

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 12, 2020 at the High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President, Mrs. Cuccaro.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Robert Dinerman, Ira Krauss and Joseph Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Mr. Scott D.Hough, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; John M. Richter, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and six members of the public.

Mrs. Cuccaro led in the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Cuccaro 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.

COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro welcomed everyone. She commented that she would like to open tonight's meeting by saying thank you to our administration and teaching staff for proactively working on the Pandemic Preparedness Plan and the Online Learning Plan over the course of the last few weeks. Also, thanked the Borough of New Providence, Mayor and Council for their support. The decision to close our schools is one that was weeks in the making. Our staff has been working diligently to get a plan in place that we feel would work best for our students in this situation while satisfying the State mandate for distance learning. New Providence does not have any confirmed cases of the coronavirus at this time and the research suggests the best time to close schools is before it happens. Keeping our teachers, students and community safe is a top priority. This morning when the District set our plan into action, we were the only school district to make the hard decision to close our schools before we were told to do so. Since that time, several districts have followed our lead while others are still putting plans into place. We will continue to monitor the situation as it continues to unfold. In the meantime, stay safe and keep washing those hands!

Mrs. Cuccaro handed the meeting over to Dr. Miceli, Superintendent of Schools.

Dr. Miceli started by thanking the Board for their efforts and collaboration this morning and last evening. He also thanked the Mayor, Borough Council, and the Police Chief, Anthony Buccelli, for supporting us with this decision. He especially thanked the administrative team, who has been extremely patient with him for the past three weeks, working on every detail of this plan,

so that we can be prepared. He thanked all the teachers for their effort and time preparing their lessons, so that we can move forward with this endeavor. He appreciated everyone's contribution and efforts. Dr. Miceli commented that this will not be perfect, but we will do the very best to ensure that we can continue to provide our students with continued instruction. We will continue communicating with the community on a weekly basis so we can update them on our progress, and see whether or not we need modifications to our plan.

District Communications Presentation- Katie Mangel and Sandra Andersen

Mrs. Mangel commented that we are very happy to be launching our new district mobile app and our new social media platforms. This has been a joint effort between our communications team, technology department and athletics department. We want to thank our administrators as well as the department heads and staff members for taking their time in giving us a lot of valuable input and insights to make these platforms the best that they can be. She began with the Messenger app and commented that they worked to develop the app to provide the best information to the community. She demonstrated how to use the app, after downloading it. She commented that what they tried to do is to put forth all the information of the school you choose to see, at the touch of a button.

Mrs. Mangel reviewed the new district Facebook Page and Twitter account.

There was a question on pictures of students being on social media. Mrs. Mangel noted that the district policy of students' photos does still apply, permission is required.

Public Hearing - Mr. Hough

Mrs. Cuccaro, Board President, declares a Public Hearing on the September 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 Student Safety Data System.

- 1. Presentation of the 2019/2020 reporting Period 1 Student Safety Data System.

Mr. Hough, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, presented the Student Safety Data System for 2019/2020 reporting Period 1 as follows:

Reporting Period 1
Sept. 1, 2019- Dec. 31, 2019

District Summary

- 3 Affirmed incidents of HIB
- 0 Incident of Weapons Possession
- 2 Incident of Violence (Simple Threat, Electronic)
- 1 Incident of Vandalism (Theft, less than \$10)
- 1 Incident of Substance Abuse

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Statistics

- Total # of HIB investigations district-wide: **18**
- 6 HS - Investigations (2 affirmed)

- 7 MS - Investigations (0 affirmed)
- 4 SB - Investigations (1 affirmed)
- 1 AWR- Investigations (0 affirmed)

Status of all HIB investigations: All investigations were completed within 10 days as required by law

Nature of HIB on protected categories: Race and/or Color and Gender and/or Gender Identity & Expression

Names of Investigators: Anti-Bullying Specialists in each school
 HS - Brian Henry
 MS - David Chango
 SB - Jonathan Firetto
 AWR - Susan McGeechan

Type/nature of discipline: Detention, In-School Suspension
 Out of School Suspension

Other measures imposed: Student/Parent Conferences and Individual Counseling

Training conducted or programs implemented to reduce HIB:
 HIB Policy staff/students/contracted services
 ABS training law/policy
 Social media/Cyberbullying training
 Health curriculum instruction and activities
 Character Education Programs (Listen, Lift, Lead)
 Peer Relations/Conflict Resolution
 Social Emotional Learning activities
 Red Ribbon Week activities

The President opened the hearing for public comments. There were no comments from the public.

- B. President declares the Public Hearing on the September 1, 2019 through December 1, 2019 Student Safety Data System closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting for an opportunity for the Public to be heard (on specific agenda) at 7:50 p.m.

There were no comments.

ACTION
FINANCE ACTION

Mr. Walsh, committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 5 as listed below:

Tentative Budget for the 2020/2021 School Year Using the 2021/2021 State Aid Figures and Authorize the Board Secretary to Submit to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools Approved

1. Approve the tentative budget for the 2020/2021 School Year using the 2020/2021 state aid figures and authorize the Board Secretary to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with the statutory deadline:

<u>2020/2021 School Year</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenues</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Expenditures	\$42,992,911.00	\$466,910.00	\$2,077,231.00	\$45,537,052.00
Less:				
<u>Anticipated Revenues</u>	<u>\$ 4,054,021.00</u>	<u>\$466,910.00</u>	<u>\$ 530,510.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,051,441.00</u>
Taxes to be Raised	\$38,938,890.00	\$ 0.00	\$1,546,721.00	\$40,485,611.00

After approval by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the State Department of Education and according to law. A public hearing will be held at New Providence High School Media Center, New Providence, New Jersey, on April 29, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2020/2021 School Year.

Adjustments to the Tentative 2020/2021 Annual Budget Approved

2. Approve that the following adjustments are included in the tentative 2020/2021 annual school budget, which will be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for technical review:
 - Adjustment for enrollment: \$62,012.00
The District would utilize this adjustment for supplies and materials necessary to educate our additional students.
 - Adjustment for health care costs: \$0.00
If received, the additional funds are included in the tentative budget and will be utilized to cover the estimated increase in health insurance premium costs.
 - Adjustment for deferred PERS pension contribution: \$0.00
The District would utilize the adjustment, if received, for the purpose of paying any deferral PERS pension costs and/or the additional interest charges.
 - Adjustment for responsibility transferred: \$0.00
The District would utilize this adjustment, if received, for an increase or decrease of costs associated with the transfer of responsibilities.

- Adjustment for banked cap: \$8,383.00
The District utilized this adjustment, as it has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority and must increase the tentative budget in accordance with N.J.A.C 6A:23A-10.3(b).

Travel Expenses Resolution Approved

3. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, Policy #6471, School District Travel Procedures covers the reimbursement process for travel expenses in accordance with New Jersey Statutes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with Policy #6471.

Authorize the Board Secretary to Publish Said Budget After Approval from Board and Executive County Superintendent of Schools Approved

4. After Board and Executive County Superintendent of Schools approval of the tentative budget, authorize the Board Secretary to publish said budget.

Maximum Travel Expenditure Resolution Approved

5. Approve the following resolution:

The Board of Education approves establishing a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$69,800.00 for the 2020/2021 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2019/2020 school year is \$65,400.00 of which \$43,789.59 has been spent and \$11,792.24 encumbered to date.

Seconded by: Mr. Krauss

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Coniglio

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Absent Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Absent Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTION

No Facilities items for approval.

EDUCATION ACTION

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

2019/2020 HIB Investigations Approved

- 1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent regarding the following 2019/2020 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	7
Salt Brook:	6

Settlement Agreement for Student #10446 Approved

- 2. Approve the settlement agreement for Student #10446, copies in the hands of each Board member.

Submission of the Amended FY 2020 IDEA-B Approved

- 3. Approve the submission of the amended Fiscal Year 2020 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA-B) Consolidated Grant Application, in the amount of \$496,471.00, for the period 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2020.

Seconded by: Mr. Walsh

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Coniglio

Yea Mr. Krauss

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Absent Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Absent Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTION

Mr. Walsh, in the absence of Mrs. Misiukiewicz, moved to approve Items 1 through 5 as listed below:

Appointments for the 2019/2020 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 2019/2020 school year:
 - a. Kim Chrisostomides, AWR Title I, Parent Tools for Educational Success Teacher: Feb-March (3 hours @ \$54.87 per hour)

Resignations Accepted

- 2. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
 - a. Andrew Palubniak, playground/lunchroom aide, effective 2/28/20
 - b. Mary Amato, Assistant to the SBA, effective 4/30/20, due to retirement
 - c. Michael Stein, custodian, effective 5/1/20

Revisions for the 2019/2020 School Year Approved

- 3. Approve the following revision for the 2019/2020 school year:
 - a. Anthony Conzentino, boys lacrosse, second assistant, from \$4,892 to \$4,982

Appointment for the 2019/2020 School Year Rescinded

- 4. Rescind the following appointment for the 2019/2020 school year:
 - a. Kaitlyn Conlan – AWR Title I – Parent Tools for Educational Success Teacher: Feb-March (3 hours @ \$54.87 per hour)

Request of Allison Pressman for an Extended Unpaid Child-Rearing Leave for the 2020/2021 School Year Approved

- 5. Approve the request of Allison Pressman, teacher, (currently on maternity leave), for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2020/2021 school year, effective 9/1/20 through 6/30/21.

Seconded by: Mrs. Coniglio

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Coniglio
Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mr. Krauss
Absent Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mr. Dinerman

Absent Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Walsh

BOARD POLICY

No Policy items for approval.

Committee Reports

Committee, Instruction, and Technology

Mr. Dinerman stated that the committee has not met. Mr. Dinerman commented that the administration, faculty and staff have spent a lot of time on the one to one initiative. He commented that when you know that you can distribute ipads and have an effective teaching session because you have established that one to one ipad initiative, it speaks to the quality of the staff, administration and the community.

Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security

Nothing new to report.

Personnel, Management, and Communication

Nothing new to report.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

Ethics training is moved to the next Board Meeting. There was no new business to discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public for comments at 7:54 p.m.

Jennifer Neiderhoffer, Resident

Mrs. Neiderhoffer thanked the district for making the difficult decision of closing the schools. She commented that it was the right choice to take the aggressive action to protect the community. She asked if we were making up the days?

Dr. Miceli commented that there were a lot of mixed messages during the course of this past week from the Department of Health. The guidance from the DOE was that we needed the Department of Health directive in order for us to close. The last twenty four hours, things have been changing. He commented that as of today, there needed to be a collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Health and that our Pandemic Plan be approved by the Department of Education.

We have met all the criteria, so for our purposes right now, we can close and do not need to make up the days.

Jeanne Pate, Resident

Mrs. Pate commented that it was a hard decision to close, but she thanked the district for doing so because it is for the safety of everyone. Her concern was online home instruction for the Kindergarten students. She commented that Kindergarteners need more hands on than anyone and interactions with their teachers and other students. Instead of having online learning, would it be possible to take out spring break and have school during spring break to have that interaction.

Dr. Miceli commented that he does not know where we will be in a couple of weeks. Obviously our greatest challenge in online learning is Pre-K to grade 4. We are at a better place for grades 5-12. We have a lot of anxiety from our staff at the elementary level on how to fully execute this.

Mrs. Pate asked if everyone in the district has access to something that gets them online for this situation? She commented that in her household, not everyone has a laptop. Is there something in place of this online learning?

Dr. Miceli commented that we did an assessment in terms of those students who may not have access to the internet. We have identified those students and we will be able to deliver other instructions to those students.

Mrs. Pate asked about after care. She commented that it's a topic she had asked before and does not want it to be forgotten. She would like to reach out to AWR and see what they do? Why is there such a difference between the Salt Brook and AWR as far as space for after care services?

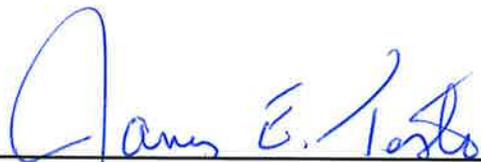
Alexandra Loureiro, Resident

Mrs. Loureiro commented that she was not worried about her children and thanked everyone for the bold decision of closing the schools. She commented that a lot of her neighbors were very concerned and hoped that by now they had calmed down. She understands the concern for the lower grades, but commented that she trusts that we will all make it through. Thank you everyone.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:01 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Krauss, seconded by Mrs. Coniglio, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
March 12, 2020

