

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 27, 2023, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Mrs. Misiukiewicz, Board President.

Present on the roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Stacey Gunderman, Mary Misiukiewicz, and Mr. Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Lauren Zirpoli, Assistant Superintendent, and Jon Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and 12 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 a notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Whenever the business of the Board requires it to convene to a Closed session, the session will begin no later than 9:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the need for a 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.

### **BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz thanked everyone for coming and hoped everyone has had a good summer so far and commented she was excited for the start of school in five weeks.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz then turned the meeting over to Dr. Miceli.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Misiukiewicz and asked Mrs. Zirpoli for her enrollment report.

### **ENROLLMENT**

Mrs. Zirpoli gave the enrollment report for the following schools as of June 30, 2023; Allen W. Roberts has 680 students, Salt Brook has 613 students, Middle School has 398 students, High School has 657 students, 38 out of district students, giving a grand total of 2,386 students.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mrs. Zirpoli and continued to give an update on the bond projects as follows:

- The High/Middle School track resurfacing has been completed and is now open to the public.
- The High School and Salt Brook School bleachers have been removed and installation should be completed by August 15, 2023.
- The High/Middle School faculty bathrooms are 50% complete, they should be completed at the end of August.
- The High/Middle School flooring is 80% complete, flooring should be completed on August 15, 2023.
- Salt Brook School and Allen W. Roberts School furniture has been delivered and installed at the schools
- High/Middle School furniture installation is in progress, due to be completed next week.
- High/Middle School roofing is due to be completed August 15th - August 30th.
- HVAC update from Mr. Testa as follows: During the bid process, the District received two bids and both were over budget. There is a resolution on the agenda tonight to reject the two bids that were received. The District will go out to bid again. If the second bid fails then the District will

have the option to negotiate with vendors. At this time, with the first bid failing, we are still on schedule with the HVAC project.

- High School gym flooring is now completed
- At the August 31st board meeting, there will be an opportunity to tour the completed projects.

Dr. Miceli took a moment to thank the extended school year and ESSER staff for all their hard work and dedication. Additionally, he commented that with full-day kindergarten becoming available this Fall 2023, there have been more registrants than expected. We will send enrollment numbers to Dr. Gripp for him to re-analyze and see if there is a need to adjust the re-districting plan.

Dr. Miceli went on to review the recommended team cuts. Currently, seventy-two students have registered for the boy’s soccer team. The seventy-two participating students would be developmentally inappropriate for our three teams. Boys soccer has been forced to have cuts for the past four athletic seasons, due to the high interest levels for the sport. Roughly six to eight students will be cut.

Girl’s volleyball has a total of fifty-three students registered for volleyball. With thirty-six upperclassmen registered, the average roster size for Varsity and JV would be eighteen, typically twelve to fifteen would be the absolute largest roster size. Therefore, roughly ten students will be cut depending on roster breakdowns during tryouts.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz opened the meeting to the public at 7:09 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:09 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	June 29, 2023
Closed Session:	June 29, 2023

Mrs. Cuccaro 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>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Absent</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 10:

**BOARD SECRETARY REPORT APPROVED**

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for June 2023. No major account or fund has been over expended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

**BILL LIST APPROVED**

2. Approve the payment of bills for July 2023, in the amount of \$ 4,548,874.71.

**FITZPATRICK & MERRITT BOND COUNSEL APPROVED**

3. Approve Fitzpatrick & Merritt, Bond Counsel for additional post-referendum legal services as per N.J.S.A – 18a:18a-5, not to exceed \$4,500.00.

**DONATIONS APPROVED**

4. Approve the generous donation from the NPHS PTSA, NPHS Athletic Booster Club, and NPMS PTO to the New Providence High/Middle School for a digital outdoor sign and directional signs, in the total amount of \$23,000.00.

**PARENTAL STUDENT TRANSPORTATION APPROVED**

5. Approve the parent of student # 11896 to transport to Bragg Elementary School, Chester, NJ during the 2023 extended school year program, in the amount of \$1,414.80.

**BUS COMPANIES APPROVED**

6. Approve the following bus companies for athletics, extracurricular, and field trip transportation in the event the Morris-Union Jointure Commission is unable to provide transportation for the 2023/2024 school year:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>2023/2024 Rates</u>
Belair Transport	Orange	\$90.00/hr. – In-state \$100.00/hr. – Out-of-state
Durham Charter Services	Roselle	Price to be determined based on trip
First Student	Chatham	Price to be determined based on trip
Passaic Valley Coach	Chatham	Price to be determined based on trip
Villani Bus Company	Linden	Price to be determined based on trip

**MORRIS-UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION AGREEMENT APPROVED**

7. Approve the agreement between the Morris-Union Jointure Commission and the New Providence Board of Education for vehicle and bus fleet maintenance for the 2023/2024 school year.

**IREADY MATH PROGRAM PURCHASE APPROVED**

- 8. Approve the following purchase in accordance with N.J. Statutes 18A:18A-5(a)(5) for the 2023/2024 school year:

- iReady Math Classroom workbooks, Supplemental Resources, and Program Training for Grades K-6 from Curriculum Associates, not to exceed \$90,345.68

**SECURITY BENEFIT APPROVED**

- 9. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the District has maintained the New Providence School District’s 403(b), ROTH 403(b), and 457 (“the Plan”) for the benefit of its eligible employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the District has reserved the right to amend the Plan at any time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education of the District has determined that it would be in the best interest of the District to amend the Plan;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Plan shall be amended to add Security Benefit as an approved vendor effective as soon as administratively possible after the signature date.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the officers of the District hereby are authorized to execute such documents and to take other additional actions as they shall deem necessary or appropriate to effect the foregoing resolution.

**RESOLUTION TO REJECT ALL HVAC BIDS APPROVED**

- 10. Approve the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, on July 20, 2023 the New Providence Board of Education accepted bids from two (2) contractors for the HVAC Upgrades @ District Schools; Allen W. Roberts School (Contract #1), Salt Brook School (Contract #2) and New Providence High/Middle School (Contract #3) and

**WHEREAS**, the apparent low base bids were received from Thassian Mechanical Contracting, Inc. of Belford, NJ for Salt Brook School (Contract #2) and Unitemp Mechanical Degrees of Somerset NJ, for New Providence High/Middle School (Contract #3) and

**WHEREAS**, there were no bids received for Allen W. Roberts School (Contract #1) and

**WHEREAS**, the two base bids exceeded both the referendum funds allocated towards the project as well as the cost estimates of the District’s architect, and

**WHEREAS**, it is the recommendation of the School Business Administrator and Settembrino Architects to reject all bids,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Providence Board of Education accept the recommendation to reject all HVAC Upgrades @ Allen W. Roberts School (Contract #1), Salt Brook School (Contract #2) and New Providence High/Middle School (Contract #3) bids submitted on July 20, 2023 and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Providence Board of Education authorizes the School Business Administrator to re-bid the project as soon as practicable.

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

Roll call vote:

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

**FACILITIES ACTIONS**

Mr. Walsh, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve Item 1:

**DISPOSAL APPROVED**

1. Approve the donation of the items listed under Exhibit A: as they are either broken, unrepairable, outdated, and/or no longer deemed necessary for school use. (EXHIBIT A)

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

Roll call vote:

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

**EDUCATION ACTIONS**

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Items 1 through 9:

**2022/2023 HIB RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL**

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2022/2023 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	13, 14, 15
Salt Brook:	8

**BRIGHTSIDE FAMILY SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVED**

2. Approve Brightside Family Services, to provide counseling services for the 2023/2024 school year to Spanish speaking ELL students, at a cost of \$160.00/hr., as allocated through the ESSER fund grant.

**2023/2024 OUT-OF-DISTRICT PLACEMENTS/TUITIONS APPROVED**

- 3. Approve the 10-month classified out-of-district placements/tuitions for the 2023/2024 school year, per attached list. **(EXHIBIT B)**

**SUMMER 2023 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR PROGRAM APPROVED**

- 4. Approve the extended school year program--Summer 2023--classified out-of-district placements/tuitions, per attached list. **(EXHIBIT B)**

**2023/204 ANTICIPATED FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS APPROVED**

- 5. Approve the attached list of anticipated field trip destinations for the 2023/2024 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8. **(EXHIBIT C)**

**2023/2024 PROVISIONAL TEACHER MENTORING PLAN APPROVED**

- 6. Approve the New Providence School District’s annual mentoring program, “Provisional Teacher Mentoring Plan- 2023/2024,” prepared in compliance with the New Jersey Mentoring for Quality Induction for the 2023/2024 school year. Approve also the submission of this plan to the NJDOE. **(EXHIBIT D)**

**2023/2024 BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS APPROVED**

- 7. Approve the Board of Education Goals for the 2023/2024 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.

**2023/2024 CHAPTER 27 EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PLAN APPROVED**

- 8. Approve the New Providence School District’s annual Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2023/2024 School Year, as prepared in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32. Approve also the submission of this plan to the NJDOE.

**2023/2024 ATLANTIC SPORTS HEALTH AGREEMENT APPROVED**

- 9. Approve the agreement between the New Providence School District and Atlantic Sports Health, for substitute athletic trainer services at a rate of \$65.00 per hour for the 2023/2024 school year.

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

Roll call vote:

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

**PERSONNEL ACTIONS**

Mrs. Cuccaro moved to approve Items 1 through 9:

**2023/2024 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 2023/2024 school year:

- a. Brynne Briegs, school psychology practicum student, effective 9/1/23-6/30/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- b. Emma Lourenco, student teacher, effective 9/1/23-6/30/24
- c. Sophia Miskulin, student teacher, effective 9/1/23-12/31/23
- d. Lucy Zheng, volleyball (fall), girls, 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant, \$4,361.00
- e. David Aprill, long term substitute teacher, \$28,665.00 (base \$58,499.00), effective 9/1/23 through 1/26/24
- f. Gina Calleo, long term substitute teacher, \$56,999.00, effective 9/1/23 through 6/30/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- g. Victoria Hinz, school psychologist, \$67,070.00, effective 9/1/23
- h. Angelina Iosso, teacher, \$62,685.00, effective 9/1/23 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- i. Alyssa Machado, Project Lead the Way training, to be paid on an hourly basis of \$45.75/hr.
- j. Nancy Randazzo, secretary, 10.5 mos., 7.5 hrs./day, \$42,328.00, effective 8/14/23
- k. Lauren Koppel, teacher, \$72,240.00, effective 9/1/23 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- l. Scott Ziegler, teacher, \$61,726.00 (base \$68,584.00), effective 10/1/23 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- m. Scott Ziegler, music and performing arts department head, \$7,005.00 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- n. Scott Ziegler, HS vocal music director, \$6,640.00 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- o. Kristen Nazzaro, school psychologist, \$67,070.00, effective 9/1/23 (subject to criminal history review procedures)

#### **2023/2024 ESSER APPOINTMENTS APPROVED**

2. 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 2023/2024 school year. These appointments are made under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II).
  - a. Jenna Stickle, summer achievement program individual counselor, 15 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - b. Kim Chrisostomides, summer achievement program individual counselor, 15 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - c. Danielle Roglieri, summer achievement program individual counselor, 15 hours @ \$54.87/hr.

#### **2023/2024 ESSA APPOINTMENTS APPROVED**

3. 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 2023/2024 school year. These appointments are made under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
  - a. Shawna Damon, Title III teacher for summer programs, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - b. Heather Maguire, Title III teacher for summer programs, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - c. Brenda Avila, Title III teacher for ESL/ELL student profiles for summer programs, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - d. Deborah Leonard, Title III teacher for ESL/ELL student profiles for summer programs, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$54.87/hr.

#### **2023/2024 EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR APPOINTMENT APPROVED**

4. 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 2023/2024 school year. The following personnel will participate in the Extended School Year Program.

a. Victoria Hinz, summer CST work, (not to exceed 4 days), \$1,341.40

**RESIGNATIONS APPROVED**

5. Accept the resignations of the following employees:

a. Ruth Orozco, school psychologist, effective 7/31/23  
 b. Heather Formon, long term substitute teacher, effective 9/22/23

**2023/2024 REVISIONS APPROVED**

6. Approve the following revisions for the 2023/2024 school year:

a. Richard Cruz, teacher, from Step 8, Column II (\$65,125.00), to Master's, Step 8, Column IV (\$69,697.00), effective 9/1/23, due to course credits and receipt of Master's degree  
 b. Jaclyn Kaufmann, teacher, from Step 12, Column V (\$84,976.00), to Master's, Step 12, Column VI (\$88,152.00), effective 9/1/23, due to course credits  
 c. James Edge, maintenance/groundskeeper, \$66,046.00 (base \$66,991.00), effective 7/6/23  
 d. Kathryn Lemerich, math 1v1 summer achievement program academic support teacher, 12 hours @ \$54.87/hr.  
 e. Jenna Stickle, 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA summer achievement program teacher, 24 hours @ \$54.87/hr.  
 f. Rebecca De Celestino, 9<sup>th</sup> grade math summer achievement program teacher, 24 hours @ \$54.87/hr.

**2023/2024 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED**

7. Rescind the following appointment for the 2023/2024 school year:

a. Doreen Peritore, SB STEM club, advisor-2<sup>nd</sup> grade, \$2,064.00

**2023/2024 UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED**

8. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Sydney Bleach, teacher, under the state and federal Family Leave Acts for a period of thirteen weeks commencing 10/30/23 and ending 2/2/24 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 10/7/23 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

**2023/2024 UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED**

9. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Kristin O'Brien, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 12/13/23 and ending 3/12/24 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. Approve an extended leave pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, from 3/13/24 through and including 6/30/24. (Based on 11/14/23 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

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



Roll call vote:

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

**BOARD POLICY**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz, in Mrs. Killea’s absence, moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below.

**FIRST READING APPROVED**

1. Approve the following Bylaws, Policies, and Administrative Regulations on the first reading:

**Bylaws and Policies:**

Policy 2419 (Mandated)	School Threat Assessment Team (Killea)	(New)
Policy 2423 (Mandated)	Bilingual and ESL Education Program (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 2425 (Mandated)	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (Killea)	(New)
Policy 5200 (Mandated)	Attendance (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 8140 (Mandated)	Student Enrollments (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 8330 (Mandated)	Enrollment Accounting (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 1648.11 (Mandated)	The Road Forward COVID-19- Health and Safety (Killea)	(Abolished)
Policy 1648.11 (Mandated)	School Employee Vaccination Requirements (Killea)	(Abolished)
Policy 6115.04 (Mandated)	Federal Funds – Duplication of Benefits (Killea)	(New)

**Administrative Regulations:**

Regulation 2423	Bilingual and ESL Education	(Revised)
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(Mandated)	(Killea)	
Regulation 2425 (Mandated)	Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Program (Killea)	(New)
Regulation 5200 (Mandated)	Attendance (Killea)	(Revised)
Regulation 8140 (Mandated)	Enrollment Accounting (Killea)	(Revised)
Regulation 8420.2 (Mandated)	Bomb Threats (Killea)	(Revised)
Regulation 8420.7 (Mandated)	Lockdown Procedures (Killea)	(New)
Regulation 8420.10 (Mandated)	Active Shooter (Killea)	(New)

**SECOND READING APPROVED**

2. Approve the following Bylaws, Policies, and Administrative Regulations on the second reading:

**Bylaws and Policies:**

Policy 0144 (Recommended)	Board Member Orientation and Training (Killea)	(New)
Policy 2520 (Mandated)	Instructional Supplies (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 3217 (Recommended)	Use of Corporal Punishment (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 4217 (Recommended)	Use of Corporal Punishment (Killea)	(New)
Policy 5305 (Mandated)	Health Services Personnel (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 5308 (Mandated)	Student Health Records (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 5310 (Mandated)	Health Services (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 6112 (Mandated)	Reimbursement of Federal and Other Grant Expenditures (Killea)	(Revised)

Policy 6115.04 (Mandated)	Federal Funds – Duplication of Benefits (Killea)	(New)
Policy 6311 (Mandated)	Contracts for Goods or Services Funded by Federal Grants (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 7440 (Mandated)	School District Security (Killea)	(Revised)
Policy 6421 (Recommended)	Purchases Budgeted (Killea)	(Revised)
<b><u>Administrative Regulations:</u></b>		
Regulation 2520 (Mandated)	Instructional Supplies (Killea)	(Revised)
Regulation 5308 (Mandated)	Student Health Records (Killea)	(Revised)
Regulation 5310 (Mandated)	Health Services (Killea)	(Revised)
Regulation 6115.01 (Mandated)	Federal Awards/Funds Internal Controls – Allowability of Costs (Killea)	(New)
Regulation 6421 (Recommended)	Purchases Budgeted (Killea)	(Revised)

Mrs. Zirpoli commented that for first reading, we were going to approve six mandated policies and seven mandated regulations. We would be abolishing two policies centered around COVID. Mrs. Zirpoli brought to the attention of the Board the following policy; Policy 2419 School Threat Assessment Team. Last summer, after Governor Murphy signed into law requiring all districts to establish this policy in the 2023-2024 school year in September, the purpose of this policy is to provide school teachers, administrators, and staff with assistance in the event that we have to identify students of concern that could become a risk in engaging in any violent behavior or harmful activities. The policy does have to be directly aligned with the guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Education. However, we moved to approve this policy before receiving the NJDOE guidelines, that way the policy would be in place before September 1st. This week we received the NJDOE guidelines so next month we will probably have this policy on again for approval as it will be updated according to the new guidelines received.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Walsh.

Roll call vote:

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology:

Mrs. Coniglio mentioned that at our last board meeting, on June 29th, the board heard from many concerned parents concerning class size, policy 2123, subsequent to that board meeting, a board member asked for the curriculum committee to review the policy. This past Monday, Dr. Miceli and Mrs. Zirpoli held an informational meeting with the curriculum committee. They learned that when the policy was last changed in 2013, class sizes were reduced and support staff was added to help the student and teacher ratio. Mrs. Coniglio then asked if Dr. Miceli could go into more detail about the meeting held, she believed it would be helpful.

Dr. Miceli commented that with respect to the class size policy, this topic has been talked about over numerous years. Back in 2012, the policy was reviewed by the Board and the policy reflected the following: kindergarten through 3rd grade having a max student capacity of 25 students; 4th grade through 5th grade having a max student capacity of 27 students; 6th grade having a max student capacity of 29. At the time, the Board decided to make changes to the policy, which reflected a max of 25 students K-4th grade; 5th grade had a max of 27, and 6th grade went down to 27 students. Part of this conversation took a look at our facilities and the structure within the community and with meeting with our staff at the time with focus groups and meeting with parents over the course of different forms. The issues the District would be grappling with to make further changes would include financial, structural, and facility concerns. The sentiment at the time was to make significant investments in our staff. These were the changes made as opposed to making shifts with respect to our facilities and adding classrooms. The problem with adding classrooms in a quick matter within the public schools to address class size is the time frame of how long it would take to build as well as funding. In order to address the immediate concerns in K through 6th grade, the District hired three additional reading specialists for each of the elementary schools which occurred over two or three budget cycles. These reading specialists supplied additional support during the language arts portion of the day and provided greater frequency for our staff to be able to see the particular reading groups based on our reading program. We have seen significant growth in our students over the past couple of years and the teachers have greatly appreciated this additional support. Simultaneously, we also had basic skills teachers in both elementary schools and predominantly those students who were at risk were pulled for those particular services. Subsequent to this, within our special education population there was a lot of consideration for in-class support or the co-teaching model, this program was implemented in the High/Middle School but wasn't in the elementary schools. Dr. Harvey and the staff worked on developing the co-teaching model. As a result of these efforts, there is one special education and a regular education teacher in one section of each grade. In addition, we saw that there was a need for math assistance. To assist the math program, we made our math department head to be a K-6th grade department head and a 7th-12th department head. This was another teacher who gave additional support to students and staff, a math coach was also hired using ESSER funds. Two STEM teachers were hired as well. The end game is to have a good student-teacher ratio not so much the class size. This was essentially covered in the previously mentioned meeting.

Mrs. Coniglio thanked Dr. Miceli.

2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: No comments

3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz wanted to update the Board on the Ad Hoc Committee, currently, the committee is reviewing the school calendar and making the school calendar easier to read. I hope to share the new calendar at the next meeting. They are also working on two surveys, one for staff and faculty and one for parents. These surveys are to collect data regarding the federal holidays and religious holidays that are being observed by our community.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Misiukiewicz opened the meeting to the public at 7:27 p.m.

Catherine Feuerstein  
76 Colonial Way

Mrs. Feuerstein stated that she was grateful for the opportunity to address the Board tonight concerning the rising fifth-grade class at Allen W. Roberts. Mrs. Feuerstein met with Mr. Richter and proposed a rotation of classes that provides specialized instruction and an uninterrupted extended ELA block. This solution ensures equitable instructional minutes and we hope this rotation can be considered for September 2024. Mr. Richter informed Mrs. Feuerstein that a 5th section is not considered unless there are more than 108 students. She then commented on the enrollment report of the 5th-grade class and questioned if it would be in violation of board policy. She then moved on to request that the metrics of student performance be tracked, these metrics may include the number of behavioral infractions, the number of parent-teacher conferences and phone calls, the number of counselor sessions, and the number of missed push-in support sessions such as reading specialist and basic skills. Ideally, the information would be presented to parents every trimester and include a comparison of academic performance data for each trimester of the current year with the corresponding trimester of the previous year. Mrs. Feuerstein urged the administration to be more transparent this year, so that parents can openly discuss what is best for this class well in advance of the year's end. Implementing a formal and systematic tracking process will enable the school to identify issues, find solutions during this year, and plan for the following year. Also requested was clarity on the policy to ensure equitable decision-making with regard to when administrators should deviate from the policy-stated optimal class size numbers. Deviation from the 23-student class size should not be left to interpretation. In conclusion, Mrs. Feuerstein urged the Board to carefully consider the concerns raised by parents and educators and take the necessary steps to prioritize the social, emotional, and academic well-being of our students. Thank you for your consideration.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:31 p.m. and asked for a motion to move to closed session to discuss student matters related to HIB.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mrs. Coniglio moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on July 27, 2023, in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specific matters which may generally be described as follows:

- Litigation
- Student matters
- 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**

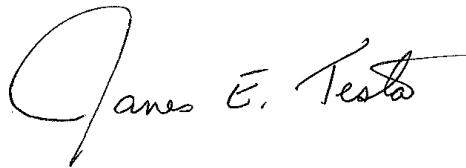
The Board reconvened to public session at 9:22 p.m.

Mrs. Misiukiewicz called the Board to order.

Board members present were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Stacey Gunderman, Mary Misiukiewicz, and Mr. Walsh

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Cuccaro, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Misiukiewicz declared the meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.



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James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary