

The Regular Session of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on May 9, 2019 at the HS/MS Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Board President, Mr. Smith.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Robert Dinerman, Ira Krauss, 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; John Richter, Jr., 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.

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. Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. He commented that we are officially in our awards season, especially for the seniors. The most fun time of the year at the high school. Busy time for the Board, the parents and especially for the students.

Mr. Smith commented that at the May 20th board meeting, Dr. Grip, demographer, will have completed his studies for us on the affordable housing project and he will be presenting his report.

**Public Comments**

Mr. Smith opened the meeting for opportunity for the Public to be heard (on specific agenda items) at 7:32 p.m.

There are no comments.

**ACTION ITEMS**  
**EDUCATION ACTION**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below:

**2018/2019 HIB Investigations Approved**

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent regarding the following 2018/2019 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
Middle School:	17 and 18
Allen W. Roberts:	8
Salt Brook:	4, 5, and 6

**Memorandum of Understanding between New Providence High School and Rutgers School of Health Professions for the 2019/2020 School Year Approved**

2. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between New Providence High School and Rutgers School of Health Professions for the Health Science Careers Program, effective 2019/2020 school year, as per Superintendent’s Memo #14 in the hands of each Board member.

Seconded by: Mr. Dinerman

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mr. Dibble

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Yea Mr. Smith

Absent Mr. Walsh

**PERSONNEL ACTION**

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

**Appointments for the 2018/2019 School Year 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 2018/2019 school year:
  - a. Laura De Nicola, home instruction
  - b. Bianca Crowley, substitute nurse

**2019/2020 School Year Employment Offers for Non-tenured/Non-Tenurable Staff Members Approved**

2. Move that the Board of Education, in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, not offer employment contracts for the 2019/2020 school year to the non-tenured/non-tenurable staff members whose names are on file with the Board Secretary.

**Revisions for the 2018/2019 School Year Approved**

3. Approve the following revisions for the 2018/2019 school year:

- a. LeAnn Tavtigian, teacher, salary approved on 4/25/19 should have been \$69,548, not \$59,548, effective 9/1/18
- b. Susan Marks, secretary, salary approved on 4/25/19 should have been \$41,408, not \$41,108, effective 7/1/18

**Morgan Eriksen, Teacher Request for Unpaid Maternity Leave Approved**

- 4. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Morgan Eriksen, teacher, under state and federal Family Leave Acts for a period of twelve weeks commencing 9/30/19 and ending 1/2/20 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 1/3/20 through and including the last day of the first semester. (Based on 9/20/19 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

**Resignation Accepted**

- 5. Accept the resignation of the following employee:
  - a. Ilze Kancans, teacher, effective 6/30/19

Seconded by: Mrs. Misiukiewicz  
Roll Call Vote:

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Miceli commented that there will likely be new hires approved at the May 20th board meeting. The principals are in the process of interviewing candidates and he is starting to receive recommendations.

Mr. Dinerman asked, how many vacancies do we have?

Dr. Miceli commented that between the staff members retiring and the new positions created for the next school year, he estimated ten to fifteen new hires for the coming school year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Smith commented on the Strategic Planning process. He commented that he and Dr. Miceli are discussing the process. Most districts hire a professional to help them with this process, but we can do this ourselves. We do not need a consultant to figure out what our five year plan will be. Dr. Miceli commented that he took a look at what we did last time. He recalled spending the

entire year reviewing different kinds of topics. He commented that we had nine separate evening sessions with different topics. The community was invited to weigh in on those topics. He reviewed some of what the topics and the issues in each of them. As a result, he came up with a very broad frame of what it would look like this time around. The framework would be in the similar fashion.

Dr. Miceli commented that the initial meeting would be to review with the community what the goals were the last five years, the outcome, and accomplishments with respect to those goals. Next, we would show the Think Tank 2.0 video as an opportunity to evoke a thought process, engage the community in thinking about the future, and what they would like the classrooms to look like K-12 in the next five years. We will open the floor to engage the community and start a conversation, thinking of the concepts that are presented in that video. He listed seven broad topics that were similar last time around, they are:

- Enrollment and Demographics
- Public Relations, Communication, and School Calendar
- Elementary Instruction, Curriculum, and Programs
- Secondary Instruction, Curriculum, and Programs
- Finance, Facilities, and Security
- Special Education, Intervention and Referral Services, and School Counseling
- Athletics, Music and Performing Arts, and Co-Curriculars

Dr. Miceli commented that these topics can be very broad or very specific. These are just some concepts to consider for next year. The Strategic Planning meetings are different from the Superintendent Forums.

Mr. Krauss commented that he attended the Borough Council meeting for their budget presentation. They reported that the Board of Education's budget increase is 2%. He was very upset on hearing this, because it was not accurate. He commented that we prepared our budget in advance and gave them all of our numbers. Our increase is not 2% it is 1.37%. Where they came up with that number, he doesn't know. He knows that if they used the correct numbers as we reported them, the tax increase would be at 1%. He commented that in their calculations, they used \$282,000 as an average house assessment, which was the assessment twenty years ago. If they used the current assessment, they would have come up with the correct numbers. He said he was very upset to say the least.

Mr. Krauss commented that he talked to them and they said they will try and correct their information. Mr. Testa already talked to the Borough Administrator, and they said they will adjust the presentation.

Mr. Smith commented that our budget presentation was done before their budget. Our budget is on our website, how could they have it wrong.

Mr. Krauss commented that somebody has to check the figures and make sure it is reported correctly.

Mr. Testa commented that he received an email from the New Providence Community Pool. When they replace the fencing a couple of years ago, they asked if we would contribute towards the project. We contributed to the cost of the project. Phase II is replacing the walkway and putting some shrubbery on the side of the entrance of the pool. Our students use the bridge when they park at their parking lot. The Borough agreed to fund 75% of the project.

Mr. Testa asked the Board if they would like to contribute to the Phase II of the project.

Mr. Krauss commented that he would agree to contribute 5% of the cost for the walkway, or \$660.00, due to the fact that our students use it.

Mr. Smith commented that it bothers him that they ask us to contribute to their facilities. They use our facilities with no charge, but if the rest of the board would like to contribute, he would not object to it.

Mr. Smith asked if anyone object to agreeing to 5%?

There were no objections to contributing 5%.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Testa commented that the retirement dinner is on June 13th. He asked the Board to let him know who will be attending, so he can respond to the NPEA.

Dr. Miceli commented that he met with the PTA Presidents and they had requested to waive fees that they were charged when they have certain fund raising events that benefit the schools.

Dr. Miceli commented that we charge only the overtime hours that we pay our custodians to cover the event. The PTA specifically requested that fees are waived for their prom fashion show, which raises money through their tricky tray as part of the evening. The money raised from that night goes directly back to the high school. This year the money will go to the courtyard project. They asked if the fees would be waived since they are giving back the money raised directly to the high school. The second thing they asked is if we would take a look at our policy, so that for future events, there will be an exception to waive the fees for certain fundraising functions at the schools.

All Board members agreed to waive the fees for the prom fashion show. Mr. Smith commented that we should look at the policy and clearly specify what and who will be charged.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Smith opened the meeting for comments to the public at 7:56 p.m.

#### **Mr. Brian Haas, Resident**

Mr. Haas commented that everyone is aware of the affordable housing project. He commented that there was talk about a demographer to do a study. He commented that we do not know any information, so this will be hard to predict. How do you know what to expect when we don't know what is being built?

Mr. Smith commented that this is exactly why we hired a demographer. There is a limit on what he can do, but we can gather the available data for him to do his study, and based on that data, he can estimate the potential impact to our community.

Mr. Haas commented that there are so many scenarios and we don't want to keep revisiting the situation.

Mrs. Cuccaro commented that the demographer will look at similar communities like ours, places who has already established affordable housing units, compare it to our District, and then can predict as closely as he can.

Mr. Smith commented that we are being pro-active and getting ahead of the project.

Mr. Krauss commented that at the earliest, we are probably looking around three years before construction even starts. The town does not have to sell anything, they just have to zone the property.

Dr. Miceli commented that the best thing we have done to be ahead of this is to hire Dr. Grip. The last four months, he has been researching and understanding the community. He has pulled a lot of information from all the databases that are available to him to prepare his presentation. Even if he does not have the specificity of what the development might look like, he now has a tremendous baseline data about our community. Once something does come to play, he will take that data, and he will have a much quicker turnaround and give us more accurate data to help us.

Mr. Smith commented that no matter what happens, this Board and future boards will always have the same goal, and that is to educate our children, and make sure we have the teachers, staff, and facilities available to our students.

There being no other public comments, Mr. Smith declared the meeting closed to the public at 8:11 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Krauss moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on May 9, 2019 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. Cuccaro seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

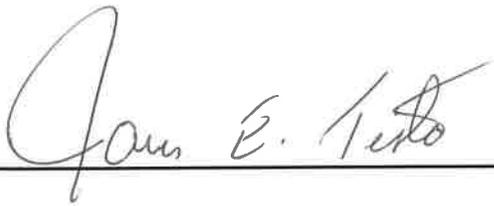
### **Return to Public Session**

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:14 p.m. Mr. Smith called the Board to order.

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

Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Cuccaro, seconded by Mrs. Misiukiewicz, and carried unanimously, Mr. Smith declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James E. Testa". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary  
5/9/19 Board Meeting

