

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on February 24, 2022, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President, Mrs. Misiukiewicz.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Stacey Gunderman, Jennifer Killea, Amanda Marano, Mary Misiukiewicz, and Joseph 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; seventy-nine (79) members of the public.

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 notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL 1975, Chapter 231, in that an actual 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.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that it was nice to have so many people at the meeting. She said she is looking forward to the Curriculum Report presentation. She thanked Ms. Zirpoli, Mr. Richter, the department heads and most of all the students who will be participating in the presentations tonight. She noted that Mr. Richter spent five (5) years as the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision and although he is not presenting tonight, the report is a culmination of all his hard work. She looks forward to the students demonstrating the curricula in real time. She thanked the orchestra and soloists for performing prior to the meeting. She commended the artists whose art work is on display at Borough Hall. Mrs. Misiukiewicz said that lobby of Borough Hall now houses a student art gallery and it is evident that the students are empowered to create their own artwork. The District clearly has very talented students.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz also acknowledged the student representative, Kalina Kornacki. Two weeks ago, Kalina was recognized in a TAP article as the athlete of the week for swimming. The article stated that Kalina is an exemplary captain on the swim team, as well as an excellent student who hopes to major in journalism. Mrs. Misiukiewicz said she knows how much time it takes to be the student representative and she appreciates Kalina being at the Board meeting each month.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Miceli welcomed everyone and also noted that this was the second time Kalina was athlete of the week. She was also nominated for volleyball in the fall. Dr. Miceli asked her to share her report.

STUDENT REPORT

Kalina thanked everyone in the room. The National Honor Society sold candy grams and the proceeds go to benefit the scholarship for tuition or textbooks. The Class of 2022 held a bake sale on Valentine's Day to raise money for Prom which is on June 2nd. Tickets to Seussical, The Musical are on sale. Random Acts of Kindness Day took place on February 17th and any student or staff could recognize any other student or staff for their commitment to the New Providence High School Community. The Class of 2025 will hold a volleyball fundraiser

on March 9th and students and staff are welcome to participate. The cheer team has the state meet on February 27th. The boys and girls track teams finished second and third, respectively, in their sections. The team had six individual champions in the section. Girls basketball advanced to the Union County championships and will play Westfield on Saturday at Keane University. On Monday, February 28th, girls' basketball team will host the first State game on and the boys' basketball team will be at Governor Livingston. The ice hockey team made it to the second round of the States, which is also on Monday. The time and opposing team to be determined. Kalina suggested checking out The Providential to see what students are interested in.

ENROLLMENT

Dr. Miceli presented the enrollment numbers. Enrollment allocations included 694 at Allen W. Roberts, 604 at Salt Brook School, 374 at New Providence Middle School, 655 at New Providence High School, 33 out of district for a grand total of 2,360 students.

GENERAL INFORMATION

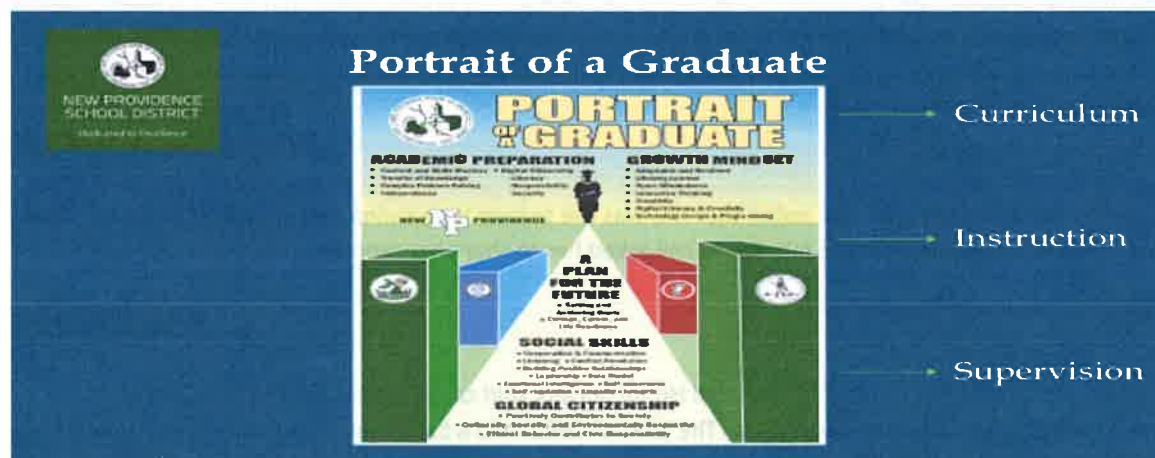
Dr. Miceli noted the Department of Health issued updated guidance yesterday on the March 7th date for lifting the mask mandate. Dr. Miceli will attend a webinar tomorrow with the Department of Health and the Department of Education which will provide further clarification and he will issue communication next week about next steps.

ESSER Program recommendations were sent out last week. Please contact the building principals with any specific questions.

A special video was shown promoting Seussical, The Musical.

DISTRICT CURRICULUM REPORT

Mrs. Zirpoli welcomed everyone and thanked the teachers, department heads, technology staff, counselors, administrators and most of all the students. This year, the District took a look at the pedagogical framework and practices as a result of the shift in the educational landscape. The District focused on what is instructionally best for the students and looked at personalized learning initiatives. Mrs. Zirpoli also thanked Mr. Richter who spent the last two years working on curriculum during a global pandemic and a lot of credit should be given to his hard work.



The Portrait of a Graduate was created as a result of the Think Tank 2.0 committees. It represents the whole student K-12, expectations and aspirations. This past summer past summer twenty-three (23) curricula were rewritten in advance of the full implantation of the 2020 New Jersey Learning Standards. The new standards include climate change across all content areas as well as computer programming in all grade bans. The new standards will prepare student for the rapidly changing world and will be fully implemented by September 2022.

This school year Personalized Learning, Our Journey Towards Student Empowerment and the Core Four by Education Elements was presented by Mrs. Zirpoli, Mr. Richter and Ms. Bromley. Tonight, the students, teachers and department heads will show how they are using the Core Four to personalize learning for all students. In additional to implementing the personalized learning instructional strategy, the District also reviewed the Rubric to Guide Effective Teaching which is the observation rubric and tool. The committee's goal is to complete a comprehensive analysis of our evaluation plan based on best practices and make recommendations for modification that are aligned to the best interest of todays' learner.

Visual Arts & Practical Arts

New Providence Borough Hall

Lincoln Conference Room
"Images of New Providence"

- AWR, Salt Brook, NPMS & NPHS

Lobby
Sampling of Artwork

- AWR, Salt Brook, NPMS & NPHS




Special Thank You to:

Dr. David Miceli
Ms. Bernadette Cuccaro
Ms. Jennifer Johnson-Tiongson
Ms. Donna O'Leary
Ms. Katie Mangel

The student art gallery has been opened at Borough Hall. The Lincoln Conference room shows "Images of New Providence" art work created by students at Allen W. Roberts, Salt Brook and the middle school, as well as, Fine Arts students and the Digital Photography class at the high school. The lobby has a sampling of art work from the elementary schools, the middle school mods and the high school visual arts classes. A glass display case soon will be installed in the Borough Lobby to exhibit sculpture and STEM design projects. Mrs. Zirpoli thanked Ms. Johnson-Tiongson, Visual and Practical Arts Department Head, Mrs. Mangel and Mrs. O'Leary, from the Board Office and Mrs. Cuccaro, Borough Administrator for all their efforts in getting this off the ground.

Social, Emotional Learning Music & Performing Arts



SEL Ambassadors

K-12, thirty-three volunteer teachers/staff members

- Liaisons
- Communicate & share strategies
- Cognizant about students mental health and passionate about tying SEL into the classroom.


New Providence High School

Ben Ruben, Orchestra Director

Nathan He (10) – Brandon Le (10) – Shonchort Mukherjee (12) – Carina Pang (9) – Robert Schmidt (12) – Douglas Sen (10) – Samvit Singhal (11) – Danielle Sheen (10) – Kyra Trumbull (12)

Ms. Shadis, Director of Counseling, and Dr. Harvey, Director of Special Services, started a program which includes thirty-three (33) volunteer teachers and students to act as SEL ambassadors. The ambassadors act as liaisons to bring SEL strategies into the classroom. The orchestra who performed tonight are SEL ambassadors. Mr. Ruben created the program whereby students visit their peers in the classroom to play music for about ten minutes. Over a two-day sign up period, Mr. Ruben and his students visited thirty-four (34) classrooms. Ms. Zirpoli also acknowledged Kyra Trumbull who sang a solo tonight.

Student Reflection




I really liked it and it put me in a very good mood

Felt more motivated and enjoyed school more

I really enjoy the interesting music you played for us. It was really soothing.

TAKE
a
break


Teacher Reflection



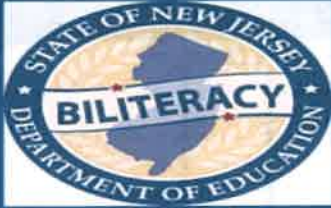
The students seemed more ready to work after listening to the music. Also, I asked them what they thought about it, and they said they really enjoyed it. They likes having the short break in class and were also happy to support their peers in the music department.

My students loved the opportunity to detach from a normal lesson and enjoyed the music played by their peers. They specifically told me how much they appreciated the break. It also made their teacher happy, so that also helps!

Calm



The students and teachers had the opportunity to post reflections after the SEL performances.



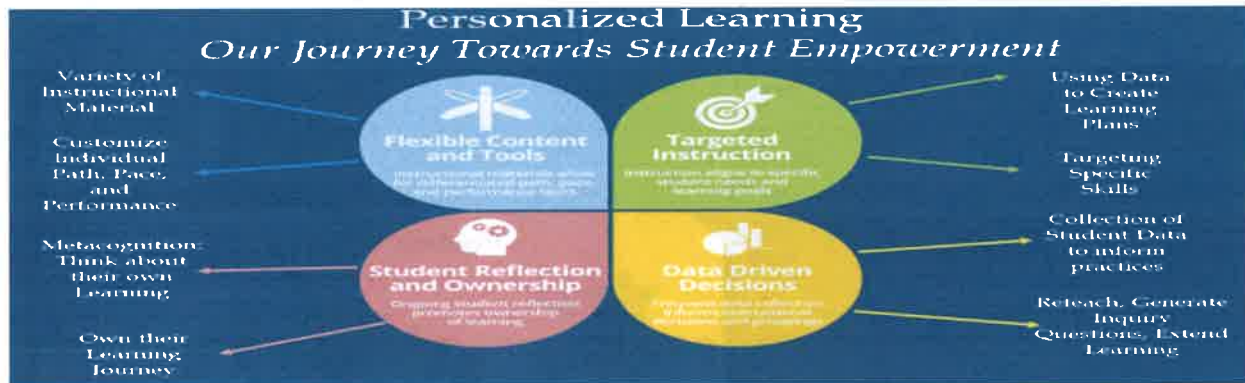
2021-2022- Pilot Year
Class of 2022- 1 student
Class of 2023- 8 students

World Language Seal of Biliteracy

Jointly awarded by the district and the NJDOE to eligible seniors and juniors who demonstrate speaking, reading, comprehending and writing in two or more languages.

Gold seal that appears on the transcript of graduating senior and is a statement of accomplishment for future employers and college admissions.

This year the District introduced the Seal of Biliteracy to our junior and senior students at the high school. A gold seal is placed on students' transcripts and is a statement of accomplishment.



The Core Four Elements include:

1. Flexible Content and Tool: Instructional materials allow for differentiated path, pace and performance tasks.
2. Student Reflection and Ownership: Ongoing student reflection promotes ownership of learning.
3. Targeted Instruction: Instruction aligns to specific student needs and learning goals.
4. Data Driven Decisions: Frequent data collection informs instructional decisions and groupings.

Personalized Learning

1st Grade Math


Presented by:

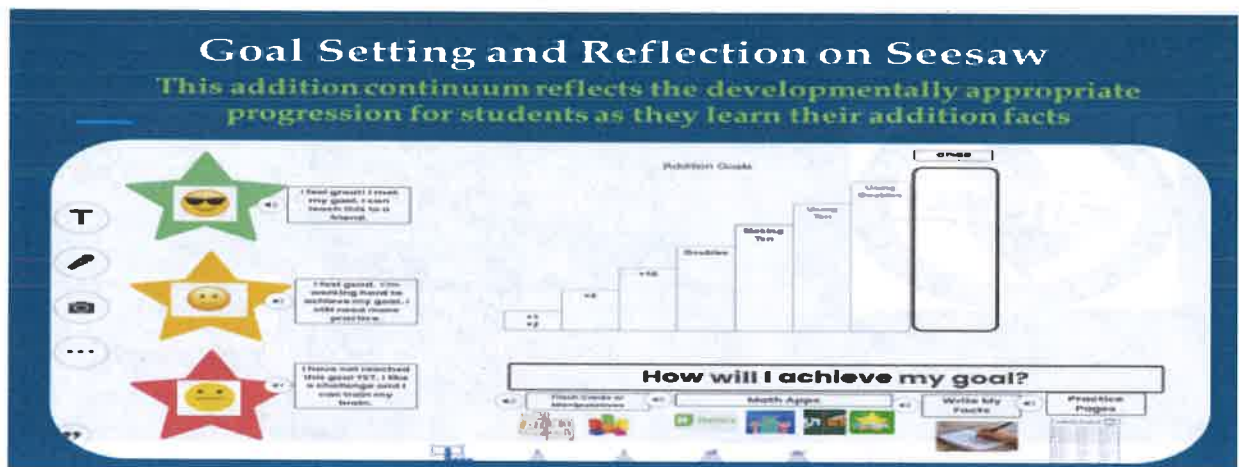
Raquel Witham, 1st Grade Teacher- AWR

Michelle Testa, K-6 Elementary
Department Head

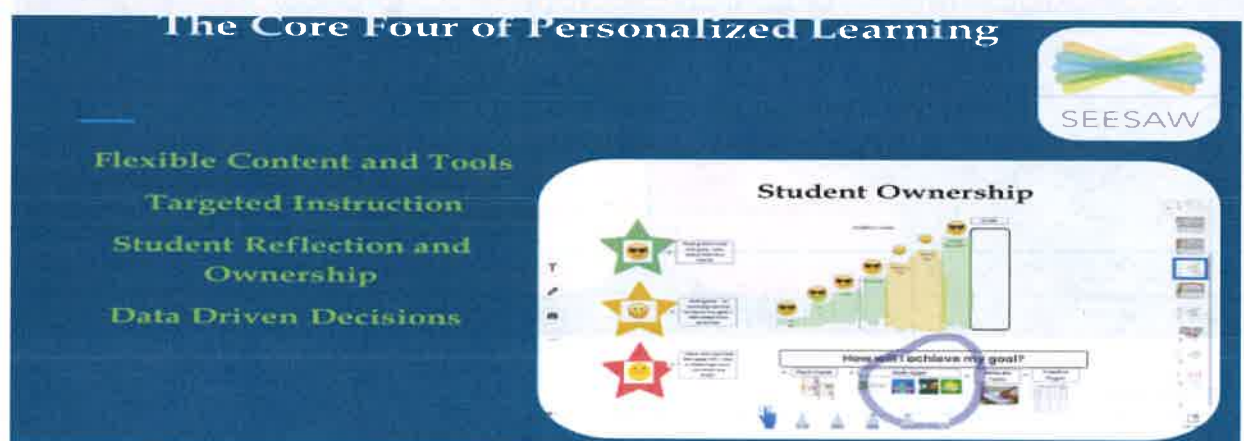
Bella Cuomo, 1st Grade Student- AWR

Gabriela Zielinska, 1st Grade Student- AWR






Ms. Witham said the students used the online platform Seesaw to learn math facts. Seesaw is an online digital platform which empowers students to take ownership, reflect on learning and set goals. The student chooses how to achieve those goals.



The students use the Core Four for personalized learning. Students set a goal as they move through the continuum and choose how to practice. Flexible pace and path allow for differentiation for multiple learning strategies; this can be especially helpful with Early Language Learners. The targeted instruction provides a means for students to adjust their goals and pathways for learning. When ready, students can analyze their own data. First grade math students, Bella Cuomo and Gabriela Zieleniska, demonstrated how personalized learning is used in math. Bella showed how she used the tool for math fact families and Gabriela showed how she used the tool to learn doubles.

Personalized Learning Language Arts

Presented by:
Sydney Marciano, 5th Grade Teacher- Salt Brook
Katie Press, 5th Grade Teacher- Salt Brook
Reisa Mukerjee, 5th Grade Student- Salt Brook



Ms. Marciano and Ms. Press along with 5th grade student, Reisa showed how personalized learning works in a language arts class room. In language arts, personalized learning can be anything from using a Choice Board, where students choose how they want to learn, or the classic workshop model where students work in small groups or one on one. This evening's focus will be on student goal setting and reflection.

Student Reflection & Ownership



Students have frequent opportunities to reflect on what they are learning and to set goals, cultivating ownership of their education.

Students are asked to self-assess and self-reflect on how they are learning and evaluate progress. Students are taught to set and track goals.

WHAT CAN I WORK ON AS A NON- FICTION READER?			
NON-FICTION	Yes/ Always	Kind of/ Sometimes	No/ Never
I read with a purpose, learning not only from the facts, but the words the author chooses.			
I rely on the text to draw inferences and synthesize information.			
I activate their prior knowledge of a subject, drawing on true fact, rather than opinion.			
I change my thinking when new information is presented.			
I select and independently read a nonfiction book with engagement, fluency, and stamina.			
I work to build reading fluency and expression.			
I can discuss reading strategies and growth of thinking with partners.			
I closely attend to nonfiction text features to direct their reading and synthesize information on a page.			
I use nonfiction text features to find information and answer lingering questions they may have.			
I can use knowledge of the text and its features to gain meaning from nonfiction.			
I can chunk text to make meaning and synthesize information.			
I determine the meaning of vocabulary, using tools as necessary.			

The objectives in this model are taken directly from the curriculum and turned into I can statements which makes them seem achievable. Students track progress at the beginning, mid-way and at the end of the unit. Students can develop a goal by looking at their progress.

WHAT CAN I WORK ON AS A NON- FICTION READER?			
NON-FICTION	Yes/ Always	Kind of/ Sometimes	No/ Never
I read with a purpose, learning not only from the facts, but the words the author chooses.			
I rely on the text to draw inferences and synthesize information.			
I activate their prior knowledge of a subject, drawing on true fact, rather than opinion.			
I change my thinking when new information is presented.			
I select and independently read a nonfiction book with engagement, fluency, and stamina.			
I work to build reading fluency and expression.			
I can discuss reading strategies and growth of thinking with partners.			
I closely attend to nonfiction text features to direct their reading and synthesize information on a page.			
I use nonfiction text features to find information and answer lingering questions they may have.			
I can use knowledge of the text and its features to gain meaning from nonfiction.			
I can chunk text to make meaning and synthesize information.			
I determine the meaning of vocabulary, using tools as necessary.			

The chart shows each progression from the beginning of the unit to the middle of the unit.

As the Teacher, I can...

Discuss reading strategies and growth of thinking with partners.

Teach the students how to monitor their own learning and goal setting.

As the Student, I can... Generate a Goal

In our nonfiction unit this year, I want to be able to work better with partners when doing work and not just independently.

Reisa demonstrated how she used the self-assessment and goal setting tools. The first chart showed that she did not discuss reading strategies and growth of thinking with partners. After assessing this, she set the goal of working with others. The second chart shows that she achieved this goal.

Personalized Learning Salt Brook School

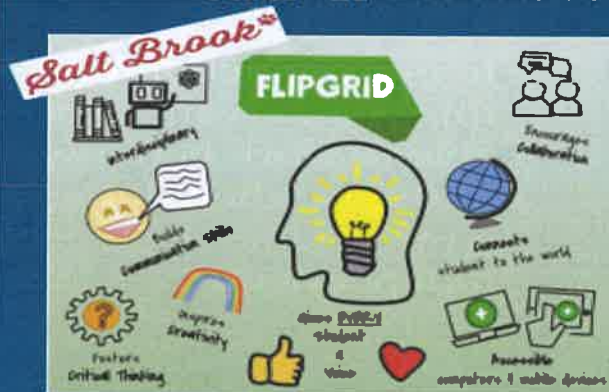
Presented by:
Nick Zipeto, Educational Technology Specialist, Salt Brook

Jillian Kruep- 4th Grade Student, Salt Brook
Lucy Pierro- 3rd Grade Student, Salt Brook
Zoe Bruno- 6th Grade, Salt Brook



Mr. Zipeto discussed the ways in which technology can enhance the curriculum.

Flexible Content and Tools Student Reflection and Ownership



4th Grade Art: Stop Motion Films

-[Pizzatime!](#) (Stop Motion App @ home)

3rd Grade LA: Non-Fiction Book Reports

-[All About Cats](#)

5th Grade Science: NASA News Alert

-[Landing on Mercury](#)

Flipgrid is an online platform in which students can create videos which can be safely shared. The flexible content and tools allow for differentiated pace and gives students ownership and choice when creating individual Flipgrids. Jillian shared her Pizza Time video which was created on Flipgrid and showed how art tells a story. Lucy shared her video about cats and Zoe showed her news alert about Landing on Mercury.

Personalized Learning Elementary Physical Education



Presented by:

Nhan Ngo, K-6 Grade Teacher- AWR
Vinny Carangelo, K-12 Physical Education & Health
Department Head

Archit Gujar - Kindergarten Student, AWR
Allie Rosenblatt - 3rd Grade Student, AWR
Idhant Gupta - 3rd Grade Student, AWR
Emily Van Dillen - 4th Grade Student, AWR



Mr. Carangelo said the goal of purchasing the LÜ began about two years ago. The New Providence Education Foundation (NPEF) funded the purchase of the LÜ for the Allen W. Roberts gymnasium. A second LÜ will be purchased through the NPEF for the Salt Brook gymnasium. The LÜ is an interactive video display and has modernized the physical education experience. It allows for personalized learning and has an ever-growing app content. Gamification is a major component of the way in which Gen Z students learn. Mr. Carangelo said Mr. Ngo was instrumental in researching and vetting the LÜ.

Mr. Ngo explained the LÜ promotes personalized learning because students can choose which activity they want and it keeps them engaged and empowered. It helps with soft skills, like emotional intelligence, team work and social emotional learning with meditation and yoga. Archit he liked the LÜ because it teaches activities and students

can tap to select a game. Allie enjoyed using the LÜ because it keeps her active and provides lots of alternatives. Idhant liked the LÜ because it has lots of activities and the light can be controlled. He also said it is fun and interactive and allows everyone to get involved. Emily felt the LÜ made her stronger and increased her physical fitness.

Lu Interactive Playground


Modernizing and Revolutionizing our Gymnasiums



Meeting the personalized needs of our students in the 21st century with physical, social, & emotional wellness.

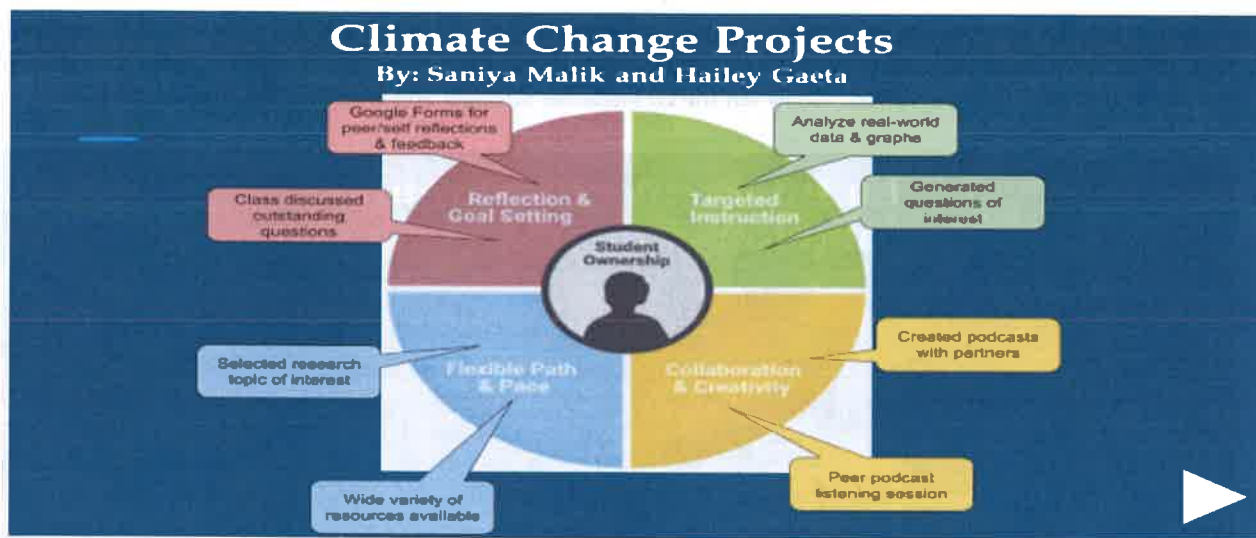
[Lu Interactive Video](#)

Personalized Learning New Providence Middle School

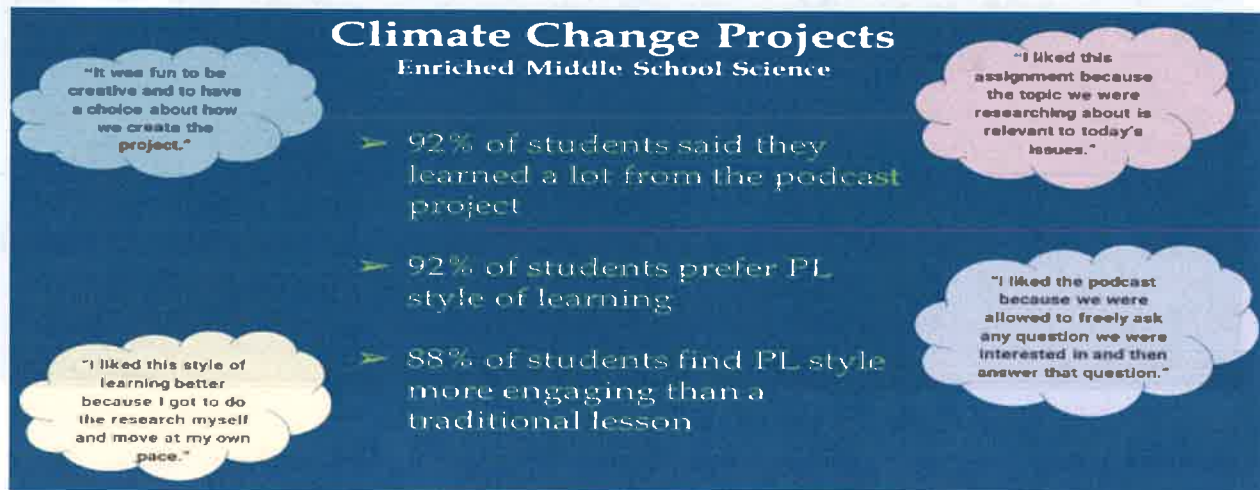


Presented by:
Leah Bromley, 8th Grade Science Teacher- NPMS
K-12 Science Department Head
Holly Pizzonia, 8th Grade Math Teacher- NPMS

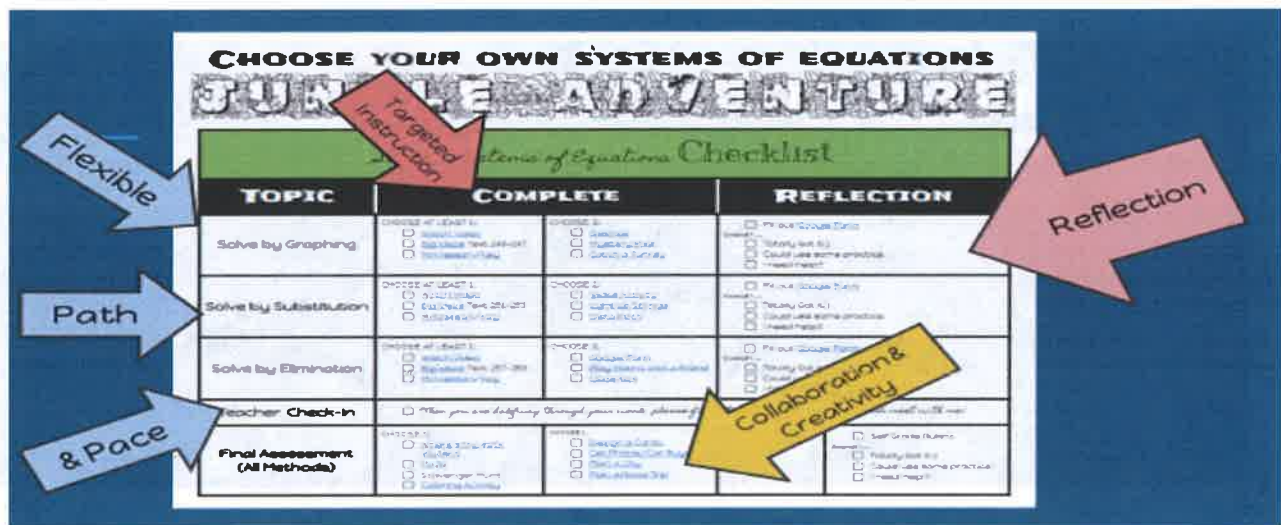
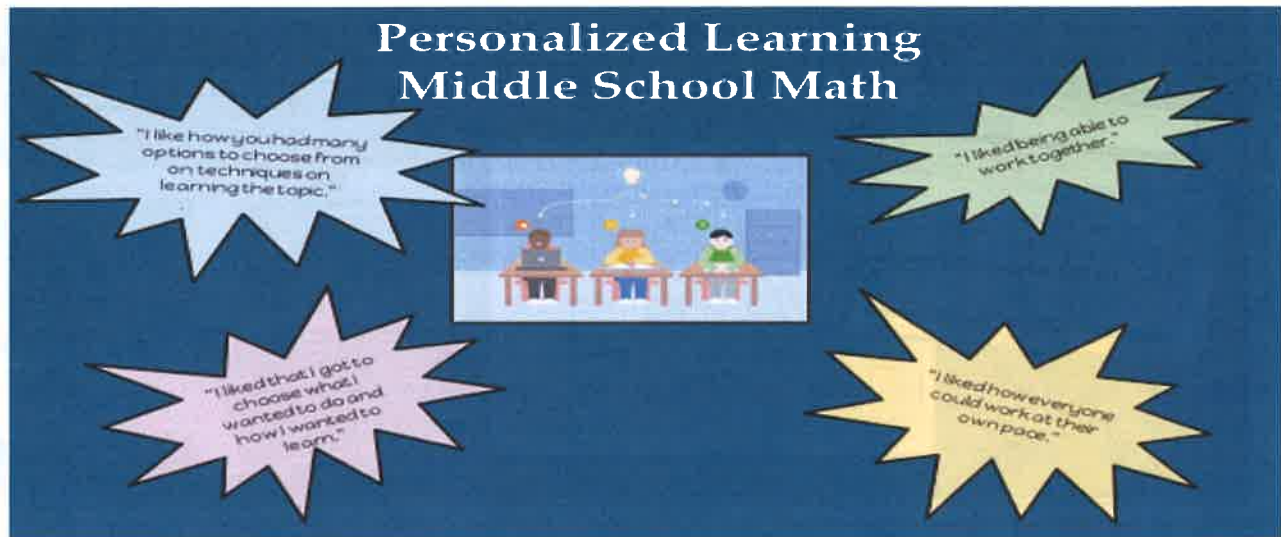
Saniya Malik, 8th Grade Student- NPMS
Hailey Gaeta, 8th Grade Student- NPMS



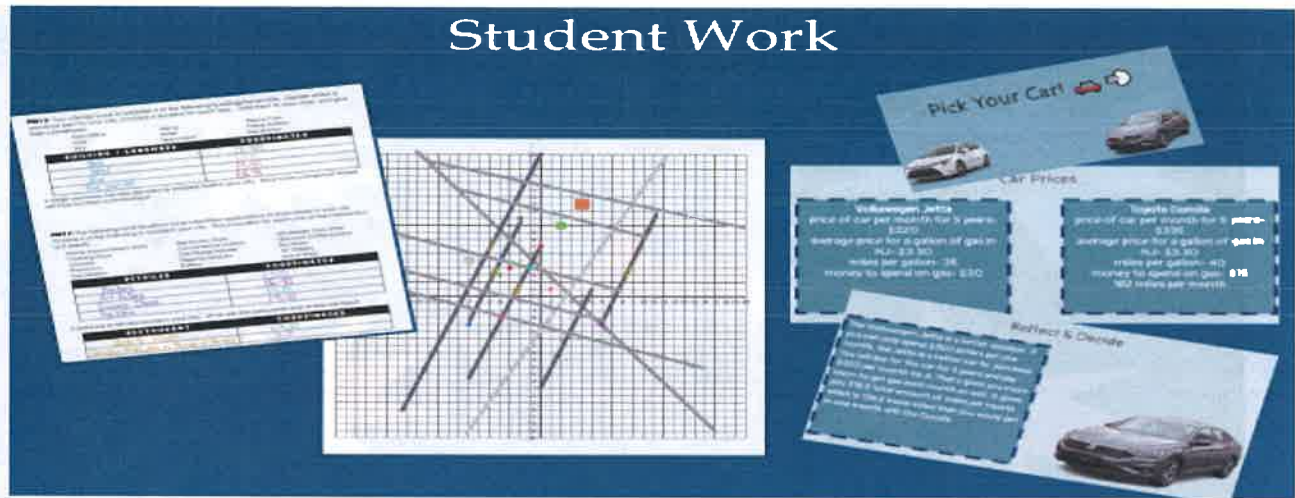
Ms. Bromley said 8th grade science has been using personalized learning throughout the entire year in all units and projects. Saniya and Haley talked about their podcast project on climate change. They analyzed real world data and generated questions based on data and prior knowledge. They worked together to select a question that they were interested in researching and answering in depth. Haley and Saniya conducted research using a wide variety of sources. The final project culminated in the production of a podcast. They both enjoyed making the podcast because it was different way to learn; there were no slides or scripts. It was enjoyable to listen to all the podcasts made by their peers and learn from them. Once the unit was over, they did a reflection on all that they learned from their own podcast as well as their peers' projects. The students shared a portion of the podcast they created.



All year Ms. Bromley has been collecting data on what the students have enjoyed about the process and it has been overwhelmingly positive. Students find it more engaging than a traditional lesson and are learning in the way that they like to learn. Students feel empowered.



Ms. Pizzonia said when planning this unit, she took four principles into account: targeting instruction, flexible path and pace, collaboration/creativity and reflection. She started the unit by having students set goals and develop individual pacing guides. The students had the opportunity to choose how they wanted to learn, each of which allowed for flexibility of path and pace.



The students also had to work together complete the project and fill out a reflection at the end of the unit. Ms. Pizzonia shared examples of her students' work. Overall the students enjoyed learning this way.

Personalized Learning New Providence High School STEM

Presented by:

Michael Criscitello

Programming & Innovation Teacher- NPHS K-12 Stem Department Head

Bobby Bress, 9th Grade Student- NPHS

Samvit Choudhary, 9th Grade Student- NPHS



High School STEM: Programming & Innovation Personalized Learning Experiences



Mr. Criscitello said he and Ms. Rembetsy revamped the Introduction to Programming and Computing Systems curriculum in order to follow the personalized learning objective. The students set goals and worked at their own pace and could choose which programming language and style they wanted to learn. They worked with programming partners to compare results, share ideas and to read each other's code to find errors. Mini-conferences were held to discuss progress.

Samvit showed the Programming Pioneers website that he created. He said he enjoyed the project because he could work at his own pace. If it was an easier lesson, he was able to work faster and could go slower on the more difficult lessons. Through this project he learned that code could be used outside the classroom. Bobby showed the interactive animation that he programmed and displayed the block code and java script. He enjoyed the project because he could choose the programming style.

Mrs. Zirpoli thanked all staff and students who presented this evening and asked the Board if they had any questions or comments.

Mrs. Coniglio said the entire presentation was amazing and she was so impressed. Mrs. Misiukiewicz thanked the students and said she was beyond impressed. Every presentation was interesting and it is clear the New Providence education will prepare students well for the future. Mrs. Cuccaro said this night is always one of the best nights. The District teachers are some of the best around who support each other and have done a tremendous job during the almost three-year pandemic.

Dr. Miceli thanked Ms. Zirpoli and Mr. Richter. It is a very proud moment for him. In 2018, the Think Tank Committee started discussing the next initiative and personalized learning was a big part of those next steps. Unfortunately, with COVID, the District was not able to launch it in 2020. However, the students and teachers persevered and done an incredible job over the past year and he thanked them all for their hard work and the parents for supporting the District.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, declared a Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System for incidents that occurred during Reporting Period 1 - September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Mrs. Zirpoli presented the Student Safety Data System for Reporting Period 1 - September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

District Summary:

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

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Statistics

Total # of HIB investigations district-wide: 14

- 2 HS - Investigations (1 affirmed)
- 2 MS - Investigations (0 affirmed)
- 1 SB - Investigations (1 affirmed)

3 AWR - Investigations (1 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/Mental Physical/or Sensory Disability
Names of Investigators:	Anti-Bullying Specialists in each school HS - Stephanie Kwiatkowski MS - Jonathan Keaney SB - Jonathan Firetto AWR- Sue McGeechan
Type/nature of discipline:	Out of school suspension In school suspension Student/Parent conferences and Individual Counseling

Training conducted or programs implemented to reduce HIB :

HIB Policy Staff/Students/Contracted Service
ABS training law/policy
Social media/Cyberbullying training
Health curriculum instruction and activities
Character Education Program (Rise Up)
Peer Relations/Conflict Resolution
Social Emotional Learning Activities
Red Ribbon Week Activities

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, declared Public Hearing on Student Safety Data System for Reporting Period 1 - September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Misiukiewicz said now was the opportunity for the Public to be heard (on specific agenda items). There were no public comments.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared public portion of the meeting closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	January 6, 2022
Closed Meeting:	January 6, 2022

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Abstain</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Abstain</u>	Mr. Walsh

Mrs. Cuccaro moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	January 24, 2022
Closed Meeting:	January 24, 2022

Mrs. Walsh seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE ACTIONS

Mr. Walsh, Finance Chairperson moved to approve items 1 through 11 as listed below:

BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURES REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for January 2022. No major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

BILL LIST APPROVED

2. Approve the payment of bills for February 2022, in the amount of \$4,188,327.01.

PRESCHOOL DEPOSIT REFUNDED

3. Approve the refund of 2022/2023 preschool tuition deposit in the amount of \$330.00 to Gaojie Hu.

DONATION APPROVED

4. Approve the generous donation to the New Providence High Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$1,700.00.

DONATION APPROVED

5. Approve the generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. James Prunesti to the John R. O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund in the amount \$50.00.

DONATION APPROVED

6. Approve the generous donation of \$395.00 to New Providence High School Science Department from the New Providence High School PTSA for the purchase of Brain Vis Software (EMOTIV product-headsets).

STATE CERTIFIED PER PUPIL COST FOR THE 2020/2021 SCHOOL YEAR APPROVED

7. Approve state certified costs per pupil for the 2020/2021 school year as follows:

Preschool/Kindergarten	\$12,175.00
Grades 1-5	\$14,506.00
Grades 6-8	\$14,579.00
Grades 9-12	\$16,439.00
Learning and/or Language Disability	\$28,922.00
Preschool Disability- Full Time	\$45,248.00
Preschool Disability – Part Time	\$16,049.00

BOND COUNSEL APPROVED FOR PRE-REFERENDUM SERVICES

8. Approve Fitzpatrick & Merritt, as Bond Counsel, for pre-referendum legal services, per N.J.S.A. – 18A: 18A-5, on a fee basis not to exceed \$4,000.00.

ARCHITECT APPROVED FOR PRE-REFERENDUM SERVICES

9. Approve Settembrino Architects for pre-referendum architectural services, as needed by the District, per N.J.S.A. – 18A: 18A-5.

INTERACTIVE DISPLAY AND WALL MOUNTS PURCHASE APPROVED

10. Approve the purchase of ten (10) Teq SMART 6075S Interactive Displays and ten (10) Teq Wall Mounts through national cooperative, Sourcewell (081419-CDW), in an amount not to exceed \$49,690.00.

NEW PROVIDENCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT APPROVED

11. Approve a grant from the New Providence Education Foundation, in the amount of \$26,689.00, for the 2021/2022 school year

Mrs. Coniglio seconded the motion. Mr. Walsh noted the generous donations to the scholarship funds as well as the NPEF grant.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTION

Mr. Walsh, facilities chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 and 2 below:

REVISED SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN APPROVED

1. Approve the revised New Providence Board of Education School Safety and Security Plan for the 2021/2022 school year.

DISPOSAL OF ITEMS APPROVED

2. Approve the disposal of the following textbook items:

Quantity	Textbook	Reason
20	Geography the World and its People (1998) - Student Edition	Outdated
1	Geography the World and its People (1998) -- Teacher Edition	Outdated

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

EDUCATION

Mrs. Coniglio, Education chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 6 as listed below

HIB INVESTIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2021/2022 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	7
Allen W. Roberts:	4

SPECIAL EDUCATION-MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) PROGRAM WAIVER APPROVED

2. In accordance with the requirement of N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.3, the Board of Education authorizes the submission of a request for waiver for the New Providence School District from participation in the Special Education-Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program. This waiver request is based on evidence estimating that the District will have fewer than 40 Medicaid-Eligible Special Education students for the 2022/2023 school year.

OUT-OF-DISTRICT ENROLLMENT APPROVED

3. Approve the enrollment of Student #1401298 at the Center School, for the 2021/2022 school year, at a tuition cost of \$37,577.00, effective 1/31/22.

ONE-TO-ONE AIDE APPROVED

4. Approve a one-to-one aide for student #11224 at Deron I School for the 2021/2022 school year, in the amount of \$14,190.00, effective 2/1/22.

FIELD TRIP DESTINATION APPROVED

5. Approve the following additional field trip destination for the 2021/2022 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8:

- a. Buehler Challenger & Science Center
400 Paramus Rd., Paramus, NJ 07952

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER THREE-YEAR PLAN APPROVED

6. Approve the submission of the English Language Learner Three-Year Plan 2021-2024.

Mrs. Cuccaro seconded the motion. Mrs. Coniglio noted that the school calendars were on the agenda for approval.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTION

Mrs. Cuccaro, Personnel Chairperson moved to approve Items 1 through 6 as listed below:

APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

1. Approve the appointment of the following people with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2021/2022 school year:
- a. Eric Martin, long-term substitute teacher, effective 3/21/22-6/21/22, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$284.50 (prorated Step 1, Column I, base of \$56,899.00) (subject to certification)
 - b. Suzanne Freeman, teacher aide, \$9,734.00 (base \$22,482.00), effective 2/16/22
 - c. Scott Murphy, golf, boys, (spring), head coach, \$6,540.00
 - d. Eric Martin, baseball, boys, (spring), volunteer
 - e. Claire Eberle, lacrosse, girls, (spring), first assistant, \$6,103.00
 - f. Jennifer Brennan Zahtila, substitute teacher/teacher aide (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - g. Donna Gangi, substitute secretary
 - h. Jeanne Lawton, substitute secretary
 - i. Jon Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, \$48,000.00 (base \$144,000.00), effective 3/1/22

ESSER II APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

2. Approve the appointment of the following person with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2021/2022 school year.
This appointment is made under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II).
 - a. Scott Rahner, elementary robotics after-school program, 37 hours @ \$54.87/hr.

STIPEND APPROVED

3. Approve an evening and/or after-hours annual stipend differential for Donna O'Leary for the 2021/2022 school year, in the amount of \$2,000.00, effective 7/1/21 through 6/30/22.

RESIGNATIONS APPROVED

4. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
 - a. Brittany Miller, teacher, effective 4/8/22
 - b. Maria Stiuso, teacher, effective 4/14/22

REVISIONS APPROVED

5. Approve the following revisions for the 2021/2022 school year:
 - a. Dana Simpson, long term substitute teacher aide, \$9,956.00 (base \$22,482.00), effective 10/13/21 through 2/17/22
 - b. Christopher Torsiello, long term substitute teacher, \$30,157.00 (base \$56,899.00), effective 1/24/22 through 6/30/22

FAMILY LEAVE APPROVED

5. Approve the request for unpaid leave for Richard Cruz, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 3/21/22 and ending 6/21/22 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

6. Rescind the following appointments for the 2021/2022 school year:
 - a. Clint Pazdera, golf (spring), head coach, \$6,540.00
 - b. Scott Murphy, golf (spring), first assistant, \$4,578.00
 - c. Morgan Eriksen, lacrosse, girls, (spring), first assistant, \$6,103.00

Mrs. Coniglio seconded the motion. Mrs. Cuccaro said there were a number of appointments, revisions, and rescinded appointments. She also noted that Mr. Keaney was hired as the new Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Supervision. She congratulated him on the appointment. Dr. Miceli spoke about the process of hiring Mr. Keaney. There were fifty (50) applicants for the position. The thirteen (13) committee members interviewed seven (7) candidates, six external and one internal candidate. There were two (2) finalist and Mr. Keaney was recommended. Dr. Miceli outlined the previous positions Mr. Keaney held within the District and welcomed him to the central office.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Misiukiewicz
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

BOARD POLICY

There was no Board Policy for review and approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: Mrs. Coniglio said there was nothing to report.
2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: Mr. Walsh said the committee met with Mr. Testa and Dr. Miceli to review the 2022/2023 Budget. He asked the other Board members to provide comments by March 10th. The budget has to be submitted to the county office by March 28th for approval. The committee will meet next week to discuss the potential bond referendum. Dr. Miceli thanked Mr. Testa for the work he has done on getting the architect and bond counsel approved for the potential bond referendum and his work on the budget. Mr. Testa added that the bond counsel and architect will be used for pre-referendum services, if the Board decides to move forward with the bond referendum. With regards to the budget, the Governor changed the budget message date which changed the budget timeline. Therefore, the Board can use the March 24th Board meeting to approve the budget.
3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: Mrs. Cuccaro said there was nothing to report. Mrs. Cuccaro noted the Teacher of the Year recipients, Mr. Dougher from the high school, Mr. Bennington from the middle school, Ms. Joyce from Allen W. Roberts and Ms. Powers from Salt Brook. She noted there were a lot of strong candidates and it made her realize all wonderful teachers that the District is fortunate to have.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Testa noted the Board received their Code of Ethics PowerPoint presentation and the Acknowledgement of Receipt. The Acknowledgement must be signed and sent to the county office. The presentation reviews the School Ethics Act and provides scenarios in which Board members should and should not participate. If Board members ever have questions, they should let Mr. Testa know and he will contact the ethics board or the Board attorney for guidance. By law, this must be put on the agenda and reviewed every year.

Dr. Miceli said the Thanksgiving Game versus Governor Livingston has been changed to the pre-season Kick-Off Classic. The NJSIAA has made changes to the calendar in order to have a true State champion in football and as a result it is not feasible to hold the Thanksgiving Day game. Dr. Miceli asked Mr. Carangelo to speak about the changes in the schedule.

Mr. Carangelo said the District has been looking at the schedule over the past four years. The changes in the State schedule make it almost impossible to have the Thanksgiving Day game and is not in the best interest of our student athletes. The District wants to keep the tradition and the excitement of the Thanksgiving game and move it to the first game of the season. For the majority of the Thanksgiving games played, there is a thirteen (13) day break between the end of the season and the Thanksgiving Day game. Next year it would be a twenty-seven (27) day break and to wait a month is not in the best interest of the athletes. Student ambassadors to the NJSIAA overwhelmingly said they wanted a break in between seasons. Moving the game to a Kick-Off classic would allow students to get that break. The game would take place August 26th. Mr. Carangelo noted that a number of alumni may still be on summer break and can attend the game. Mrs. Cuccaro asked if preseason would start earlier. Mr. Carangelo confirmed that it would not start earlier.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, opened the meeting to public comments at 8:49 p.m. and reminded the public to limit their comments to two minutes and to state their name and address.

Peter Springer, Tall Oaks Drive

Mr. Springer spoke about the mask mandate. He said kids under five have no protection against COVID. He told the story of his sister passing away from a congenital heart defect and he knows personally how a child dying can devastate a community. He asks that the Board consider the severity of that outcome. The long-term symptoms of COVID are still unknown and can set off a chain reaction of symptoms. COVID patients experience high rate of anxiety and depression. He asked the District to consider continuing the mask mandate.

Dan Oppershauser, 100 Oakwood Drive

Mr. Oppershauser said the change in the football schedule is regrettable. He also noted that he had Mr. Keaney in 1990s and the District is very lucky to have him in that position and he could not be happier for him.

Dr. Sue Wang, 19 Pine Way

Dr. Wang acknowledged the amazing work of the students who presented. She is grateful for all the work to make in-person education happen. However, she does not feel that the mask mandate should be lifted. She is concerned because children under five do not have any protection from the highly transmissible variant. Dr. Wang shared vaccination statistics and noted that New Jersey lags in the vaccination rate for children under sixteen (16). Masking is an important strategy. The risk is greater in some families and unmasking puts them at greater risk. The District's top guiding principles are the health and safety of the students and staff and communication. Removing masks and not having thresholds goes against the guiding principles. She requested a delay in lifting the mask, onsite testing and completing contact tracing until other safety measures are in place. She would also like to see reimplementation of the COVID letters. She shared a letter with the Board with forty-seven signatures.

Ryan McDonald, 22 Hillside Terrace

Mr. McDonald has a child about to start pre-k and he is concerned that it will be a mask free environment. He feels lifting the mask mandate is rushed. He would like to keep the mandate until those who can't be vaccinated are able to do so. He would like those children to have full protection before the layers of protection are removed.

Greg Schivley, 17 Badgely Drive

Mr. Schivley would like the mask mandate to stay in place until everyone has a chance to be vaccinated. The New Jersey Department of Health recommends a clear plan to move forward. He asked what the metrics were for when the masks will need to be worn again. He also asked for clear communication regarding the guidelines if the District sees an increase in cases. He reiterated that he wants clear guidance with metrics.

Dr. Hayden Epsom, 143 Crane Circle

Dr. Hayden Epsom congratulated Mr. Keaney on his appointment and said she had him for AP Biology. He is one of the reasons she went into medicine. Dr. Hayden Epsom asked for two questions to be answered. Why isn't the empirical evidence the main driver of decisions and why are teachers and parents not listened to? Furthermore, why did the District lift the mask mandate, two to three hours after the Governor announced it without community input. She feels there is a lack of collaboration with other school districts and a lack of guidance from the school nurses. Lifting the mask mandate will put others at risk. Dr. Hayden Epsom said parents are in the dark and noted there was no survey to assess the comfort level of the parents. She would like to see a plan with thresholds, positivity rates and timely updates.

Miguel Marshall, 123 South Street

Mr. Marshall stated they moved during the pandemic from Jersey City and did not have the opportunity to tour the school before moving. He had to trust the District and has been pleased so far. He has found the community very welcoming and he thanked the Board for all the hard work.

Diane Pereira, 92 Pine Way

Ms. Pereira thanked the school board for all the behind the scenes work. She is the high school PTSA president and noted that Dr. Miceli has been at the meetings and answered all questions and is extremely open about answering questions. She noted that wearing a mask is optional and parents should have their children wear one if they are not comfortable.

Tatiana, Gleenbrook Road

She thanked the Board for all their balanced approach. Mental health has been affected by COVID measures and she is excited to see the mask mandate lifted. She said the Board is doing a great job and the students who do so well speak for the District.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz asked if there were any more public comments. Mrs. Gunderman asked for a minute to speak. She thanked everyone who spoke at the meeting and said all of their voices are important. She said since the District relies on its regional partners, could the District offer a public health forum with Megan Avallone to address the new guidelines. She said it would pair well with communications. The public could ask questions which would be interpreted by local health leaders.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz commented that she does not think a meeting would be necessary. Ms. Avallone is a public official who can be contacted at any time. The public can email or call her directly with questions. During the height of the pandemic, Ms. Avallone participated in a meeting. Governor Murphy said we are at a new step, post pandemic. Omicron has receded and hospitalizations are down. The State is no longer in a state of emergency. For the past three years the District has pivoted. If the District needs to pivot again and reinstitute the mask mandate, it will do so. The priority remains the health and safety of the students and staff. The District is moving from a pandemic response to an endemic response and must learn to coexist with COVID. Masks are optional and if parents feel their children should continue to wear masks, they must let their children know that. Parents should make the best decision for their family. Mrs. Misiukiewicz reiterated that at this point she did not see the need for Ms. Avallone to attend a meeting.

Mrs. Coniglio agreed with Mrs. Misiukiewicz and said she did not feel it was necessary at this time. She said she has faith and confidence in the administrators. She said there needs to be trust and gratitude.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President, declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 9:25 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on February 24, 2022 in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act, specific matters which may be generally described as follows:

Student matters related to Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying
Negotiations and
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.

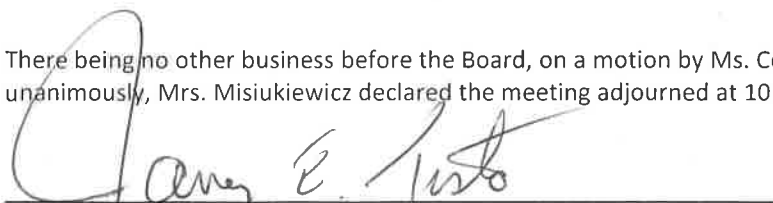
Mr. Walsh seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to a public session at 10:18 p.m. Mrs. Misiukiewicz called the Board to order. Members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Killea, Mrs. Marano, Mrs. Misiukiewicz, and Mr. Walsh.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Ms. Coniglio, seconded by Mr. Walsh and carried unanimously, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the meeting adjourned at 10:19 p.m.



James E. Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
02/24/2022 Board Meeting

