

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on March 31, 2016, at the High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President, Mr. Hasenkopf.

Present on roll call were Bernadette Cuccaro, Robert Dinerman, David Hasenkopf, Ira Krauss, Mary Misiukiewicz and Adam Smith. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Educational Services; Mr. Scott Hough, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Sandra Searing, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and 88 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.

Mr. Hasenkopf commented that it is a busy agenda with awards, presentations and approvals. He commented that we have a great crowd tonight.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

1. Dr. Miceli reported on the enrollment numbers. The District enrollments are: 684 students at the high school, 364 at the middle school, 676 at AWR, 665 at Salt Brook and 38 students out of district for a total of 2,427, up 2 students from January. Kindergarten enrollment currently is: 64 students at Allen W. Roberts and 52 students at Salt Brook. Based on current enrollment numbers, we will have three sections at each school for the 2016/2017 school year. 15 additional first grade students registered at Allen W. Roberts, for total of 93 students, and 16 registered at Salt Brook, for a total of 79 students.

Mr. Hasenkopf asked if we anticipate more students registering before school begins in September.

Dr. Miceli commented that there are always a number of students that register before school begins, but the District has been promoting early registration more this school year.

2. Dr. Miceli announced the 2015/2016 Teachers of the Year. They will be recognized at the April board meeting, they are:
- Charles Carell- High School
  - Kim Chrisostomides- Middle School
  - Julie Spoerl- Salt Brook School
  - Raquel Witham- Allen W. Roberts School

### **Student Report- Claudia Lucciola**

- We had our Spring musical of Mary Poppins and it was a great success.
- The following weekend was our tricky tray prom fashion show and all the seniors had a great time strutting down the runway.
- As winter sports wrapped up with sports awards, spring sports are now in full swing with lacrosse, track, softball, baseball and golf.
- Seniors thought all their applications and work was over, but once second semester hit it didn't end! We are currently filling out scholarship applications that guidance has really encouraged us with, providing students with local scholarships as well as others.
- Seniors are planning the prom from everything to the center pieces, DJ, chocolate fountains, and photo booths. We are so excited!
- Juniors are experiencing the college process in full swing with SATs and college tours.
- Freshman-Juniors are starting to prepare for PARCC testing by taking practice tests on their iPads.
- Hannah Caminiti, a member of the character education committee, kicked off her Garments and Gears Project where NPHS is collecting lightly used sports equipment and clothes to donate to underprivileged kids throughout Union County.
- This Saturday, a Relay for Life team from our high school will be having a Car Wash from 10-2pm, so make sure to come by to get a car wash for \$5. All the money will go toward the American Cancer Society.
- The Amnesty International Club is collecting school supplies like notebooks, flash cards, pencils, pens, folders, and other school supplies to give to schools in Africa.
- The special education class kicks off their reusable water bottle fundraiser, April 7th, for a new high tech water fountain, especially made to fill water bottles.
- Fun fact: Our high school is having a bake sale almost everyday, after school, for the rest of the school year to benefit a multitude of different causes, such as AIDS research, Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society and Global Conservation. Our student body is always extremely involved in giving back.

Dr. Miceli commented that four days were built in the school calendar for snow days. We have two more remaining and would like to give back one day, which will be the Friday before Memorial Day weekend. He commented that we will retain one day. He proposed that a resolution be approved at the April board meeting if all Board members agree.

All Board members agreed.

### **Madagascar Portraits Presentation- Mrs. Celler**

Mrs. Celler thanked everyone for allowing her to present the Memory Project tonight. She would

first like to acknowledge the grant given by the PTSA, which made this project possible. She commented that this is the second year that they have participated in this project. Last year, the portraits were sent to the Dominican Republic. The painting class this year has partnered with the Memory Project charity to paint portraits of children who have been neglected, mistreated, orphaned, or abandoned. Madagascar is one of the financially poorest countries in the world with many people surviving on just \$1 per day. The children, who have nothing of their own, treasure their portraits and take them with them wherever they go. She introduced Isabelle Marenberg and Iris Kaloshi, students from her painting class.

Isabelle commented that when Mrs. Celler first introduced this project to them, everyone was very excited to participate. It made it even more special and personal because they each received their own individual child. Each photo came with a name, age, and child's favorite colors so they could personalize the portrait. The students researched Madagascar, it's language, geography, population, size, political system, head of state, and main exports which happen to be vanilla and coffee. Before beginning the portraits, they learned about shading and proportions before deciding on what media to use.

Iris commented that it took them about a week to complete the work. They photographed themselves holding the portraits, so that the children could see who did their portraits. These can be seen on the school website. When all the paperwork was completed, their work was sent to the Memory Project Headquarters in Wisconsin who then sent their portraits to Madagascar. Last week, they saw a video of the children receiving their portraits. Some of the students were in tears after seeing the video because it was such a pleasure to see how happy the children were when they received their portraits. Students were so proud of the joy they gave the orphaned, abandoned, and mistreated children of Madagascar.

Mrs. Celler presented the video. She thanked everyone for the opportunity to come and show the video and commented that she is looking forward to participating again next year.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Celler and Mrs. Zirpoli for the special project and the time they took to provide the students joy in their life.

#### **Presentation of Certificates of Excellence – Mrs. Cuccaro**

**Ashima Agarwal, Maclaine Barre-Quick, Mary Kate Buckman, Corinna Cardone, Julia Dabrowska, Dorian Ho, Joseph Mathusek, Sara Nagy, Sahana Narayan, James Nicholson, Natalie Pereira, and Juliana Ruta.**

Students who excel in music exhibit a high level of motivation and work ethic to develop their talents. Those who perform in ensembles become outstanding team members and masters at collaboration. New Providence takes pride in providing opportunities for young musicians to fully develop this musical potential within the school program and in auditioned honors ensembles. At the middle and high school levels, the central region of the New Jersey Music Educators Association (CJMEA) sponsors auditioned bands, orchestras, and choirs every year. Hundreds of students throughout the region prepare and audition. Only the highest scoring applicants are accepted.

This year Ashima Agarwal, Maclaine Barre-Quick, Mary Kate Buckman, Julia Dabrowska, Joseph Mathusek, James Nicholson, Natalie Pereira and Juliana Ruta were selected for the CJMEA High

School Choir; Corinna Cardone and Sara Nagy were selected for CJMEA/NJAJE High School Jazz Choir; and Dorian Ho and Sahana Narayan were selected for the CJMEA Intermediate Chamber Orchestra. They have earned special recognition for excellence in music performance.

**Cassandra Barbarisi, Miranda Barbarisi, Mary Kate Buckman, Kevin Dackow, Kara Dobias, Mia Harris, Shonchori Mukherjee, Manu Nahata, Juliana Ruta and Alanna Williams.**

The New Jersey Music Educators Association (NJMEA) sponsors auditioned all-state choirs at the elementary, middle, and high school levels every year. Hundreds of students throughout the state prepare and audition. Only the highest scoring applicants are accepted. Membership is hard-won and prestigious.

This year Kevin Dackow and Kara Dobias were selected for the HS All-State Mixed Choir; Juliana Ruta was selected for the HS All-State Treble Choir; Mary Kate Buckman was selected for the HS All-State Honor Jazz Choir; Miranda Barbarisi and Manu Nahata were selected for the NJ Junior High Honor Choir; and Cassandra Barbarisi, Mia Harris, Shonchori Mukherjee and Alanna Williams were selected for the NJ Elementary Honor Choir. They have earned special recognition for excellence in music performance.

**Allyson Burkitt and Shannon Charlton.**

The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) sponsors an auditioned all-eastern choir every two years. Students compete against singers from eleven states in the northeast. It is a highly selective honors ensemble.

This year Shannon Charlton performed with the ACDA All-Eastern High School Choir and Allyson Burkitt performed with the ACDA All-Eastern Junior High Choir in Boston, Massachusetts. They have earned special recognition for excellence in music performance.

**Kevin Dackow**

The National Association for Music Education (NAfME) sponsors an auditioned national choir every year. Students compete against singers from all fifty states in the country. It is the most selective honors ensemble for any high school singer.

This year Kevin Dackow performed with the NAfME National High School Choir in Nashville, Tennessee. Furthermore, this is the second year in a row that Kevin has been selected for this prestigious group. He has earned special recognition for excellence in music performance.

**Breanne DeBarros, Kara Dobias, Mackenzie Landsittel, Natalie Ocello, Brendan O'Leary, Cristina Riccio and Licheng Yang**

Students who excel in art and design routinely think "outside the box" to create new and exciting works. These skills in creativity and innovation are essential for success in college and in the workplace. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a national competition, award gold keys to students who exhibit originality, technical skill, and emergence of a personal vision through their works. Gold key (first place) winners in the northern New Jersey region become finalists in the national competition. This year, six students from New Providence High School and one student from New Providence Middle School earned gold keys.

Breanne DeBarros, Kara Dobias, Mackenzie Landsittel, Natalie Ocello, Brendan O'Leary, Cristina Riccio, and Licheng Yang all received gold keys for their original artworks. They have earned special recognition for excellence in their artistic endeavors.

### **Licheng Yang**

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards give gold and silver keys to students who exhibit originality, technical skill, and emergence of a personal vision through their works. At the highest level, students compete against artists from all fifty states in the country. It is one of the most selective national competitions for any high school artist.

Licheng Yang received a national silver key from the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. This is a distinction that students from New Providence have earned only four other times in the last twenty-one years.

Mrs. Cuccaro commented that New Providence is very proud of all of these achievements and offers them a most heartfelt congratulations!

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hasenkopf opened the meeting to the public on specific agenda items for comments at 8:06 p.m.

There being no comments from the public, Mr. Hasenkopf declared the portion of the meeting closed at 8:07 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Dinerman moved to approve the minutes for the following:

Work Session	February 11, 2016
Closed Session	February 11, 2016
Special Meeting	February 18, 2016
Regular Session	February 29, 2016
Closed Session	February 29, 2016

Seconded by: Mrs. Cuccaro

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Absent Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

**ACTION ITEMS**  
**FINANCE ACTION**

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

**Transfers for the 2016/2017 School Year Approved**

1. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2016/2017 school year.

**FEBRUARY 2016**

From:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-562	Tuition- LEA in NJ	\$116,000.00
11-000-262-100	Salaries- Custodians	20,000.00
11-000-262-520	Insurance- Property	3,300.00
11-000-262-621	Utilities- Natural Gas	8,000.00
11-000-270-161	Salaries- Transportation	4,000.00
11-000-270-512	Contracted Services- Trans.	6,000.00
11-000-291-260	Ins.- Workers' Compensation	5,000.00
11-000-291-270	Employee Benefits	27,000.00

Total: \$189,300.00

To:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-566	Tuition- Private Schools in NJ	\$116,000.00
11-000-261-610	General Supplies- Maintenance	5,000.00
11-000-262-490	Utilities- Water	10,000.00
11-000-270-420	Repair & Maintenance- Trans.	1,000.00
11-000-270-800	Other Expenses- Transportation	1,000.00
11-000-291-290	Other Employee Benefits	40,300.00
11-150-100-101	Salaries- Home Instruction	2,000.00

11-150-100-320	Purchased Prof. Services	14,000.00
----------------	--------------------------	-----------

Total: \$189,300.00

**Board Secretary Report Approved**

2. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for February, 2016. There is no major account or fund which has been overexpended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**Bills List Approved**

3. Approve the payment of bills listed for March 2016, in the amount of \$2,489,567.76.

**Safety Grant Program Application Submission Approved**

4. Approve the grant application submission for the 2016 Safety Grant Program through the New Jersey Schools Insurance Group's ERIC NORTH Subfund for the purposes described in the application in the amount of \$3,531.00 for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

**Professional Cleaning Services Approved**

5. Approve the renewal of the Agreement between the Borough of New Providence and the New Providence Board of Education for professional cleaning services and related work for municipally owned buildings, at an annual cost of \$4,095.00, beginning January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

Seconded by: Mr. Krauss

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. CuccaroYea Mr. HasenkopfAbsent Mr. DibbleYea Mr. KraussYea Mr. DinermanYea Mrs. MisiukiewiczYea Mr. Smith**FACILITIES ACTION**

Mr. Smith, Committee Chairperson moved to approve Items 1 through 3 as listed below:

**NPHS Athletic Booster Club Donation Accepted**

1. Accept the generous donation of the following items from the New Providence

School Athletic Booster Club to New Providence high school athletics, with an approximate value of \$12,365.50: one (1) scorer's table; three (3) 8 ft. green metal rectangular tables; and one (1) 8 ft. ADA (wheelchair accessible) green metal rectangular table.

**(EXHIBIT A)**

**Capital Improvement Projects Submission Resolution Approved**

2. Approve the following resolution:

The New Providence Board of Education authorizes Settembrino Architects to submit the following capital improvement projects to the New Jersey Department of Education for review and approval:

SCHOOL	NJ DOE PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECTS
Allen W. Roberts Elementary School	3560-055-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage Curtain replacement</li> <li>• New secure vestibule at Main Entrance</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• Renovate existing locker rooms into STEM classroom and additional classroom space</li> </ul>
Salt Brook Elementary School	3560-090-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Elevator upgrades</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• New Secure Vestibule at Main Entrance</li> <li>• New canopy at Main Entrance</li> <li>• Stage Curtain Replacement</li> <li>• Boiler replacement and related asbestos abatement</li> <li>• Renovate existing locker rooms into SGI rooms</li> <li>• Renovate G&amp;T classroom into STEM maker space</li> </ul>
New Providence Middle School	3560-080-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exterior Door replacement</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Gymnasium upgrades – new flooring; acoustical improvements; locker room renovations</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• New classroom and corridor link to gymnasium</li> </ul>
New Providence High School	3560-050-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Fencing at Field entrance</li> <li>• Athletic track restriping</li> <li>• Exterior Door Replacement</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• Media Center Renovations</li> <li>• New Secure vestibule at Main Entrance</li> <li>• Convert Science Storage into Resource Room</li> <li>• Renovate existing classroom wing into STEM classrooms</li> </ul>

The New Providence School District is seeking NJ Department of Education Debt Service Aid as part of the project funding. The local funding source for the projects will be long term debt. (A September 2016 referendum is planned.)

**Amended Long Range Facilities Plan Resolution Approved**

3. Approve the following resolution:

Authorize Settembrino Architects to amend the District's approved Long Range Facilities Plan to include the following projects:

SCHOOL	NJ DOE PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECTS
Allen W. Roberts Elementary School	3560-055-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage Curtain replacement</li> <li>• New secure vestibule at Main Entrance</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• Renovate existing locker rooms into STEM classroom and additional classroom space</li> </ul>
Salt Brook Elementary	3560-090-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> </ul>

School		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elevator upgrades</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• New Secure Vestibule at Main Entrance</li> <li>• New canopy at Main Entrance</li> <li>• Stage Curtain Replacement</li> <li>• Boiler replacement and related asbestos abatement</li> <li>• Renovate existing locker rooms into SGI rooms</li> <li>• Renovate G&amp;T classroom into STEM maker space</li> </ul>
New Providence Middle School	3560-080-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exterior Door replacement</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Gymnasium upgrades – new flooring; acoustical improvements; locker room renovations</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• New classroom and corridor link to gymnasium</li> </ul>
New Providence High School	3560-050-16-1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Fencing at Field entrance</li> <li>• Athletic track restriping</li> <li>• Exterior Door Replacement</li> <li>• Roof Replacement</li> <li>• Door Hardware upgrades</li> <li>• Media Center Renovations</li> <li>• New Secure vestibule at Main Entrance</li> <li>• Convert Science Storage into Resource Room</li> <li>• Renovate existing classroom wing into STEM classrooms</li> </ul>

Seconded by: Mr. Krauss

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Absent Mr. DibbleYea Mr. KraussYea Mr. DinermanYea Mrs. MisiukiewiczYea Mr. Smith**EDUCATION ACTION**

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

**2015/2016 Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying investigations Approved**

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent regarding the following 2015/2016 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	8
Middle School:	7 and 8
Salt Brook:	2

**Brookfield Educational Services Program Approved**

2. Approve Brookfield Educational Services Program for educational services at a cost of \$42/hour for the 2015/2016 school year.

**Transfer of Student # 1240545 Approved**

3. Approve the transfer of Student #1240545 from the Developmental Learning Center to The Children's Institute, at a pro-rated tuition cost of \$21,910.26, effective 3/7/16, for the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year.

**Enrollment of Student #12199 at P.G. Chambers School Approved**

4. Approve the enrollment of Student #12199 at P.G. Chambers School, at a pro-rated tuition cost of \$21,304.86, effective 3/21/16, for the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year.

**Japanese Interpretation Services Approved**

5. Approve Inlingua Language Center to provide Japanese interpretation services at a rate of \$250.00/hour, effective 3/30/16, for the remainder of the 2015/2016 school year.

Seconded by: Mrs. Misiukiewicz  
 Roll Call Vote:

<u>Yea</u> Mrs. Cuccaro	<u>Yea</u> Mr. Hasenkopf
<u>Absent</u> Mr. Dibble	<u>Yea</u> Mr. Krauss
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Dinerman	<u>Yea</u> Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u> Mr. Smith	

### **PERSONNEL ACTION**

Mrs. Cuccaro, in the absence of Mr. Dibble, moved to approve Items 1 through 7 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 2015/2016 school year:
  - a. Francis Riccio, maintenance position, \$10,373 (base \$52,674 + \$1,016 bus driver stipend + \$1,353 technical support mechanic differential), effective 4/25/16 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - b. Rosalie Mannino, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - c. Diana Efros, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - d. Jennifer Limone, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - e. Kimberly Wantz, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - f. Brittany Miller, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - g. Lisa Hopkins, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - h. Barbara Denike, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - i. Shayna Stemmer, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - j. Gwen Hermann, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
  - k. Jennifer Powers, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr

- l. Jaclyn Sulzer, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
- m. Joanne Catlett, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PARCC Language Arts Remediation Class Instructor, March thru April (after school), 10 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
- n. Elizabeth Giaime, Title I, AWR, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Teacher (after school), February thru April, 20 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
- o. Elaine Berman, Title I, AWR, Homework Support Teacher Leader, November thru April, 33 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
- p. Brandee Conover, Title I, AWR, After School Literacy Intervention Teacher, March thru May, 13 hrs @ \$54.87/hr
- q. Sharon Licari, Title I, FastForward substitute teacher (hours to come from teachers who are absent)
- r. Alexander Meyer, boys spring track head coach, \$8,581
- s. Corey Arnold, girls spring track first assistant, \$6,007
- t. Morgan Eriksen, girls lacrosse first assistant, \$5,544
- u. David Fama, girls lacrosse volunteer
- v. Ahmed Mohamed, substitute teacher/teacher aide
- w. Beverly Pepe, substitute teacher/teacher aide

**2015/2016 Non-Unit Employees Salary List Revision Approved**

- 2. Approve the 2015/2016 Non-Unit Employees salary list (revised), copies in the hands of each Board member.

**Appointments Rescinded**

- 3. Rescind the following appointments for the 2015/2016 school year:
  - a. Samantha Goodstein, Title I, AWR, After School Literacy Intervention Teacher, 13 hrs
  - b. David Fama, girls lacrosse first assistant

**Resignations Accepted**

- 4. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
  - a. Andrew Palubniak, playground/lunchroom aide, effective 3/11/16
  - b. Jill Arens, teacher aide, effective 5/21/16
  - c. Rita Waldron, secretary, effective 7/1/16, due to retirement

**Request for Unpaid Maternity Leave for Susan Rembetsy Approved**

- 5. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Susan Rembetsy, teacher/departments head, under state and federal Family Leave Acts for a period of twelve weeks commencing 9/1/16 and ending 11/23/16 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. Approve an extended leave pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, from 11/24/16 through and including 1/30/17. (Based on 7/1/16 due

date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

**Request for an Extended Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave for Allison Pressman Approved**

6. Approve the request of Allison Pressman, teacher, (currently on maternity leave), for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2016/2017 school year, effective 9/1/16 through 6/30/17.

**Request for an Extended Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave for Christine Carman Approved**

7. Approve the request of Christine Carman, teacher, (currently on maternity leave), for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2016/2017 school year, effective 9/1/16 through 6/30/17.

Seconded by: Mr. Dinerman

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Absent Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

Mrs. Cuccaro read into the record and moved the following resolution:

**Observance of Teacher Recognition Week Resolution Approved**

8. Approve the following resolution in observance of Teacher Recognition Week May 1st through May 7th.

**WHEREAS,** the week of May 1st through May 7th has been declared Teacher Recognition Week throughout the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** the faculty of the schools of the New Providence District continue to provide excellent instruction, tutoring, encouragement, counseling and understanding to the students who pass through their classrooms; and

**WHEREAS,** in addition to the regular educational programs, many of the staff provide advice, direction, coaching and sponsorship to extra-curricular activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education acknowledges with pride and sincere appreciation the efforts of all of the teachers on its staff; and

**BE IT FURTHER  
RESOLVED**

that the members of the Board extend to these teachers their best wishes for the future, firm in the belief that they will always perform in the same fine fashion.

APPROVED THIS 31st DAY OF MARCH 2016, and signed by order of the New Providence Board of Education.

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Hasenkopf

Absent Mr. Dibble

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Smith

Mr. Hasenkopf commented positively on Teacher Recognition Week.

**BOARD POLICY**

Mr. Krauss, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below:

1. Approve the following Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations on second reading:

**Bylaws and Policies:**

Policy No. 1550 (Mandated)	Affirmative Action Program for Employment and Contract Practices (Mr. Krauss)	(Revised)
Policy No. 2260 (Mandated)	Affirmative Action Program for School and Classroom Practices (Mr. Krauss)	(New)
Policy No. 2622 (Mandated)	Student Assessment (Mr. Krauss)	(Revised)
Policy No. 4240 (Mandated)	Employee Training (Mr. Krauss)	(Revised)

Policy No. 5751 Sexual Harassment (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

**Administrative Regulations:**

Regulation No. 1550 Affirmative Action Program for Employment  
(Mandated) and Contract Practices (Revised)  
(Mr. Krauss)

Regulation No. 2260 Affirmative Action Program for School (New)  
(Mandated) and Classroom Practices Complaint Procedure  
(Mr. Krauss)

Regulation No. 5751 Sexual Harassment (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

2. Approve the following Bylaws, Policies, and Regulations on first reading:

**Bylaws and Policies:**

Policy No. 5111 Eligibility Of Resident/Nonresident Students (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

Policy No. 5310 Health Services (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

Policy No. 5330.1 Administration Of Medical Marijuana (New)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

Policy No. 8462 Reporting Potentially Missing Or Abused Children (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

**Administrative Regulations:**

Regulation No. 5111 Eligibility Of Resident/Nonresident Students (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

Regulation No. 5310 Health Services (Revised)  
(Mandated) (Mr. Krauss)

Regulation No. 5330.1 Administration Of Medical Marijuana (New)



(Mandated)

(Mr. Krauss)

Regulation No. 8462 Reporting Potentially Missing Or Abused Children (Mandated)  
(Mr. Krauss) (Revised)

Seconded by: Mr. Dinerman  
Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. CuccaroYea Mr. HasenkopfAbsent Mr. DibbleYea Mr. KraussYea Mr. DinermanYea Mrs. MisiukiewiczYea Mr. Smith**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Curriculum, Instruction and Technology**

Mrs. Cuccaro commented that testing results were mailed out. The students are gearing up for PARCC.

**Finance, Facilities and Safety/Security**

Mr. Smith commented that the County approved the tentative budget. Next step is to advertise and have a public presentation, which will be at the next board meeting.

Mr. Smith commented on the facilities. There was an accident at the high/middle school. A car crashed into the building, which damaged one classroom. Insurance will cover the damages and it will be fixed during the week of spring break.

**Personnel, Management and Communication**

Mrs. Cuccaro, in the absence of Mr. Dibble, commented that there is nothing new to report.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There is no Old Business to report

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Smith submitted and read the following statement:

I want to bring the Board's attention on a situation that has developed. In my 17 years on the Board, I have never had a situation such as this – certainly never one that I felt compelled to address at an open public meeting. However, because I am requesting that the Board take

action, I thought this was the appropriate manner in which to proceed. It has to do with NP resident Gail Libertucci.

To understand the situation, some history is necessary, although some of this may already be known to you. In 2011, Ms. Libertucci ran an unsuccessful campaign for a seat on the NP BOE. Since losing that election, Ms. Libertucci has engaged in the filing of a series of frivolous litigations against the BOE that have taken staff time and taxpayer money that could have been used to support our students. First, she asked our administration undertake an investigation into the alleged disclosure of certain information that she believed should not be disclosed as she was convinced that someone on our staff, or a BOE member, had anonymously published the information on a website blog/forum. When that investigation did not result in the conclusion she desired, she filed a lawsuit in the Superior Court of NJ in January 2012 alleging that the BOE had failed to safeguard confidential student records and that we had intentionally released those records. The allegations were completely baseless, but resulted in the BOE having to expend significant time and taxpayer resources on the defense of the litigation.

During the almost 3 years of this litigation, Ms. Libertucci subpoenaed residents of this town to obtain testimony and hired private investigators in an effort to pin the blame on the BOE for the disclosure of this information. So desperate was she to smear the BOE members, she had even published an ad on the Alternative Press offering a cash reward to anyone who had information regarding the disclosure of this information. She was not successful. After a two day hearing before an Administrative Law Judge in Newark, her case was dismissed with a finding that there was no evidence to substantiate an allegation that the Board improperly safeguarded any information or had disclosed the information on a website. The Judge specifically noted that the testimony of our staff members at that hearing was consistent and persuasive. Further, the judge specifically questioned her credibility when she noted that she was not "persuaded" by Ms. Libertucci's testimony that she herself had not told anyone of the information that she complained of being disclosed.

Ms. Libertucci appealed the ALJ's decision to the Commissioner of Education in Trenton. The Commissioner upheld the ALJ's decision, concluding that "there was nothing in the record that establishes a link between the information contained in the blog and the Board's procedures for safeguarding records." That was January 2015. She was still not satisfied. She took her case back to the NJ Superior Court where we were required to begin the discovery process before , finally, in July 2015, Ms. Libertucci voluntarily dismissed the litigation.

Unbeknownst to me or the BOE, since her civil suit was dismissed last Summer, Ms. Libertucci has been trying to get the Union County Prosecutors Office to file criminal charges against me and anyone else she may believe was involved. Notwithstanding that three different, independent tribunals have recognized that lack of any merit to her allegations, she has apparently attempted to utilize whatever political connections she has made based upon her involvement in the NP Republican Committee to pressure the prosecutor's office to open up an investigation into her ridiculous allegations. Enough is enough. Having threatened my livelihood with these absurd allegations, it is time to remove the veil from her actions for everyone to see and I am requesting

that this Board send the attached letter to the NP Republican Committee to censure her, denounce her actions and remove her from any position she may hold with that organization. Throughout this entire process, I have not commented in this matter publicly, nor has the BOE, notwithstanding the slanderous and defamatory comments made by Ms. Libertucci against me personally, the Board and its staff.

It should be noted that I cooperated completely with the Prosecutor's Office and that that office has closed the matter in apparent recognition that Ms. Libertucci's allegations are utterly meritless. That now brings the count to 4 independent tribunals that have shot her down.

Fair criticism is part of being in this position, but this is nonsense. Attempting to have criminal charges filed against a member or members of this BOE because of the bitterness of a lost election crosses a line that should not be countenanced by this BOE, the NP Republican Committee or the residents of NP. NP proudly acclaims that its name stands for "Nice Place, Nice People." Someone needs to remind Ms. Libertucci. I ask the Board to join in me in sending the attached letter to the NPRC in an effort to end this witch hunt.

Mr. Smith commented that he would like to send a letter (attached), on behalf of the Board, to the New Providence Republican Committee.

Mr. Hasenkopf asked if there are any comments from the Board.

There were none.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any objections from the Board.

There were no objections. All supported Mr. Smith's request to send the letter to the New Providence Republican Committee.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Hasenkopf opened the meeting to the public for comments at 8:25 p.m.

#### **Councilman Robert Munoz, Liason to the BOE and Chair of the NPRC**

Councilman Robert Munoz, Liason to the Board of Education and Chair of the New Providence Republican Committee, commented that Ms. Libertucci's actions are not in any way endorsed or sanctioned by the Borough Council or the Republican committee. She did those actions on her own for what ever motive she may have. He has only been the Chair of the New Providence Republican Committee for a year and is a difficult job as you can imagine. He commented that once he receives the letter he will discuss it at the next meeting in May. He commented that he will address this with Ms. Libertucci and ask that she attend a future committee meeting.

Mr. Munoz commented that a newsletter came out that ranked the top 100 public school teachers in New Jersey and New Providence came in at #8. Congratulations to our teachers.

Mr. Hasenkopf and the Board thanked Mr. Munoz for his comments.

There being no other comments from the public, Mr. Hasenkopf declared the meeting closed at 8:26 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Krauss moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on March 31, 2016 at 8:27 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

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. Misiukiewicz seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

### **Return to Public Session**

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:36 p.m. Mr. Hasenkopf called the Board to order.

Members present were Mrs. Cuccaro, 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. Smith, seconded by Mr. Krauss, and carried unanimously, Mr. Hasenkopf declared the meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



---

James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
3/31/16 Board Meeting

New Providence Republican Committee  
% Robert L. Munoz, Chairman  
3 Alison Court  
New Providence, NJ 07974

Re: Gail Libertucci

Dear Chairman Munoz,

We write to you to bring to the Committee's attention the conduct of one of its members, Gail Libertucci. Ms. Libertucci has engaged in a 5 year campaign to hold members of the New Providence Board of Education (the "Board"), school administrators and certain district staff members responsible for the appearance on a public website of confidential information. Ms. Libertucci's efforts have reached outrageous heights and warrant the review by your Committee of her continued involvement.

Based upon her allegations of malfeasance by the Board related to that public posting, an internal investigation was conducted that resulted in a finding of no such disclosure by the Board or its employees. Not satisfied with that investigation, she filed litigation against the Board in the Superior Court of New Jersey. The matter was addressed in that court and the Office of Administrative Law. All who reviewed the matter found in favor of the Board.

Not satisfied with those results, Ms. Libertucci engaged in a campaign to get the Union County Prosecutors Office to file criminal charges against Board members, and potentially others, for the alleged improper disclosure.<sup>1</sup> We believe that Ms. Libertucci, using the contacts she developed through your Committee's support of various political candidates for government office, made numerous phone calls and sent numerous letters to get the Prosecutors Office to undertake this investigation.

We have cooperated with that investigation and it is now deemed closed. Once again, Ms. Libertucci's frivolous allegations against this Board have been deemed meritless.

---

<sup>1</sup> We would be remiss if we did not note that the Administrative Law Judge who presided over the proceeding regarding these allegations, after hearing two days of testimony, concluded that the likely source of disclosure was Ms. Libertucci herself.

Although the matter is now closed, we bring this issue to your attention as her conduct is so outrageous, from the frivolous allegations against public servants in this town to the efforts to seek criminal prosecutions, that we believe the New Providence Republican Committee should denounce her actions and remove her from any position she may hold with the Committee. Her actions manifest an inability on her part to act in a manner befitting of a member of your Committee and to not use her position to engage in personal vendettas.

We appreciate your consideration of the issues raised in this letter. We have attached a statement read into the record at our last Board meeting on this issue. Should you wish to discuss these matters, please do not hesitate to contact us.