

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 13, 2018 at the HS/MS Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Board President, Mr. Adam Smith.

Present on roll call were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, Ira Krauss, Mary Misiukiewicz, Adam Smith, and Joseph Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Scott Hough, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; Jay Richter, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision, and three members of the public.

Mr. Smith led in the salute to the flag.

Mr. Smith 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. Smith stated that he no comments and asked Dr. Miceli for the Superintendent's report.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miceli provided the Board with enrollment numbers as of September 12, 2018. The District enrollments are: 623 students at the High School, 411 students at the Middle School, 705 students at AWR- this includes 32 preschool students, and 648 students at Salt Brook. With regard to just kindergarten and first grade, at AWR we have 81 kindergarten students and 89 first grade students. At Salt Brook, we have 76 Kindergarten students and 89 first grade students. The numbers look good and the enrollments are not as high as we may have thought that they would be after the last couple of years' experience. The numbers are around the numbers that we anticipated.

Dr. Miceli commented on the implementation of the new rotating drop schedule at the High School. The schedule started on the first day of school, Wednesday, September 5, 2018. The schedule started with an A day and began rotations. Thursday, because of the early dismissal, Mrs. Zirpoli ran an eight period schedule. Friday was then a C day, so we skipped the B day. Monday was then a D day. So, today was the first B day in the rotation.

Dr. Miceli reflected on the work that has gone into the actual implementation of the new schedule. It helps to look at where we have been in terms of trying to provide our students with more opportunities within the High School. First we added zero period to create more opportunities. Then online courses, again with a view toward adding more opportunities. But

these additions were offered along with the traditional schedule. Now we have the new schedule.

Dr. Miceli commended the High School committee of about twenty staff members who participated on the committee all year long. Dr. Miceli wanted to especially commend Jim McGeechan, Brian Henry, Vinny Carangelo, and Kim Thompson who worked on this project all summer with Lauren Zirpoli. As a team, they spent an incredible amount of time fine tuning everything after we established the overall framework for the schedule. They put in quite a lot of work to ensure a smooth opening and so that there would not be confusion. Dr. Miceli commended and thanked Lauren Zirpoli for her leadership on this. Mrs. Zirpoli took this project on three years ago. She was integral to the process and it really took her courage and leadership to forge the way and to get us to a great place. If she had not been willing to pursue this, we wouldn't have this new schedule this year. Dr. Miceli wanted to recognize her time and her efforts.

After one and a half weeks, we are seeing some very good things. The hallways have been very orderly, with no confusion. Students and teachers know where they need to report. We do not have any chaos. The open lunch environment has been working fine. There has not been any overcrowding in the cafeteria or in other places around the building identified for students to have lunch. Students are getting their food in time to have lunch. That had been one of the original concerns. Things are moving along nicely.

There are some things we will continue to assess such as: the time between periods; how teachers are engaged in their lessons with their students and how they are reflecting on that; and, the amount of homework and the pacing of the lessons. There is a lot to be looked at now that we are using the schedule. Of course teachers spent a lot of time preparing for the school year, however, they need to see the actual application of their sixty minute lessons. We are looking at how the students are engaged with the longer class. The teachers may look into additional assessments during the sixty minute class time. There is a lot of discussion still taking place. Today Mrs. Zirpoli met with the department heads to get their feedback. One thing that is being reconsidered is the use of warning bells. In the past, there was a two minute warning bell. There were no warning bells built into the new schedule. There will now be a two minute warning bell at 7:42 am at the start of the day and at 12:41 pm at the end of the professional lunch period. The teachers will continue to assess pacing of lessons and homework. Dr. Miceli is very pleased. There will be an evolution of the new schedule as we take the pulse of students, staff, and parents. We will evaluate what we are doing on a daily basis.

Mr. Dibble stated that he was at the school at lunch time to meet with the Middle School principal and that the new schedule seemed to work well and people were moving to where they needed to go.

Dr. Miceli also commented that students who received permission to leave the building during lunch were given a QR code. This is like a barcode that the students have on their iPads, as do the hall monitors. The hall monitor scans the student's iPad when the student leaves and returns. It allows Mrs. Zirpoli and Mr. Henry to track the time students are leaving and returning.

Dr. Miceli further commented that Jim McGeechan had some concerns over students and teachers knowing how their individual rotations were going to occur with respect to classes. Over the summer, he set it up so that students and teachers can set up their own personal schedule on their iPads through google. They have their own personal rotation that they can access. There has been a lot of positive feedback with this.

Dr. Miceli is very pleased with the pool of applicants for the District Communication Coordinator position. Ninety-nine people applied for the position. A number of people from both in and out of the community applied through Applitrack and Indeed. Many applicants have really good credentials. It was tough just to weed through the applications. Dr. Miceli is bringing in twelve applicants on Monday to meet with him and Sandy Andersen.

Mr. Smith then commented that it would be a good time to walk through the September 27, 2018 agenda.

Review of the September 27, 2018 Agenda

Mr. Krauss commented that with regard to the Finance and Facilities committee, there will be payment of bills and a void/reissue checks to approve. Also, we will be approving the use of Berkeley Aquatics for the swim team and will approve the Morris Union Jointure at a future meeting as a backup site.

Mr. Walsh questioned which locks are referenced in the proposed agenda. Mr. Testa stated that after they completed the initial scope of the project, which was just the outside and the classroom door locks, we assessed the schools' other areas that needed to be addressed within the scope of safety and security. Mr. Testa reviewed each school with each principal and came up with a list. This change order is for the whole District.

Mr. Dinerman commented that the Education committee will have curricula to approve.

Mrs. Cuccaro commented that the Personnel committee will be looking to ratify at the next meeting the agreement reached with the maintenance and custodians. Mr. Testa commented that they met on Monday and ratified the agreement, so they are waiting for the Board to approve. Once approved, the contracts will be signed. Mr. Smith commented that this is excellent news.

Mr. Krauss commented that with regard to Board Policy, there will be a second reading for the policies involving just a change in wording from Core Curriculum language to New Jersey Student Learning Standards language.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Smith opened the meeting to the public at 7:45 p.m.

Donna Zane

54 Brookside Drive

Mrs. Zane questioned whether the required number of elective course hours under 21st Century Skills have to be the same class for a year. Could you satisfy the requirement by taking two different classes each for a semester instead of a year? Mr. Richter commented that he will look into it. She suggested with the new schedule that she would like to see more electives offered by semester. It has always been a strength of this District to give the students a lot of different course options. She would like to see more of what she considers electives, classes not required that may be useful to a future career, offered as semester courses. We do have courses offered for a semester, but they are paired with another semester course. For example, right now a student can take sociology for a semester, but then the student has to take criminology the following semester. Likewise, a student can take media design for a semester, but then has to take broadcast journalism the following semester. She would like options without the year long commitment. For example, Mrs. Zane would like the students to have the option of taking foods one semester and then photography the next semester. Her request is for more one semester course options.

Mr. Smith thanked Mrs. Zane.

Mr. Smith declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:47pm.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Krauss moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall, on September 13, 2018 at 7:47 p.m., in the HS/MS 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
- 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.

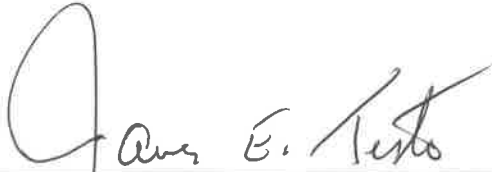
Mrs. Cuccaro seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:11 p.m. Mr. Smith called the Board to order.

Members present were Bernadette Cuccaro, William Dibble, Robert Dinerman, Ira Krauss, Mary Misiukiewicz, Adam Smith and Joseph Walsh.

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Misiukiewicz and seconded by Mr. Krauss, the President declared the meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Testa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

James E. Testa
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
9/13/18

