

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order, via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. on May 6, 2021, by the Board President, Mrs. Mary Misiukiewicz.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Jennifer Killea, Amanda Marano, Mary Misiukiewicz, Adam Smith and Joe Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools; Lauren Zirpoli, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services; James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary; John M. Richter, Jr., Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision; and eighty-eight members of the public via Zoom.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz led in the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz read the following statement:

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence. Adequate 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 9:30 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.

The following change notice was posted on May 5, 2021.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and in consideration of Executive Order No. 107, the New Providence Board of Education will hold the regular Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 6, 2021, beginning at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom only.

To join the meeting go to: <https://npsdnj.zoom.us/j/98494320239>

Meeting ID: 984 9432 0239

Passcode: 202948

Phone: (929) 205 6099

When you join the meeting, your microphone will be off (muted). If you are a speaking participant, a moderator will enable your microphone and permit you to enable your video.

COMMENTS

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, commented, good Evening Everybody! I thought my comments might be light this evening since we were all together seven days ago, but there is always a lot to highlight from week to week.

As you all know, the sentiments over the last four months have centered on momentum, optimism and getting our students back in the classroom for five days of in person learning. Yesterday was our final "phase in" with the 7th and 9th graders. I know the excitement was high amongst our staff and students in the HS/MS. We did it ...but most importantly, we found a safe balance, or you could call it a sweet spot, we created a covid environment for our students and staff in order to achieve student learning. A huge credit goes out to our administrative team...their plan from the "get go" was clear, concise and effective...look at it this way, since September 2020 all our younger and older Pioneers have been in school, we never rolled back our plans nor did we have to close our schools. We persevered with each challenge and found ways to co-exist w/ Covid-19. Well Done!! Apropos that this week is National Teacher Appreciation Week - not sure if the yummy baked goods, the Cinco de Mayo celebration, the casseroles, salads and beautiful flowers can say thank you enough for the year that was....On behalf of the NP Board of Education, we would like to extend our fullest gratitude for navigating the uncharted territory in the world of Education from March 2020 thru May 2021. No one learned the definition of Pivot and Resilience better than our teachers. We appreciate you, we thank you, we know given the year of unusual circumstances you went above and beyond, you never gave up on our students. Thank you and we hope you all felt the shower of appreciation in our schools this week.

For the remaining six weeks on the academic calendar, we will continue with the current model: Group C students at home and Cohorts A/B in the classroom - at the HS/MS, students are dismissed at 1:04 p.m., w/ lunch, professional period and period 8 remote. At the elementary schools, the students are dismissed at 12:30 p.m., lunch, sessions for small groups, supplemental instruction, and additional support are conducted remotely.

In the Fall/September we are planning to return to school full time. There has been community conversation regarding moving away from the current model into a full time model before school ends as the sentiment is other districts may be offering this. This is an opportunity to explain it is extremely difficult to compare one district to another. District decisions are based on building capacity, enrollment, incident rates, and the number of remote students.

In New Providence, our elementary schools house 687 students at Allen W. Roberts and 644 students at Salt Brook. In both of these schools, our group C population has declined

considerably and our group C students are still returning to the classroom with the portals open. The distance requirement is maintaining six feet social distance while eating with no masks and the cafeteria capacity is 50 students in each building. The capacity limit in combination with roughly a two hour window to serve lunch would not allow for all students to eat. This week, as you are all aware, we had a technology glitch - our administrative team prioritized keeping our students in the classroom with their teachers (opposed to sending them home for virtual learning) . We will remain steadfast to having our students in the buildings for in person learning. It is safe to say the hybrid model is obsolete here in New Providence. We are committed to academic excellence as we round out this school year. We can not wait for full time school beginning September 8th 2021.

Next week, May 9-15, NJ School Board Association designates it as Special Education week. Tonight, I would like to thank Courtney Mallon in advance, who is here with us on Zoom to give us the update from the New Providence Special Education Parent Advisory Group. We want to commend our educators and parents for their dedication to ensuring quality education for students with disabilities. Really looking forward to hearing about what the Parent Advisory Group has planned for our schools next week!!

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Misiukiewicz. He echoed her comments on the student's return to school of our students in grades 7-10. Over the past couple of weeks, we had our seniors come back everyday, then our juniors, so this week, we have all four grades come to everyday learning. We are excited about that and it's great to see the complaints of the old days about traffic at the middle school and high school. This feels more normal than when no one was around. Dr. Miceli thanked the teachers at the middle school and high school and the administration for all their hard work to get up to speed as quickly as possible to allow for all of our students to come back. As Mrs. Misiukiewicz said, we are anticipating that for September of next year, we will be back full days at all four schools, including lunch. We will work this summer to adopt whatever procedures we need to put in place to accomplish that. We are still waiting to get guidance from the Department of Education and the Department of Health in terms of what the specific regulations may or may not look like by September.

Dr. Miceli wanted to reiterate that it is our plan to be back full days next year.

Dr. Miceli commented that in terms of additional updates, there's been a lot of questions, as we continue to progress and get healthier in the community as well as the State. With respect to quarantine requirements, with our current state being moderate, and because the cases are very low in town, as well as in the District, we have been collaborating with the Department of Health as well as our local nurse Aranda, and our three school nurses to discuss what this may look like for the rest of the year.

Dr. Miceli commented that he wanted to let everyone know the changes that will go into effect on Monday, May 10th. Everyone will receive an email tomorrow. He commented on the changes, which are:

For travel, currently, there is a 10 day quarantine if you come back to New Jersey from outside the immediate region:

- In the event that a student tests negative on days 3, 4, or 5 and they furnish their negative test result to the school nurse, they may return to school after day 7 on day 8.
- Any student who is fully vaccinated and has been cleared from that COVID vaccination for the 2 week period and has furnished that vaccination card to the school nurse, they do not need to be quarantined from that travel at all.

In terms of quarantining from close contact or exposure to an infected individual, it used to be 14 day quarantine. Starting Monday:

- 10 day quarantine, in the event a student tests negative, on days 5, 6, 7 and they furnish that negative test to the school nurse, they may return to school on day 7 or day 8. We are reminding everyone that you should continue to monitor symptoms, wear masks, and social distance all the way through day 14, because we recognize that the incubation period still has not changed from that 14 days.

As our school nurses walk through the particular incidents and discuss this with other health officials, we are going to reserve the right that in the event that a student's exposure was high risk, that student would have to quarantine for 14 days.

- If fully vaccinated, and has been cleared from that COVID vaccination for the 2 week period and has furnished that vaccination card to the school nurse, they do not need to quarantine.

Dr. Miceli commented that we have had some glitches this week, in terms of the internet. He reported that by Monday, we will have all of our schools up and running. We anticipate that most of all of our devices will be accessible for all of our students and teachers. He thanked all of the students and teachers for their patience this week. He thanked the tech department who has been working 24/7 this entire week to bring us up to speed.

Dr. Miceli commented that next, he wanted to speak on student progress and their achievements this year and some of our plans over the next couple of months and into next year to help bring all of our students up to speed. He commented that to help him walk through our plans with respect to the federal funds that we will be receiving for the spring, summer and next year, Mr. Richter and Dr. Harvey will present our plans.

ESSER II PLAN 2021

Mr. Richter commented that the school district is receiving funds from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief fund, characterized as ESSER II. There are three components that can be used according to District needs.

**Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) II**

- Funding source for district:
 - Various facility, health, and instructional needs related to Covid-19 - \$285,709
 - Learning Acceleration - \$25,000
 - Mental Health services and supports - \$45,000

Mr. Richter commented that over the last couple of months, our teams of teachers and administrators and across the district have been using numerous data sources, including benchmark assessments, past assessments, grades, teacher and counselor feedback to identify needs. We know that some of our student's achievements have been impacted as a result of the pandemic and due to the switch to the remote only instruction 19-20 school year and hybrid instruction 20-21 school year.

Student achievement data sources

- Elementary benchmarks
 - Independent Reading Assessments
 - iReady Math
- Classroom assessments
- Grades
- Teacher and counselor feedback

Mr. Richter commented that with regards to this summer, identified students will be invited to attend 19 days of the summer achievement program for math and language arts. Student groups will include regular education, basic skills, special education, and English Language Learners. We plan to run that program from the end of June through the end of July. Morning

sessions will be held with 75 minutes instruction for language arts and 75 minutes instruction for Math. We will provide students with small group instruction and individual instruction to master prerequisite skills essential to be successful in the subsequent class.

Summer Achievement Programs

- **Language Arts and Math support for identified students**
 - June 28th through July 23rd (no July 5th)
 - Morning classes
- **1:1 ESL Academic Support**
- **ESL Summer Cultural Experiences**

Mr. Richter commented that the need for instruction will be addressed with our ELL population during the summer as their opportunity for cultural merging, including activities and field trips with our ESL teachers.

Mr. Richter commented that with regards to next year, data from our end of year, grades and assessments will be used along with assessments that we will be administering in September to inform our program. Identified students will be invited to attend after school academic assistance classes, Math, Language Arts and Science. These will be in person after school.

2021-2022 Academic Support Programs

- **Math**
- **Language Arts**
- **Science**
- **SAT and ACT preparation**

The program will run late September through January with assessment data informing possible needs in the spring and there after. Teachers will meet with small groups of students each week with instruction focusing on providing extra help for the current units of study, relatability objectives and remediation based on student's needs. Instructions at the high school will also include preparation for the SAT and ACT.

We are recommending that some of the funds be used for the following:

Instructional and Data Software

- **Performance Matters Assessments**
- **Lexia Reading**
- **Reflex and Frax Math**
- **Padlet**

Mr. Richted commented that part of the grant asks us to dedicate funds to STEM and the Arts, 75% toward the Learning acceleration grant and 25% towards the Broader learning ECOSystem.

Learning Acceleration

- **STEM Enrichment - Robotics**
- **Science Academic Support**
- **Instrumental Music Support**
- **Family Engagement Nights**

Dr. Harvey thanked Mr. Richter for all of his help and support as they went through the planning of the programs. He also thanked Mrs. Shadis, Director of Counseling, who is also pivotal to creating some of the plans and gathering information and ideas. He commented that we looked at the mental health portion and divided it into two camps, one from the development of our staff and the other from direct intervention for our students.

From the professional development side, we have focused on beginning to phase our teachers into the training program for Mental Health First Aid. This is a national program that teaches skills that recognize and respond to signs of mental health issues. As our teachers are on the front line, it is important for them to understand and to begin to recognize how to begin the process of supporting our students.

It is State mandated that all certificated staff in school districts are trained in Suicide Prevention training once every five years. That cycle for us begins again next year.

Mental Health

- **Professional Development**
 - **Mental Health First Aid**
 - **Suicide Prevention Training**
- **Second Step K-5 Curriculum**
- **Summer Counseling**
 - **Mini-camps**
 - **Individual sessions**
- **Pioneers/Jr. Pioneers Mentoring Program**
- **Botvin LifeSkills Training platform**
- **Contracting with Spanish-Speaking Counselors**

Dr. Harvey commented that from the direct intervention perspective, we are looking to provide the Second Step K-5 curriculum for SEL instruction to both elementary schools over the course of the next three years. Second Step is a fully remote SEL program that can be utilized by teachers within the context of their classroom, which very much falls in line with the SEL strategies that we are working to put in place. This program was piloted by Salt Brook, based on a grant that they had received, it is very well thought of. We are going to expand and utilize that for both Salt Brook and Allen W. Roberts for the next three years, K-5.

Dr. Harvey commented that we are also looking to provide some counseling support for our students this summer and to add on to some training and learning programs we are providing.

In addition, we are also looking to run a pilot of the Botvin Lifeskills Training platform. Through our Health classes for the 7th grade students for the next school year, Mr. Murphy and Mr. Carangelo have worked hard to implement this program. In Summer 2022, we are obligated to update our curriculum for Health, so we are hoping a program such as this will help us to move in a way that allows for more promotion of mental health skills, better SEL and positive youth development as well. We are excited to begin that program and perhaps look to expand it as we move forward.

Dr. Harvey commented that because we have an increasing ELL population it is important for us that we are recognizing the needs of those students, to receive support in their languages. We need to look to support a wider range if necessary.

Mrs. Coniglio asked about the mentoring program.

Dr. Harvey commented that the mentors are school staff who participate in the program. We would have them trained and receive professional development over the course of the year.

The students will be selected based on the interest and recommendation of their counselors.

Mrs. Shadis commented that in terms of needing ongoing service in regard to mental health, academic, both or one or the other, we would group them accordingly with the mentor.

Mrs. Marano asked Mr. Richter regarding the small group program for the 19 days over the summer. When would the students find out when they would be eligible for this? Would it be for all portions or some would only receive Math or Language Arts? This is fantastic!

Mr. Richter commented that we are looking to let families know as soon as possible, we are aiming for sometime next week. We have been working through the design of those programs and teachers have been going through their student's progress. There would be students invited to one or the other or both, depending on the student's needs.

Dr. Miceli clarified that all sessions will be in person correct?

Mr. Richter commented yes.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mr. Richter, Dr. Harvey and Mrs. Shadis.

Marijuana Law

Dr. Miceli commented that this year, relatively new, from the State Law perspective, with respect to Marijuana. We invited Chief Gazaway and Captain Henn to our meeting to share with us some of the nuances of the new law if they may or may not have implications for our schools.

Captain Henn commented Good Evening and thank you for having us. He commented that these laws were changed about mid March. They were quickly updated about a week after their implementation upon our notification. The law themselves that were changed are still consistent with what was enacted by legislation a month and a half ago.

Captain Henn commented that it was designed behind the idea of separating Cannabis and Marijuana. Cannabis being the regulated form of marijuana for lack of better terms. For our purposes there you don't see the difference from a testing standpoint. From a positive test, you can not distinguish between the two of them. Cannabis is going to be the substance that the State will regulate through its Cannabis Regulatory Commission. Those rules have not come out to update and bring forth to the public what they will be. The committee was just finalized at the beginning of last month. They do expect a lot of these laws toward the summer time. What has happened immediately is the decriminalization of marijuana and hashish possession. There is nothing to report on the cannabis side until the committee comes out

with the rules related to that. The Police Department and the general public will work along the lines of what possession of marijuana and hashish would look like.

Captain Henn reviewed the law through a powerpoint presentation.

Marijuana and Alcohol Laws

New Providence Police Department

Regulated Cannabis

When the substance is bought, sold, and used under certain conditions, it is treated as "regulated cannabis" and fully legal in New Jersey. Regulated cannabis will not be available for several months as the Cannabis Regulatory Commission issues rules governing its use.

Marijuana and Hashish

All forms of the substance that are not regulated cannabis or medical cannabis are treated as "marijuana" or "hashish". Under the new laws, marijuana and hashish are still defined as "controlled dangerous substances" and are largely decriminalized for no-distribution offenses.

Marijuana Law Changes - Possession

- Simple Possession of marijuana (6 ozs) or hashish (17g)
- Possession of paraphernalia
- Being under the influence
- Possession of either in a motor vehicle

These changes are targeted to decriminalize possession of marijuana and hashish.

Marijuana Law Changes - General

- Officers will no longer take into custody individuals (exception of 3rd Degree and above)
 - No Fingerprinting for most offenses
- Odor of burnt/raw marijuana and hashish no longer establishes "Reasonable Articulate Suspicion"
- Officers can still seize marijuana and hashish

Under the Age of 21

Persons under the age of 21, who possess or consume marijuana, hashish, cannabis or alcohol

- 1st Offense - Written warning (can obtain name, age, DOB) - Parents notified <18 years old
- 2nd Offense - Written warning and provide info on treatment services - Parents notified <18 yoa
- 3rd or more Offenses - Written warning and provide a referral to treatment services - Parents notified <18 yoa. LE Agency to provide notice to referral agency

-No information on treatment services provided yet - Union County responsibility

-Burden on Law Enforcement to track offenses - No framework provided by State of NJ

-Warnings must be wiped every 2 years

- Officers will not ask for consent to search to determine a violation
- Odor does not provide "Reasonable Articulate Suspicion" to initiate a stop
- "Plain Sight" does not provide probable cause to search when in violation of 2C:33-15(a)(1)
- NPPD shall activate their BWC when responding to a suspected violation, which will remain active through the entire encounter...even in school

Scenarios and FAQs

1. Smell of marijuana coming from a vehicle

- a. Traditional Investigation (DWI)
- b. If no DWI, release will take place after the reason for the stop has been addressed

2. Can an Officer initiate or continue a pedestrian stop based on odor

- a. NO

3. Officer encounters individual under the age of 21

- a. Officers cannot request consent to search, use odor to stop, and will not detain, arrest or take into custody or transport (with minor exceptions for information gathering)

4. Refusal to provide Identification (under the age of 21) or turnover observed contraband

- a. Officer should make reasonable efforts to explain situation
- b. Attempts to pervert the administration of the law may subject the individual to an obstruction of justice violation

Deprivation of Civil Rights (Officer)

- Currently, an officer is exposed to a 3rd degree crime if the officer knowingly violates the rights of an underage individual related to these statutes.
- Police have been restricted in their handling and investigation of marijuana and alcohol laws with individuals under the age of 21

Captain Henn commented that this Deprivation of Civil Rights (Officer), Officers open themselves up to a 3rd degree crime. This will have a significant impact on how our officers will engage people. What will be the most interesting are, what the public who report what they believe will be violations of these laws and what they believe to believe the lack of handling those violations of the laws. Very clearly, the laws have been restricted in how we handle these investigations of marijuana or alcohol. Officers will tread very lightly on situations as they present itself because of this Deprivation of Civil Rights issue that was added to the Statute.

School & Police Interactions

- MOU in place between entities is generally unchanged
 - Less information may flow from PD to School
 - "Maintaining order, safety, or discipline" or planning relevant to juvenile development
- Police will still take possession of any contraband found on school property
- Police disposition of student handled on a case by case basis per School is still permitted to take action per their policy

Captain Henn commented that very little has changed in the MOU. The principals in our four schools are the lifeline between our agency, the Board and the District itself. There's a lot of latitude between reporting information directly to those principals, so that they have an understanding of what they might have to engage with their student population. Because much of this information is no longer arrestable or cataloged from a juvenile standpoint, that's where you will see less information flow from our agency to the schools. What we do have and will have is the "maintaining order safety and discipline" and the "planning to relevant juvenile development", it is the fundamental principle that we are looking out for the best interest of the school or student itself. On school property, the police part will still take possession of the any contraband that is found, that's always been the rule and will follow that rule as we move forward. What is important to understand between the Police Department and the school handling of these issues is, our disposition whether it is outside of the school day, it will be likely handled case by case basis, where they will be fact sensitive and the school is still to take action per their policies. Whatever the school has in place, they can still follow their rules from that perspective.

Community Caretaking

- Police still have no obligation to assist people who are intoxicated and reasonably need assistance (regardless of age)
- Community caretaking duties also include simply getting a person home/ to a place of safety
- An officer's community caretaking duties are not limited to situations involving the need for medical intervention

Captain Henn commented that this is the helicopter view of what has taken place as far as the changes in the Marijuana Law.

Dr. Miceli thanked Captain Henn and commented that Captain Henn was able to distinguish the difference between the limitations of what the Police Department now has versus where we stand as a school district, our policies still remain in effect. It might be helpful to clarify the role of the School Resource Officers.

Captain Henn commented that the School Resource Officers are employees of the Police Department that operate in the school districts. They are police officers while they are in the capacity within the schools. What they will do is to act upon the direction of the school principals. Often times, the School Resource Officers will not be engaging in investigations on school matters or activities that take place in school, most often they will act in a disposition matter. The school principals and the assistant principal will still act in the capacity of what they may encounter related to illegal activity unless there is clearly a danger to the school population that the officers will need to get involved.

Mr. Smith commented that nothing in the law changes our policy that students and staff may not use or possess any drug, alcohol or other controlled substances. That remains unchanged and is subject to any discipline the school decides. In the past, when we had found someone using or possessing marijuana in the school, student or staff member, we would have reported that under the MOU to the police. Is that still in place?

Captain Henn commented that we are still working under the guidance that a written warning would be issued for any of those types of investigations. He commented that he would likely say that the school district will handle those things in house. He commented that he can not for sure specifically whether or not the flow of information would allow them to go back to the police with that information, but if it in turn fit within the criteria of just a simple possession under the influence, nothing would change on how we would handle it going forward with disposition purposes.

Dr. Miceli thanked Captain Henn for his time. Dr. Miceli commented, next is a presentation from SEPAG. Dr. Harvey and Mrs. Mallon are here with us for an update from the SEPAG group.

SEPAG

Dr. Harvey commented on Special Education Week. He felt that it is especially poignant this year, given the challenges faced and efforts made, to recognize the teachers, case managers, and therapists for their dedication and passion. I also want to thank the building and central office administration for their support and emphasis on ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn and move forward during this difficult year. To the parents and students, I would like to thank them for all of their efforts and sacrifices made to keep making progress.

Dr. Harvey commented that as a department, we are excited to move forward with our ongoing efforts to increase inclusive opportunities for our students, enhance support across grade levels and developmental ranges, and develop programs to support our students now and in the future.

Dr. Harvey finally commented that he would like to thank our Special Education Parent Advisory Group, SEPAG. He commented that In the last two years, we have worked with a motivated group of parents, including Mrs. Mallon who will speak to this in a moment, to restructure and revitalize this group. We have worked to increase communication and cooperation between the District and the community. As a result of this participation, this year we have provided open forums that have been well attended for parents to share their challenges, training opportunities regarding the enhancement of student mental health at home, and discussion regarding the transitioning of students receiving special education services between schools in district, as well as how to support students who are moving on to college after graduation.

Dr. Harvey commented that we look forward to continuing our work with the SEPAG into next year and beyond. And now I would like to welcome Mrs. Mallon, who will provide additional detail regarding this program.

Mrs. Mallon commented that she is thrilled to be at the meeting to represent the entire Special Education Advisory Group, SEPAG. She commented that she wanted to give a quick shout out to Special Education Week. She thanked Mrs. Misiukiewicz and Dr. Harvey for talking about it. She wanted to give kudos to all the parents in the district, as well as the district administrators, the teachers and therapists, it is really a group effort and it takes a village. We are really proud of the partnership and collaboration that they have been building over the past year and a half and just wanted to take that moment to give a round of applause to everyone. As part of the week, next week, we are doing a couple of things. We have a sign on the AWR lawn thanking our special education teachers and staff. Also a morning announcement next week at Salt Brook and AWR. As part of the announcements, each morning, a couple of facts will be given of a well known person who has ADHD, or Autism, Tourette's, Dyslexia, OCD. It took a while to kind of build it into our amazing Character Ed

program and show how this District can be inclusive. She thanked Mrs. Drexinger and Mrs. Greenwald is partnering with SEPAG and embracing this. She commented that she wanted to share their mission to the new board members.

Mrs. Mallon commented that the SEPAG Mission is:

To facilitate open, transparent collaboration between students, parents, staff, the BOE and community in order to promote inclusion, understanding of, respect for and support of all differently abled children in our community. The group provides input to the district regarding policies, programs and services that impact the special education community. Our ultimate aim is for all children with disabilities to live active, inclusive and enriching lives. We welcome the participation of parents receiving special education services.

Mrs. Mallon commented that she is really proud of the work they have done. We have grown exponentially, it's been amazing.

New Providence SEPAG

Special Education Parent Advisory Group



2020 - 2021 Report

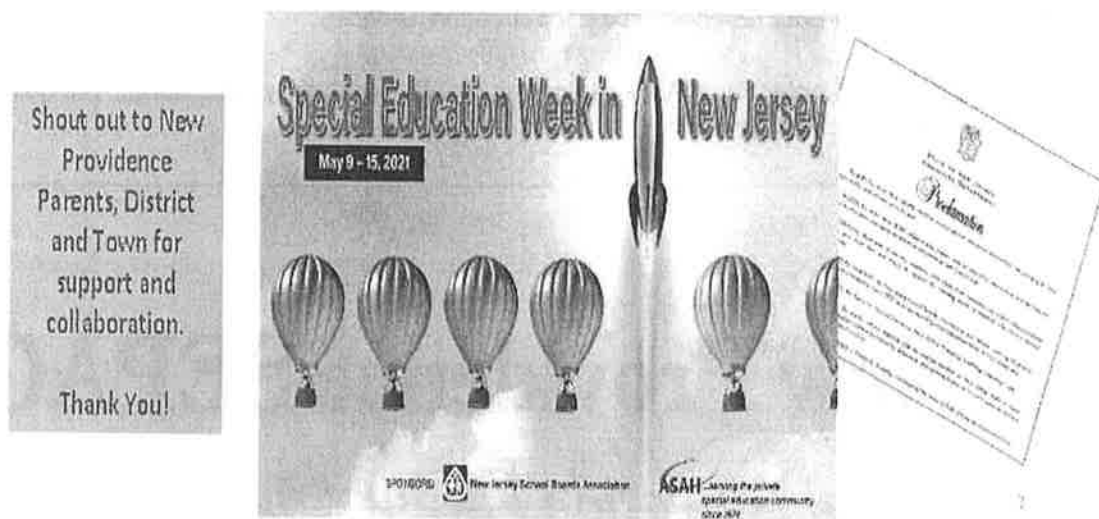
Presented by Courtney Mallon

May 6, 2021 Board of Education Meeting

Special Education Week

May 9 – 15

The New Jersey School Boards Association designates the 2nd week in May each year as *Special Education Week* to honor students, educators, parents, schools and school board members for their dedication to ensuring quality education for students with different abilities and to recognize the hard work of the students themselves



Mrs. Mallon gave a shout out to the amazing parent executive team. These ladies have come in and are incredibly passionately and have helped to build awareness across all of our schools over the past year and a half of what SEPAG is, to put our name out there and how we can collaborate with parents within the district. Kudos to them! They have been amazing. We are just getting started and we are adding more parents and are thrilled to see that.

SEPAG Parent Exec. Team:

Courtney Mallon	AWR	Christine Vivino	AWR
Kelli Sannicarndro	SB	Meghan DiSabato	SB
Lizmarie De Jesus	SB	Amy Barbato	SB
Jen Wetzel	MS	Ana Zamora	HS
Mara Madden- Out of District			

Mrs. Mallon commented on what SEPAG does.

What Does SEPAG DO?

Resource: Host monthly meetings on relevant topics to the community

Support: Share information about relevant programs, events in the community through the district website and NP SEPAG Facebook page

Advocacy: Partner with District leaders to address unmet needs and/or opportunities to enhance inclusion in the District

Bringing Relevant Topics to SPED Community

Overview of Special Education in New Providence

Privacy and the Special Needs Parent

Learning Strategies That Work (ADHD in COVID hybrid learning environment)

What is Co-Teaching? Why is New Providence Adapting this Approach?

What Every Parent Should Know: Special Education Advocacy

School Transitions Panel (Elan LOMs to HS and beyond)

Transitioning to College with an IEP/504

School Re-Entry (COVID) for Special Ed students

Parent Feedback Forum: Virtual Learning Challenges/Concerns

What's Next?

2021-2022 Focus:

Continue to increase parental awareness/involvement

Continue to bring relevant topics/discussions to SPED community

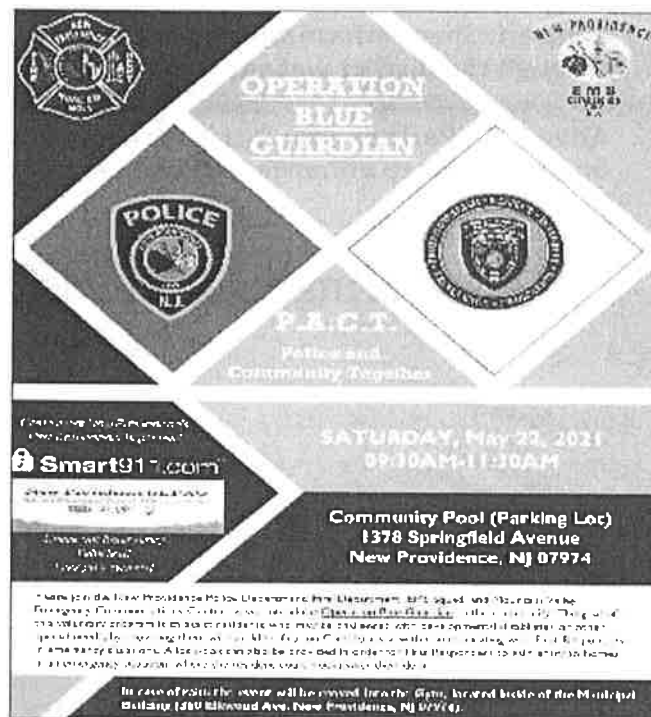
Continue to network with neighboring SEPAGs; identify opportunities to co-host events

Identify additional opportunities to collaborate with District/town

Mrs. Mallon commented that SEPAG partnered with Mrs. Drexinger and Dr. Harvey in a couple of different ways with the LLD kids at Salt Brook. For example, some students do not take the regular bus in the morning and do not have a line to line up with. We worked out a plan so that the kids can be comfortable. Thank you for helping us think through that and how to address situations, really wonderful.

We worked with our town EMS and Police Department, Chief Gazaway, to equip all of our ambulances and Police vehicles with sensory tool kits. This is posted on the SEPAG community forum. These can help folks with different needs and reduce their anxiety. We are also expanding and providing them to AWR and Salt Brook.

Save the Date!



Mrs. Mallon commented this is a quick overview of what SEPAG does in our community. What's next? Hopefully to full time school. We are looking for more relevant topics within the community, and the special education community. Working with neighboring SEPAG groups, maybe co-host events together and also identify opportunities within our broader community where we can have an impact.

Mrs. Mallon wanted to recognize Captain Henn and Chief Gazaway. Save the Date! Goal is to assist our community members who might have abilities, different developmental challenges and provide them with an ID card. This card will help inform first responders on how to respond to that person's needs. The first responders will only have access to this information. She commented that everyone comes to this event on May 22nd.

Mrs. Mallon commented that she is really proud of the group and what they will continue to do next year.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Mallon for her leadership and the group's work and enthusiasm.

Dr. Miceli asked Chief Gazaway to speak about the Police department's collaboration with Mrs. Mallon and SEPAG.

Chief Gazaway commented that the idea of the ID card came from Councilwoman Matsikoudis, who discussed it with her. She commented that it was a great idea and she was really excited to be a part of it. She was able to attend one of the SEPAG meetings. She met Mrs. Mallon and worked together to fine tune the program. The program consists of three different components, ID Card, Lock Box and building a 911 profile. She commented that she doesn't know if everyone is familiar with the smart 911 system, the Borough's emergency notification system. Within this 911 system, we are able to build your profile. If someone has different abilities or challenges, you can build that individual's profile so that when you activate the 911 system, the dispatchers and first responders know, as they're responding, what and how they may need to change their response. This is a great program and I am excited about it. She hopes that everyone joins them on May 22nd.

Dr. Miceli thanked Chief Gazaway.

Mrs. Coniglio thanked Mrs. Mallon for her information. She commented that she wasn't aware of some of the things they do. She asked if a parent wants to get involved, who should they reach out to.

Mrs. Mallon commented that anyone can reach out to her directly, Dr. Harvey, email or on the group's facebook page.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, opened the meeting for the opportunity for the Public to be heard (on specific agenda items) at 8:15 p.m.

Glenn Robertson, NPEA President

Glenn asked if we are replacing our attorney.

Dr. Miceli replied that this is an addition to, not a replacement.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared this portion of the meeting closed.

ACTION ITEMS **FINANCE ACTION**

Mr. Walsh moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below:

Resolution for the 2021/2022 School Year Approved

1. Approve the following resolution for the 2021/2022 school year:

WHEREAS, the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey("ESCNJ"), as Lead Agency for the ESCNJ cooperative pricing system (system identifier #65MCESCCPS), has awarded a contract for proprietary Apple technology products (bid number ESCNJ 18/19-67), effective May 13, 2019 following the public solicitation of sealed bids pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-15, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-13 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-9.1; and

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education is a member of the ESCNJ cooperative pricing system and is authorized to make purchases from contracts awarded by the ESCNJ pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:34-7.1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the Apple technology products covered by the ESCNJ contract sought by the New Providence Board of Education are of such a specialized nature that only such products will meet the needs of the New Providence Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education has heavily invested time and funds into the acquisition and integration of Apple products in local operations; and

WHEREAS, it's not feasible to use non-Apple products to supplement the existing technology initiative; and

WHEREAS, the use of non-Apple products would require either the wholesale replacement of the technology currently used by the New Providence Board of Education or an unsupportable level of training, support and maintenance services that would utterly defeat the purpose of the public contracting laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Providence Board of Education hereby authorizes the purchase of proprietary Apple technology products through ESCNJ contract (Co-op # 65MCESCCPS) from Apple, Inc. 5505 W. Parmer Lane, MS 578-ROA Austin, TX 78727-6524, for the following items during the 2021/2022 school year:

- Purchase four hundred (400) 10.2-inch iPads, 32 GB, Wi-Fi, Silver, in the amount of \$117,600.00
- Purchase three hundred ten (310) 10.2-inch iPads, 128 GB, Wi-Fi, Silver, in the amount of \$122,140.00.
- Purchase seven hundred ten (710) Logitech Rugged Combo 3 Case with Integrated Smart Connector Keyboard for 10.2-inch iPad, in the amount of \$70,964.50.

Appointment of Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLC Approved

2. Approve the following appointment in accordance with the N.J. Statutes 18A:18A-5 for the remainder of 2020/2021 school year:

Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP as attorney for the Board of Education on a fee basis, at a rate of \$325.00-\$350.00 per hour for partners, \$245.00-\$285.00 per hour for associates, and \$145.00 per hour for paralegals.

Seconded by: Mr. Smith
Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Coniglio

Yea Mrs. Marano

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mrs. Killea

Yea Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTION

No Facilities Items for approval.

EDUCATION ACTION

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

Submission and Acceptance of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, ESSER II Fund Approved

1. Approve the submission and acceptance of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund, ESSER II Fund, totaling \$355,709.00. The District will accept ESSER II-Non-Title I funds in the amount of \$285,709.00; Mental Health funds in the amount of \$45,000.00; and, Learning Acceleration funds in the amount of \$25,000.00.

Seconded by: Mrs. Killea
Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Coniglio

Yea Mrs. Marano

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mrs. Killea

Yea Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTION

Mrs. Cuccaro, moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

Non-Tenurable Staff Members Not Offered Employment Contracts for the 2021/2022 School Year **Approved**

1. Move that the Board of Education, in accordance with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, not offer employment contracts for the 2021/2022 school year to the non-tenurable staff members whose names are on the file with the office of the Superintendent.

Seconded by: Mr. Smith

Roll Call Vote:

Yea Mrs. Coniglio

Yea Mrs. Marano

Yea Mrs. Cuccaro

Yea Mrs. Misiukiewicz

Yea Mrs. Killea

Yea Mr. Smith

Yea Mr. Walsh

POLICY

No Board Policy for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, opened the meeting for the opportunity for the Public to be heard at 8:21 p.m.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz commented that public comments are limited to two minutes.

Jody Howell, Resident

Mrs. Howell commented that other districts in the area are going back full time now. What did we not do that would have prepared us to do the same? What are we not doing?

Mrs. Misiukiewicz commented that public comments are not conversations back and forth. She commented that she had remarked in her opening statements that people try to compare with our neighboring districts, but not easy to do. It is extremely difficult to compare. There are a lot of factors, based on building capacity, enrollments, and incident rates.

Dr. Miceli commented that this conversation is taking place around the State and at different communities every single day. Mrs. Misiukiewicz's comments were very accurate without getting into every single detail. He commented that from district to district, you have to look at building capacity, total enrollment and number of students that are still maybe remote and/or who are fully back, as well as the incident rates in each of those communities, as well as their schools. Just to give perspective in terms of collaboration with my colleagues with other school districts, last spring and last summer, we were routinely having a dialogue, two or three times a week, about planning. About six months ago, those conversations for the most part, stopped, because we became independent, because our circumstances from school to school were so different. So working together and collaborating, regionally, we are going to do "x", we couldn't do that any longer because our circumstances are changing and the variables are changing in each of our communities, although we may be tangential to one another. Many of our elementary schools that you see in our surrounding communities, there may be four, five, six of them and their norms would be 200-300 kids. At our elementary schools, we have Pre-K, or K-6 grades with a lot of students. Fortunately, as a result of our conservative, methodical approach over the course of the year, we have seen many of our students who are also in Group C, remote only, who have come back. At one point we were well over 200 students in each elementary school remote and now we are under 100 students. We continue to see as we open up our portals, in the past couple of weeks, more and more students are coming back, as their parents are getting vaccinated, or their families are getting vaccinated and we are getting vaccinated. When you start to do the math, in terms of circumstances with respect to lunch, in sort of completing this full day, if you will, our cafeterias at both elementary schools can approximately hold 50 students, 6-feet socially distanced. This requirement right now if students take off their masks when they are having meals. As you can imagine, if we have approximately 550 or 570 students that are attending everyday at both elementary schools, and you can only have approximately 50 students in the cafeteria, that's 10-11 lunch periods that you need, in order to execute and serve lunch. The duration of our lunch periods is only a certain amount of time, roughly an hour and a half, two hours a day. Currently, in our current set up, with the number of students that we have, we wouldn't be able to execute lunch in the frame that we have, under the current set of regulations. Maybe in other school districts, or another individual school, that doesn't have as many students, in that particular building at that moment in time, or in all their buildings, we have heard from a lot of districts too that many students remain remote. If you have less students in your building and you have greater space, you have the ability to then serve lunch in that way. That's where

you are starting to see scenarios open up. But separate and aside from that, we have found a lot of success. We recognize the significant difference of having our students everyday. We have been talking about that over the past couple of months that our teachers have reported, particularly at our elementary schools, a significant difference from January to February, when our students came in every single day. That progress and that achievement has served all of us well. We have also gotten to a very good methodology, not only in addressing our A and B students in their group settings in the afternoon via Zoom, but also providing that individual instruction for our C students. So remember that our teachers are still zooming with students and need to provide them that individualization, which is different in the morning when our students who are in the A and B cohort, who are in every day now, they are not able to work, our staff, with those students in the groups that they typically would have established in writers and readers workshop as well as our math groupings. The inability to be together in those group settings has impacted our ability to deliver the instructional model that we now have in place for many many years. So our teachers are utilizing the group Zoom sessions to accomplish just that. We have found that the model we have put in place, at the elementary schools, at this point and time, under the current regulations, under the current circumstances, we are achieving maximum achievement, based on all the variables in terms of capacity, enrollment, remote students as well as all in person students. It is really difficult to compare and contrast between school and school, district and district. The plans that we put in place from the very beginning had a guiding principle of health and safety. We have not shut our doors once, and have been open the entire year and have been serving all of our students, whereas many of the other districts have had to shut down, close, not even open on time, and have been in school less than we have this year. It's not necessarily an answer to everyone's question per say, individual circumstances, but we feel really good about what we have achieved thus far this year. The teachers feel very good about the circumstances that we are in right now and we continue to make progress and ultimately we know we are going to land in a really good place in September.

Mrs. Howell commented that we could put tents up in nice weather to eat outside. She commented that she spoke to Mrs. Drexinger and the cafeteria isn't being used right now. She is trying to figure out what we can do best. Livingston, where her friend is a principal, commented that they got it done.

Mrs. Coniglio comments that there are six elementary schools in Livingston, we have two.

Mrs. Howell commented that this doesn't mean the teachers are not doing a great job. Our teachers are doing a great job. She was asking why other districts in the area are able to do it.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz commented that Dr. Miceli did a great job addressing that question as well as herself at the beginning of the meeting.

Laura Casteliano, Resident

Mrs. Casteliano commented that she agreed with what Jody Howell had said. She was disappointed at how we weren't able to get our kids back to school full time.

Monica Macauley, Resident

Mrs. Macaulay commented that she agreed with both parents. She commented at this point, her kids are fried so they wouldn't want to go back right now, she's ok with that but she stands firm and strong that there has to be a plan for full time in September. There has to be a plan to come up with it. If nothing changes regulation wise, we still have the same students, lack of space, the gym can not be a storage space. She hopes that the district has a solid plan. She wants to see it all, there's no reason when concerts, Broadway shows are moving forward. She thanked the teachers and thanked the Board and Dr. Miceli for making it happen to the best of their abilities.

Cindy DePalo, Resident

Mrs. DePalo thanked everyone on the team, including her co-parents, who are concerned about getting the kids back. She commented that her kids are also fried. She is not happy, but commented that this year is a wash. She asked what has been looked at? Can they eat at their desks? Can they stagger lunch periods? In terms of communication, especially as a single working parent, with her kids with an IEP, a week's notice is too short. She wanted more transparency and more lead time. We can't do this anymore, especially in the fall. She commented that the teachers are doing a phenomenal job.

Robbie Bloom, Resident

Mrs. Bloom wanted to present a different perspective. Her daughter is at the high school, and she has been very happy. Her kids are back in school. We could not get the indoor sports at the beginning of the school year and somehow we did it, we got the season in. She commented that it is going well. She has friends in Millburn, who's kids are being offered five days because most people are not coming back, so it's less kids, this is why they are able to have lunch. My daughter said she has full classes. She thinks they are doing very well and the fact that they were able to be in school all year has really really been good. We are doing the best we can under a difficult situation. She agrees that we do need to get back next year and she has confidence that it will be addressed. She commented that we have done better than most districts. She commented that we have done a great job.

Mrs. Gagliolo, Resident

Mrs. Gagliolo asked if anyone has the Board been in touch with the health department and advocate for our children, what the next steps are? What needs to happen to allow the children to have lunch at school.

Dr. Miceli commented that we have had communication with them on a regular basis, weekly basis. He appreciates the notion around inconsistencies. Example is prior to the Spring musical at the high school, we were given notification by multiple members by the Department of Health that the limit would be 25 folks, even in our 1,000 seat auditorium. That was maintained and put in writing, multiple times, as we were trying to schedule that. Then, a number of people reached and got down to Trenton, made some phone calls and contacts and the same executive in Trenton that told us 25 was the limit, five days later told us it was 150. There are a lot of people making decisions on a regular basis that are inconsistent within the department. There are different Department of Health officials in different regions across the State. One part of the State can be saying one thing to their school district and we may be hearing another thing. We are hearing this on calls on a monthly basis from the Department of Health officials that there are so many inconsistencies. There are so many other things that are shared on a monthly and weekly basis and it makes it very difficult for all of us and we share that sentiment with them on a regular basis because it creates exactly what you heard tonight. Everyone is getting different advice. He commented that he used this musical as a perfect example of the weekly rollercoaster that we are on with this, because how can it be 25, five days later 150. That was to our advantage, we were able to have six shows with 150 at each show. It is not something that the Board is determining on a monthly basis, we are executing based on the guidelines being given. He commented that we are trying to do as much face time as we can for our kids.

Rachel Grudberg, Resident

Mrs. Grudberg commented that our district has done a really good job. She commented that we were one of few districts to go back at the beginning of the school year, in September, which she really appreciated. She commented that she was very happy that there were in person instructions. She thanked and applauded the staff and the Board of Education for doing a job in getting our kids in school, obviously, some parents are feeling like we need more face time. She was happy the kids are back five days a week starting February, you obviously worked really hard with constantly changing information. She was wondering if there is a chance to address what's being done for September.

Dr. Miceli commented that at this point, our goal is to have everyone back, full time, in September. Once we get a better sense of what meals will look like and whether or not those regulations shift, then if we are able to run school in a normal set of distancing, like a typical school year, then there's not much for us to do, we are positioned to do everything. If we have to wear masks, or place the plastic dividers, we will purchase and be ready whatever those circumstances will be next year. If the circumstances change, we may have to hire additional staff for supervision during lunch period, or purchase additional resources. We are prepared to do that. He commented that he does not anticipate to get any guidance until late this year, or late this summer in August. We will make the necessary accommodations so that we are full time next year.

Jennifer Niederhoffer, Resident

Mrs. Niederhoffer thanked the high school students who did the musical this year. It was wonderful to see a Broadway musical this year. Great job to everyone involved in *The 25th Annual Putnam Spelling Bee* !

Theresa, Resident

Theresa commented that she wanted to second what the parents say about getting back to school. She commented that she is concerned about her kids, especially the one at Salt Brook Elementary, in second grade, has not been in school for five months and is concerned about his idea and perspective of what school is supposed to be. She commented that she is sure that they are working really hard and hoped that we are back full time in September because the kids need to be back full time.

The Board agreed.

Jeannie P, Resident

Jeannie commented that she wanted to address the technology issue. She wanted to thank the technology team for working hard. It concerned her that there was about a week without afternoon class, especially for the younger grades.

Dr. Miceli commented that we cannot share the details with the community at this time. We have been working on this all week and will share the information at a later date.

Jeannie commented that she was just surprised there weren't any Zoom this week.

Dr. Miceli commented that our tech department is working really hard and is anticipating that we will back up on Monday.

Glenn Robertson, NPEA President

Glenn wanted to thank the PTA for the job that they do for the teachers. We see all the time that the community is very supportive. It's been a long year and having them serve us lunch and bringing ice cream DOTS is certainly appreciated. This could not have come for a better time. He commented that people have been disappointed and this has not been a perfect situation for anyone, but we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Thank you so much!

Maria DeLuca, Resident

Mrs. DeLuca thanked everyone for moving up the dates for children for grade 8 and grade 9. Thank you! She is grateful and appreciative in moving up the deadline.

Amira, Resident

Amira asked if they will stop using iPads in September? When school goes back to normal will it be without technology?

Dr. Miceli commented that the global response to that is technology is here to stay. There will be a greater amount of time that is traditional. We will certainly go back to curriculum the way we had it prior to the onset of COVID. Obviously there's been an extreme insertion of technology in Zoom and alike for remote reasons. He commented that you will see more of a balance approach particularly at the elementary schools back as we transition back in September.

Alex Fadeev, Resident

Mr. Fadeev asked what are the plans about reinstating the snow days? We appreciate the longer break on Memorial Day weekend, but could have been used during technology issues. It would be great if we reinstate full day.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, declared the public portion of the meeting declared closed at 8:55 p.m

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Misiukiewicz moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on May 6, 2021 at 8:55 p.m., via Zoom, to discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specific matters which may generally be described as follows:

- 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.

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Return to Public Session

The Board reconvened to a public session at 10:14 p.m. Mrs. Misiukiewicz called the Board to Order.

Members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Mrs. Killea, Mrs. Marano, Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Mr. Smith, and Mr. Walsh.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Cuccaro, seconded By Mr. Smith, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

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

James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
5/6/21 Board Meeting

