

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 10, 2015 at the HS/MS Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Board President, Mr. Hasenkopf.

Present on roll call were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Mary Misiukiewicz, and Adam Smith. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Scott Hough, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision, and 18 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.

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.

Mr. Hasenkopf opened the discussion with board goals.

Each committee chairperson reviewed the committee goals for 2015/2016.

Curriculum, Instruction and Technology- Mrs. Cuccaro, Chairperson:

- Continue to monitor Year 4 of the Personalized Learning Initiative at the HS
- Continue to review the World Language course offerings and explore additional immersion trips
- Monitor the development and implementation of the district-wide STEM program
- Review PARCC test results
- Continue to monitor the implementation of the Reading Specialists in the elementary schools
- Monitor the implementation of strategic planning goals
- Continue to monitor the effectiveness of the additional block of time in Grade 7 Language Arts
- Monitor the effectiveness of the Character Education Program in collaboration with the Borough of New Providence
- Continue to monitor the online course selections and review the possibility of additional online courses
- Monitor the use and implementation of district based assessments

Mr. Smith commented on goal #8 that covers the Character Education Program. He asked if that was something new.

Mrs. Cuccaro commented that this will bring the Character Education Program into the community and not just in the District.

Dr. Miceli commented that the District always has had this initiative district-wide. He commented that it originated at Salt Brook School, continued to AWR and now it is district-wide with the involvement of the community as well.

Mr. Smith suggested goal #3 on the list to have more stress in the development of the STEM program.

Dr. Miceli commented that there will be implementation regarding the curriculum, clubs, and competitions that will occur within the STEM program.

Personnel, Management and Communication- Mr. Dibble, Chairperson

- Assess with the Superintendent the personnel needs for the 2016/2017 budget
- Review the teacher and administration evaluation, and the co-curricular, extra-curricular and sports evaluation documents and process
- Review the BOE's communication with the community and look for additional opportunities to increase that effort
- Continue to assess the methodology and process to evaluate the Superintendent's performance
- Review with the Superintendent his plan for the implementation of the school security plan
- Review with the Superintendent his plans for mentoring the administrative team

Mr. Dibble commented that the first four were a continuation of last year's goals and the last two were new goals. He commented that we have several new administrative personnel and the last goal was developed not only to help monitor the "old", but especially the "new" administrators.

Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security- Mr. Smith, Chairperson:

- Develop a list of facility needs for the upcoming bond referendum
- Continue to investigate alternative revenue sources
- Present the 2016/2017 budget within cap
- Continue to research shared service opportunities
- Complete negotiations with teachers, secretaries, principals/assistant principals and custodian/maintenance units
- Monitor safety and security needs at all schools
- Review enrollment projections for the next five years

Mr. Smith commented that they had completed most of the 2014/2015 committee goals and the rest are ongoing goals. The biggest goal which was last year's goal and included this year will be the facilities needs for the upcoming bond referendum. He commented that the architect is developing plans to present in the spring and plan to go out for a bond referendum vote in September 2016.

Mr. Smith commented that we didn't find any new shared services last year, but found that ending the reverse 911 partnership with the Borough saved the District money and time with a new vendor.

Mr. Hasenkopf asked about the bond referendum.

Mr. Smith commented that this fall and winter the Board will develop a spending plan and in the spring will present to the public. In September, 2016, it will go out for vote.

Mr. Testa commented that if the bond referendum is approved, the District will need to get the financing in place in order to go out for bid and award the projects in the spring of 2017 for completion in the summer of 2017.

Mr. Dibble asked about the negotiations with the custodians.

Mr. Testa commented that the District is waiting for them to offer a time to meet.

Mr. Hasenkopf asked if there was anything in the committee goals and strategic planning goals that are outside the board goals, which can be added to the list.

Dr. Miceli commented that he and Mr. Testa will take the outcome of the committee goals as well as the strategic planning goals, develop a new draft, and circulate to the Board. A final draft will be presented at the September 24th meeting.

Mr. Hasenkopf commented that the one item that ties into both goals is the co-curriculum and extra curriculum policy review.

Dr. Miceli agrees.

Mr. Hasenkopf commented that he will be looking forward to the goals for review at the September 24, 2015, meeting.

Mr. Hasenkopf read the Strategic Planning Goals, they are:

Strategic Planning- Vision 2020- September 2015- September 2020

1. Research, create, and provide a unique New Providence STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program that enhances opportunities for all students K-12.
2. Consider new elementary, middle, and high school programs, that continue to encourage creative thinking, collaboration, problem solving, and communication while fostering college and career readiness, and supporting the social and emotional growth of students.
3. Continue to provide students and staff access to and education in technologies in order to foster the district's educational goals.
4. Engage in the public referendum(bond)process in order to update, enhance, and refurbish district facilities that insure a comprehensive educational learning environment.
5. Review, research, and evaluate all co-curricular and extra-curricular programs, policies, and procedures in order to provide future benefits for all students.
6. Research, develop and implement a new Gifted and Talented program, which will meet the needs of the District.
7. Explore new programs and services for Special Education students to ensure provision in the least restrictive environment, while continuing to provide access to appropriate co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
8. Continue to evaluate and develop internal diagnostic tools to assess programming and determine students' progress.

Mr. Smith commented that one more goal should be added on the list and that is "monitoring maintenance of cost effectiveness as much as we can while providing the educational opportunities that the district and community expects".

Dr. Miceli commented that he will draft that as #9.

Review of Tentative September 24, 2015 Agenda

Dr. Miceli reviewed the tentative agenda for the September 24, 2015 meeting.

Dr. Miceli commented that he will report on enrollment, NJASK Science scores, but will not have the PARCC scores. He commented that Mr. Maciag will give an update on his summer college visits and the SAT/PSAT/ACT scores. Mr. Hough will present on the School Self-Assessment. He commented that there will be a lot of information at September the 24th meeting.

Mr. Smith reviewed the Action Items. He commented on the School Safety Plan. He thanked the administration, especially Dr. Miceli, for starting and continuing the successful partnership with the Borough and the Police. Dr. Miceli commented that the former Superintendent of Newtown spoke and met with the administrators. She talked about security. The plan is at the Board Office if anyone would like to see it.

Mrs. Cuccaro reviewed the Education Items.

Mr. Hough reviewed the Board Policy Items. The items are for administering medication.

Dr. Miceli reported on the District's enrollments. As of today, they are:
684 students at the High School, 366 at the Middle School, 675 at AWR, 657 at Salt Brook.

Dr. Miceli commented that in the elementary schools:

AWR- First grade has reached the maximum of 100 students with each section at 25.

Third grade has reached the maximum of 100 students.

SB- Second grade has 97 students, third grade has 98, and fifth grade has 96.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Hasenkopf opened the meeting to the public at 8:20 p.m.

Molly Stassfurth, New Providence Resident:

Mrs. Stassfurth commented that at what point does the District see the high numbers of enrollment in the classes the norm and not the abnormality.

Dr. Miceli commented that in the past 5-7 years, we have had ups and downs in enrollment. He commented that these spikes and dips have been there for quite some time. This is the first time we have seen first and third grade reaching the maximum at one school. He commented that the unique dynamic that we cannot anticipate is the number of children that move into the community in a given year.

Mr. Smith commented that we have looked at the live birth rates and have kept track with enrollment numbers, but it is difficult to predict from year to year because of the District's accolades, but we have been close every year.

Mrs. Stafurth commented that she appreciates that Dr. Miceli reported on the enrollment because of the concerns she has.

Alina Dagnery, New Providence Residence:

Mrs. Dagnery commented that: 1) We have to look at this more than just a scientific process and there are other aspects to this. Is the aide a second teacher in the classroom? 2) What happens when both schools max out at 25 in a grade level, is it just an aide or a certified teacher as a second teacher in the classroom? She commented that an aide may not be able to handle 26 or 27 in one classroom. 3) What is the state law on the maximum numbers of students in a classroom?

Dr. Miceli commented that it is a local decision, based on policy, with regards to the maximum in each classroom. He commented that it is an aide that will be added and not a certified teacher.

Mr. Smith commented that it wasn't that long ago when our policy maximum in a class was at 27.

Mrs. Dagnery commented that with the bond referendum coming up, can we implement hiring a certified teacher as a second person in the classroom versus an aide to help in this process. She commented that we cannot change the facility in a year, but can we hire a certified teacher as a second person in the classroom.

Mrs. Heidi Ivy, New Providence Resident:

Mrs. Ivy commented that with regards to caps for grades, we have 25, however Summit has caps at 22 in K-2 and 24 in grades 3-5. Research say it is beneficial to the students to have smaller classes. When the District received the accolades, the enrollments in the district were at a low, so how are 25 in the classrooms affecting us?

Mr. Hasenkopf commented that the District focuses not on the number of students in a class, but teacher to student ratio. He commented that with the limitations to our facilities, we do not have additional classroom, therefore, the focus is on the ratio. The reading specialists will help us insure that the students are developing in the proper levels.

Mr. Smith commented that the years we had the accolades, our policy was actually at a higher maximum numbers. We have had spikes at 27-28 in a particular grade in the past; it is not a new problem that we have faced. The District monitors the enrollments at all times.

Mrs. Stassfurth commented with the facilities she understands there are limits, but with the focus on STEM in the District, we do not support math. She commented that although New Jersey does not have a mandate statewide as to the size of each classroom, communities should get together because in public opinion, 25 is large. When it becomes 27, where do the kids go?

Dr. Miceli commented that the current policy reads that class size can increase with an additional aide. He commented that there were issues that came up with respect to class size and the District spent 18 months, not only doing the research on class size, but also what teachers are experiencing in the classrooms with respect to curriculum and instruction, what were the difficulties, and where would we provide the resources. The reading specialists tied it all together. He commented that Language Arts is identified as one of the District's weaknesses, not Math. He further commented that Math has been our strongest area and that is not where we were seeing any issues. He commented that with the Common Core, math has been more analytical and you need to have adequate reading skills to be able to solve the problems. Language Arts

became the core focus of the initiative, which is why additional reading specialists were hired, and at the same time we were able to address the class size. Dr. Miceli commented that as far as facilities, we do not have any spare classrooms. Dr. Miceli commented that Mr. Smith mentioned earlier that they will be looking into renovating space this year that could be included in the referendum next year.

Karen Sullivan, New Providence Resident:

Mrs. Sullivan commented with kids taking STEM classes, there are also other kids already taking zero period and have no room in their schedules, how will they be able to take additional classes?

Dr. Miceli commented that the District is in the process in developing the program, but have no specifics. The District is looking at the broad scope of things with the respect to STEM; K-12. The District is looking to modify existing courses, as well as developing new.

Cecil Seth, New Providence Resident:

Mrs. Seth asked when will we find out when the new co-curricular STEM clubs will begin. They are all excited.

Dr. Miceli commented that the high school's are up and running. The middle school and elementary are brand new clubs, so the department head of STEM, Jon Keaney, is working with the three principals to identify the scope of those clubs. He commented that October will probably be the start date. The three principals along with Mr. Keaney are meeting currently to establish the framework.

Theresa Munoz, New Providence Resident:

Mrs. Munoz was wondering when the goals will be published. She commented if there is a way to see them before they get approved.

Mr. Testa commented that the revisions will be made and at the September 24th board meeting they will be finalized. He commented that he can email them to her when they are finalized.

Mrs. Munoz raised a concern that she should be able to review the goals before the next meeting when they will be approved.

The board agreed to have the draft goals emailed to Mrs. Munoz and anyone else who would like to see the draft goals.

Mr. Hasenkopf commented that all the goals covered today, committee goals as well as Board goals, will be reviewed and approved at September 24th Board meeting.

Mrs. Munoz asked what happens to the goals that take more than a year to complete.

Mr. Smith commented that a lot of the goals are ongoing and are continuing goals for the following year as was discussed this evening.

Ilyse Rogozenski, New Providence Resident:

Mrs. Rogozenski commented that she was concerned about the middle school and high school not being separate enough. She is concerned that her middle school daughter is walking around with 18 year olds.

Dr. Miceli commented that it is a shared facility. He commented that as much as they can, they are separated. They do have to walk through the hallways to get to the classrooms, cafeteria, and the gymnasium, so it is more than likely that they will cross paths along the way.

Mr. Hasenkopf declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:39 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Smith moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall, on September 10, 2015 at 8:40 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
- 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.

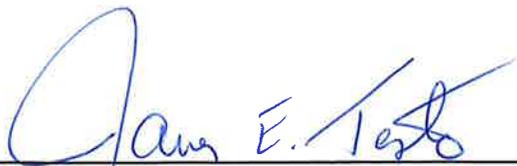
Mrs. Cuccaro seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 10:00 p.m. Mr. Hasenkopf called the Board to order.

Members present were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Mary Misiukiewicz and Adam Smith.

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Dibble and seconded by Mr. Dinerman, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.



James E. Testa
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
9/10/15

