt out, our students will sit in the classrooms during testing.

Dr. Miceli responded yes.

Mrs. Hawkins thanked Dr. Miceli.

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

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Smith moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on February 26 at 9:01 p.m. in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 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 related to HIB
- Sale of Property
- Negotiations
- Personnel

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. Dinerman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

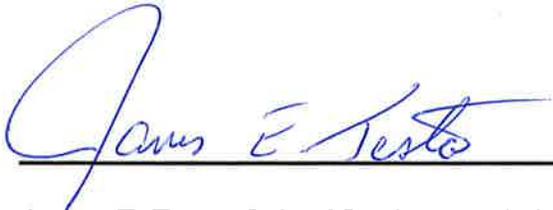
**Return to Public Session**

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:38 p.m. Mr. Hasenkopf called the Board to order.

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

**Adjournment**

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Dibble, seconded by Mr. Dinerman, and carried unanimously, Mr. Hasenkopf declared the meeting adjourned at 10:39 p.m.



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James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
2/26/15 Work Session Meeting

