

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:05 p.m. on February 22, 2024, at the New Providence High/Middle School, 35 Pioneer Drive, by the Board President, Mrs. Cuccaro.

Present on roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Dr. Kristin Empson Hayden, Stacey Gunderman, Amanda Marano, and Joseph Walsh. Also present were Dr. David Miceli, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jon Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and seventy-seven (77) members of the public.

Mrs. Cuccaro led in the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Cuccaro read the following statement:

This is a public meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with PL 1975, Chapter 231, in that an annual notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Whenever the business of the Board requires it to convene to Closed session, the session will begin no later than 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 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. Cuccaro began her comments by greeting the audience and saying it is great to see so many people here to support our students and learn a little more about what is happening inside the classroom. Tonight is a night when our curriculum comes to life and showcases the work of our administrators, facility, and most of all our students. Her fellow Board members would agree that this is one of our favorite meetings of the year. I always leave this meeting amazed at what our students are accomplishing inside the classroom.

Before moving to tonight's presentations, I would like to mention the annual "Spread the Word: Inclusion" event that was hosted at New Providence High School earlier this month. In conjunction with Scotch Plains-Fanwood, the Character Education team hosted an afternoon that celebrated the belief that the world is a better place when all people are valued, respected, embraced, and included. This event, which is in its eighth year, saw our friends from the Shining Stars Network, fans from the stands, and even some administrators take to mid-court during halftime of the girls varsity game and dance like no one was watching. During halftime of the boys varsity game, the Shining Stars Athletes and cheerleaders took over the court for an exhibition game. Special thanks to Mrs. Noppenberger for helping to instill in our students that even the smallest act can have a significant impact on the lives of others.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

AJ reported the following student highlights of the month:

Looking back in January, midterms ran from the 23rd to the 26th after a snow delay and ended up being an overall success, even if the favorite part of some students was their end.

Soon after, the High School hosted its second Winter Semi-Formal on February 2nd, where a great time was had by all those who attended.

The Inclusion Games with the Shining Stars held on February 3rd were also extremely successful. There was a great turnout and in true pioneer fashion, both our boys and girls teams beat Scotch Plains-Fanwood.

From February 5th to 9th, National School Counselors Week was also celebrated, so we all give a great thank you to all of our extremely dedicated and hard-working counselors who provide support to all of our students and staff every day!

In terms of student achievement four of our students earned a Seal of Biliteracy. Congratulations to Aime Haidara, Patrick Fanning, Antonio Marques, and Amanda Quiros, as well as the World Language Department!

We're also happy that swimmers Vincent Terzo and Mariia Netrebko qualified for the NJSIAA Meet of Champions, as did high jumper Natasha Grandov!

Beyond that, students in the Foods culinary arts classes had a cake bake-off, the STEM Club recently competed in the TSA TEAMS competition at NJIT, and the Math Club is presently participating in its Math Madness Competition!

In addition, Spring Musical is getting close! The cast and crew are working hard in their preparations for shows on March 8th, 9th, 15th, and 16th! Make sure you make it out to their performance of "On the Town!"

Adding to the athletic success of mentioned MOC qualifications, Ice Hockey won again last night in the States with a 3-0 win over Colonia; that makes two wins so far in the State Tournament for the Ice Hockey Team. The team has now advanced to the semi-finals of the NJSIAA Public Co-Op, South Tournament. They will be in action again early next week against the winner of Brick Township and Howell.

The Girl's and Boy's Basketball teams also started the state tournament yesterday evening and both advanced in their respective brackets. The girls took down Point Pleasant Boro 63-28 while the boys beat Becton 88 to 79. They both will be in action again this upcoming Monday in the next round of the state tournament. The girls will take on Delaware Valley at 5:00 pm, while the boys will take on Ridgefield Park at 6:30 pm. Come on out and support the teams!

AJ ended his report by thanking the Board for having him present.

ENROLLMENT

Dr. Zirpoli gave the enrollment report for the following schools: Allen W Roberts - 672 students, Salt Brook - 586 students, New Providence Middle School - 415 students, and New Providence High School - 642 students, for a total of 2,315 students. We have 34 out-of-district students, making the total 2,349 students.

RECOGNITION OF MARY MISIKUKIEWICZ

Mrs. Cuccaro read the following resolution into the record:

WHEREAS, Mary Misiukiewicz has ended her service on the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence after faithful service over the last nine years; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Education are cognizant of the fact that Mrs. Misiukiewicz has greatly contributed toward the welfare of the children of the Borough by her energy and sincere application to all matters that have come before the Board; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Misiukiewicz has served as Board President for three years; Curriculum,

Instruction and Technology Committee Chairperson and Member; Personnel, Management, and Communication Committee Chairperson and Member; Board Representative to Union County Educational Services Commission, Municipal Alliance, and New Jersey School Board Association;

**NOW, THEREFORE,
BE IT RESOLVED**

by the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence, in the County of Union, that the personal and collective gratitude and appreciation of the members of the Board of Education are hereby extended to Mary Misiukiewicz for her loyal and untiring dedication to the community; and they do hereby publicly commend her for the excellent example she has thus presented to the present and future members of the Board of Education.

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY of FEBRUARY, 2024, and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

Mrs. Cuccaro, after reading the resolution, also presented Mrs. Misiukiewicz with an additional plaque that she read to the public.

Mrs. Cuccaro motioned to approve the resolution. 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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

Mrs. Misiukiewicz then read a short comment to express her appreciation, the comment is as follows:

“First of all, it’s so good to see my fellow board members. What a nice recognition and kind of fun to have a room full of guests here tonight. I am honored. It feels strange for me after nine years to be on this side of the table and not that Board side of the table. But I also think it’s kinda interesting. As I look at the plaques, I have very fond memories of bestowing the plaques to my predecessors, also my mentors, Mr. Krauss, Mr. Dibble, Mr. Dinerman, and Mr. Smith. Although they’re not here tonight, I just need to give credit to them as they were mentors to me. They took my phone calls whenever I called, and I’d be remiss not to mention my predecessors collectively. They served the New Providence Board of Education for over forty-four years. It is quite an honor to know them and to have them as my mentors. As I mentioned in December, I have sat on several boards over the years, but by a long shot, sitting on the new Providence Board of Education was extremely rewarding and a time well spent. I want to thank the greater community for putting their trust and faith in me to represent the students of New Providence. Next, I want to thank the teachers and the staff members. Their care for our students is extraordinary. Not only do they teach academics, but they support our students socially and emotionally. That is a very big ask. I know firsthand from our students that not only do our teachers teach, but they are mentors to so many. Thank you to our teachers and our staff members for creating the best learning environment a parent could ask for. Next, I would like to thank the central office staff for supporting me and this Board. The level of professionalism is unparalleled. They supported me whether I needed some data points to speak about or just to hand me a legal-sized pad of paper. They were always professional, always answered questions, and always answered phone calls. I know Katie Mangle and Maria Ulate are here tonight, and I hope you pass along my gratitude to the entire central office support staff. Next, I wanna thank the administrative team. This team in New Providence makes our district what it is today. During my last 9 years here, the team secured cutting-edge learning tools, technology, and curriculum for our

students to persevere, not only in the classroom, but they prepared them for graduation and beyond, whether our students wanted to seek higher education, whether our student students wanted to join the armed services, whether our students wanted to go right into employment.

So I have had the privilege of working alongside every one of you, and you are dead dedicated educators. You ensure that the students of New Providence have the best positive learning environment possible. Thank you for your leadership. It permeates throughout our district, and it sets the culture for our students' success. I look forward to watching the continued success of our students, and I want to say that I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve, and I want to thank you again for this recognition. Serving the students of New Providence has been an honor and a privilege, so thank you again.

CURRICULUM REPORT PRESENTATION ([LINK TO PRESENTATION](#))

Mr. Keaney began his report by highlighting that everything done in New Providence, is done with a purpose. Every decision made is a purposeful decision. The District takes time to collect information, collect evidence, discuss, and finally make decisions in the best interest of the students. Highlighted in the first slide are four important goals from the BoE Strategic Goals that are considered when talking about curriculum and instruction:

- **Enhance elementary student programming** for early student development and to offer more resources and experiences to **enhance student achievement**.
- **Enhance secondary programming** to continue to enable **student achievement**, while preparing students for career readiness and post-high school academics.
- Enhance the district facilities to develop a **modern learning environment**, considering collaboration, class size, grade configuration, and extracurricular activities.
- Continue to develop an **innovative, collaborative, and modernized instructional framework** focused on higher-level thinking, real-world problem-solving, student autonomy, self-pacing, and the development of a student-centered, learner-driven classroom environment.

New Providence has been focused on creating a modern learning environment with a personalized learning model. The driving forces for decision-making include the mission statement and the portrait of a graduate, which detail the skills expected of graduates. New initiatives introduced in the last 10 months include full-day kindergarten, i-Ready classroom mathematics, and changes to the middle school schedule and classroom structure. Ongoing initiatives include enhancing instructional models with technology, building community, and providing opportunities for success.

Mr. Keaney then invited Mrs. Natale and her students to present and let the public know how they liked full-day Kindergarten.

Mrs. Natale introduced her students, Leo and Olivia, and asked them if they were enjoying Kindergarten.

Both Leo and Olivia responded that they are enjoying Kindergarten.

Mrs. Natale then followed up by asking what they liked about it.

Olivia responded that she liked that she could stay with Mrs. Natale. Leo responded that he liked that he could do fun projects in science.

Mrs. Natale highlighted that full-day kindergarten has provided more time for instruction and deeper learning experiences and has increased the confidence and enthusiasm for learning among students. During the extended school, there has been an implementation of five components of literacy in language arts (read aloud, shared reading, guided reading, independent reading, and word study). Introducing the i-Ready math program has improved the understanding and engagement with mathematical concepts and has put emphasis on comprehension, mathematical language, and real-world problem-solving in math education. The ample time in full-day kindergarten allows for hands-on exploration of manipulatives.

Mrs. Natale went on to ask Leo and Olivia different questions about how they have liked celebrating various holidays in class, having Spanish as a new special, what new things they have been learning in Science, and how they liked the new furniture. Both students shared their enthusiasm for all the new things that they are learning thanks to the extended kindergarten program.

Mrs. Natale ended her presentation by stating that the expanded schedule has not only enriched academic instruction but also afforded us the flexibility to revisit and reinforce essential skills at the day's end. The transition to a full-day kindergarten has undeniably enriched our educational landscape, allowing us to provide a more comprehensive and nurturing learning environment for our students.

Mr. Keaney then went on to show three videos that show what happens in a kindergarten classroom.

With i-Ready mathematics being one of the new initiatives, Lumio has also been a new program that has been integrated. Lumio is a program that allows the teacher to see what's on each student's iPad to monitor what each student is doing in the classroom and to bring that up onto the screen. Each Board member was provided with an iPad so they could participate in the next presentation.

Mr. Keaney presented Mrs. Sporel for the next presentation.

Mrs. Sporel started her presentation by showing the Board members how to set up Lumio and explained that they can present their work on the screen if they like.

Mrs. Testa explained that iReady classroom mathematics always begins with a high-yield routine that's from the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. The routine that is being presented today is called "same and different". In same and different students have to construct an argument on how one of the boxes is the same, or how one of these boxes is different. This prompts students to have mathematical discourses. Mathematical discourse is a student's ability to construct mathematical reasoning and communicate it to others which makes the students active and engaged learners.

Mrs. Dougherty, an AWR 5th grade math teacher, went on to show how "same and different" works with the help of her students Ariav and Nancy. On the screen, there was a "same and different" question that showed different options. The students and the board members had to look at the options and explain how they were the same and different using the Lumio program.

Mrs. Dougherty then asked Ariav to explain his response and reasoning.

Ariav responded that he believes boxes A and D are the same because they have the same value of 483. So in box D, you can see, there are 4 hundreds, 8 tens, and 3 ones. If you find the value of each of those and add it up, you get 483, and that's the same as box A.

Mrs. Dougherty commented that during this activity, we're trying to engage prior knowledge and see if we can transfer something from one scale to another. So the teacher might ask someone else to rephrase or repeat that.

Mrs. Cuccaro then also shared her response to the "same and different" prompt.

Mrs. Dougherty then showed a new "same and different" question and had Nancy give her answer.

Nancy stated that she thinks that boxes B and C are the same or different depending on how you see them. Some people might see the picture model as a model in whole numbers, 100ths, and 10ths, which is different from box B because it won't show the same value of the numbers. Other people might see it as 100, tens, and ones, which would equal the same value as box B which is 384.

This opens up the classroom to have a more mathematical discussion. Students go through a structured process: making sense of the problem, solving the problem, and supporting their thinking with

mathematical representations.

Mrs. Dougherty then presented a video of Mrs. Testa going over the “Try, Discuss, and Connect Routine”.

Ms. Picarelli and Mrs. Cortiese then came up with some of their students to explain “Math in Action”. Ms. Picarelli went on to explain that Math In Action is a culminating problem-based task that takes place at the end of each unit. This task asks students to apply the knowledge and skills related to the major work of the unit. Students discover real-world applications for their learning.

Mrs. Cortiese then went over the benefits of “Math in Action”. The first benefit is there's a lot of open-ended exploration that the children get to participate in. The students get to apply creative solutions and their newly acquired math skills and explore ways to complete the task. So far, we've completed 3 math actions. The first is making fruit kebabs. The second, they got to create a camp schedule full of fun activities. And the most recent was they got to design their own playground.

Another benefit is the children get to collaborate. To be successful at completing their tasks, they have to formulate their thoughts. They have to give reasons to support their thinking, and they get to listen and learn from their peers. And this all develops their oral language skills. It's motivating and engaging for the students. All the activities are hands on, and they appeal to the student's age and interests. It also helps to develop their problem-solving. They develop perseverance by using different math strategies, and they get to solve real-life problems. They strengthen their addition and subtraction skills, and they get to interpret data, which is such an important 21st-century skill.

Mrs. Cortiese introduced Chase Nixon who spoke about how he was able to create his playground:

“I learned that there are different ways to make the number 20. I also made a pictograph to read to the class the data. I enjoyed designing the playground because I was like an engineer.”

Ms. Picarelli introduced Isabella McCabe and asked her to speak on how the class made fruit kebabs:

“I enjoyed making the kebabs because I was able to use my favorite kinds of fruits, which helped me solve adding to 10.”

Mrs. Testa commented that “Math in Action” has been wonderful, and it is being practiced from Kindergarten through 6th-grade classrooms. Tonight, we're also gonna tell you about some of the benefits of the iReady Classroom Mathematics Program, and we have our two 5th graders here who have prepared statements to tell you why they think iReady Classroom Mathematics is exciting.

Nancy Hedera, 5th-grade student:

“When I think about it, math has changed a lot over the years. One of the ways that math has changed between 4th grade and 5th grade is that last year, it was mostly all about the math book, and our teacher would teach us a lesson, and then they went straight to the book. This year, I feel like we talk more. We have more discussions about our thoughts. When the class talks about the strategies they liked, I really like doing this because I know that if I didn't, I wouldn't understand 5th-grade math as well as I do now. That's my favorite part about how math has changed. In conclusion, I prefer math much better this year than last year.”

Arya Patel, 5th-grade student:

“Over the past few years, we used Go Math as the math program before changing to I Ready. A few things have changed in how we do math. There is more time put toward class discussions before each try. There is a discussion about what we notice, think, and wonder about the question. Then we get the chance to try our strategies to solve a problem. Afterward, there is a discussion about various solutions that students make. Another great change is that there's a big emphasis on showing your work and explaining it. We think about we we think more about the how or the why to solve which models are more

effective, and how a standard algorithm will work. This story uses a show your work minute that helps you understand what strategies to use when solving a problem. We look at common mistakes to do an error analysis of why those mistakes happen. These math discussions make our class exciting and challenging.”

Mrs. Testa ended the presentation by stating that the great shifts from Go Math to iReady Classroom Mathematics are noticeable. Our students are asked to think deeply about math. But that takes time for some of our trans students to transition to that deep thinking and show lots of different representations.

Mr. Keaney reiterated that based on the feedback from the students and based on the feedback from the teachers, there have been some major benefits of what the District has been doing. We have seen more positive student engagement in the math classroom. There's an increase in the math discourse, and we've talked about that a lot. Increase in mathematical reasoning, which is one of the real cornerstones of the iReady program. Real-world applications, which have been talked about for many years, and how that's important in student learning, and increasing personalized learning. This is one of the major initiatives that has been going through by using My Path to differentiate the learning, to provide a personalized path through math has been something especially useful and helped teachers differentiate and personalize the learning for what's needed by the students.

He also thanked the teachers and administration who have put in the effort in piloting this program for the past two years and who have given their feedback.

Mrs. Blanco and Ms. Pace came up to present the Sondag Essentials program. The Sondag Essentials Program is a systematic, sequential, and multisensory word study and phonics program that's based on the science of reading. It was implemented fully in grades k through 2 last school year after a pilot year, and we did extend it up to 3rd grade this year because of its success.

Ms. Pace had her students introduce themselves, the students present were: Emma, Leo, Erin, Belle, and Gabby. Ms. Pace then modeled what a brief lesson would look like. The students listened, repeated, and wrote the spell sounds presented on the screen. It is noteworthy of the multisensory approach in the Sondag program.

Mrs. Spoerl and Mrs. Hogan then came up to present the technological advancements for the Language Instruction Education Program previously known as ESL. Mrs. Spoerl has been using existing technology for new ideas. The green screens, Merge Cube, and Virtual Reality goggles are devices that have been donated by the New Providence Education Foundation.

Mrs. Hogan went over the benefits that Multilingual students have had due to using these existing technologies:

- Adaptive learning platform
- Fosters language development
- Vocabulary with visuals
- Allows students to progress at their own pace
- Personalized learning
- Engaging and fun!

The green screen technology was used to perform a play called "The Billy Goat's Gruff". The green screen allowed the students to perform the play with differentiated instruction levels for teachers and students.

Mrs. Hogan then went on to explain how they were able to use Merge AR to look at moon phases and how VR goggles were used to explore penguins. Students were able to “manipulate” and ask questions while using the VR goggles.

Mr. Keaney thanked Mrs. Spoerl and Mrs. Hogan for presenting.

He then invited the Salt Brook Broadcast Club up to present and show how this club has been helping build a greater sense of community within their school.

Mrs. Demich is the media specialist at Saltbrook Elementary School. She began her presentation by expressing her excitement to share how technology integration extends beyond the classroom and typical school day to also enrich the experiences of our students in after-school clubs. This evening, our broadcasters club is proud to share with you our latest initiative, which is broadcasting video announcements, and the many ways that the club is harnessing technology and communication resources such as the iPad, green screen, iMovie, Google applications, and ViVi to foster collaboration and innovation. The student broadcast airs every Monday morning to kick off our school week. It sets the tone for the week with inspiration, fun facts, and important school reminders. The broadcast is engaging and something that the students and faculty now look forward to, bringing excitement and energy to their day and week. It's been successful and has had a positive impact, not only on the broadcaster club participants but also on all the Salt Brook students and faculty. Student broadcasting morning announcements is a valuable practice and offers numerous benefits, such as enhancing research, journalism, video production, and presentation or communication skills. It promotes technology literacy, encourages collaboration and teamwork, cultivates leadership and responsibility, and has built a sense of belonging and school spirit.

Mrs. Demich then had Pihu Bhargava, Ruby Hoyer, and Valeriia Sydorenko explain how they go about making their broadcast.

Pihu stated the following:

“All the preparation is done by the students. Even the name of the show was picked by the broadcasters, and the logo is designed by a 5th grader. Each week before we start recording, we have to write down the script. In the script is the beginning, the pledge of allegiance, the ending, and any special events. We also plan what we are going to wear and who's going to say each part of the script. We also need to find photos to add to the background and quotes for the script. It's a fun opportunity to be in a video. We can be ourselves and show a personality, and it's broadcast to the entire school. It's really amazing.”

Ruby went to add on:

“In our video production studio, we sit at the table and speak into the studio microphone. We use the green screen to show us in a newsroom even though we're actually just in the media center. The student broadcaster behind the camera will count down, start recording, and we read off the cue cards projected to the Smart Board. It's fun, and it's also a big commitment, but that's a good thing. It feels really good to be recognized by the other students in the hallway, and it makes us feel important.”

Valeriia added:

“After we are done recording all the segments, we shift the recordings onto 1 iPad and put them into iMovie. This is when we make it look professional with transitions and editing. We cut out parts that are awkward or just don't fit in. We add a theme song and the logo to the start and credits to the end. We try to keep it around 3 minutes long. Lastly, Mr. Zipeto and Ms. Spoerl get the video ready to broadcast to the school. It's really fun to be a part of this club, and I like that I get to be with my friends.”

Ms. Spoerl added that thanks to the ViVi technology they can broadcast it to each classroom board. She then shared a small clip of the Monday broadcast.

Mr. Keane commented on the tremendous cross-curricular project that's going on there. The students are writing their script, which is language arts. They're using technology and implementation of technology. They're editing, planning, and organizing. They're working with staff members to create something new and build a sense of community. This has been a tremendous asset to what's going on in Salt Brook.

He also shared a photo of what our modern classrooms look like. He ensured that the Board and public noticed the teacher with the wireless technology, and the laptop by their side. The teacher can go anywhere in the classroom, move around, and control everything that goes on at the front. That's been a tremendous advantage of the wireless technology. Notice the teacher's desks just tucked away in the corner. We tried very hard to reduce the teachers' footprint and to provide us with more space in the classroom, and you can see that happening here. Students organize and collaborate in a variety of ways. There's, some little mini-lesson going on here with some students. He ended his comment by sharing that all of the modern furniture and the creation of the modern classroom have helped to create this environment where learning can be successful.

Mrs. Machado explained that thanks to the Project Lead the Way Grant, the Middle School was able to implement a new program called "Design and Modeling" This course has a focus on real-world learning through engineering. The students are given a real-world problem and they have to come up with a solution with their teams.

Mia Pardo and her team created foot orthosis for someone with Spastic hemiplegia, their solution was based on a sandal. Mia went on to explain in more detail the process and the materials that she and her team used to come up with a solution.

Raegan Gillbowski and her team were challenged with the task of making a therapeutic toy design for a child with cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy is a condition in which a person cannot move certain muscles in their body and perform some movements. They created a princess castle that is attached with velcro that would help children work on their motor skills.

Mrs. Machado thanked the students and emphasized that this sort of process, design, and problem-solving is only possible with a longer instructional period. The new Middle School schedule with its longer instructional period enabled the student to spend a lot more time and to delve a lot deeper into some of the subject material.

Mrs. Florencio presented multiple opportunities for success through the K-12 Visual and Practical Arts. She highlighted two points, first, the visual and practical arts courses give students a place where they can come and be creative, express themselves, make mistakes, and learn with their hands. The second is that it provides a place where the student can explore career paths and life skills under the same umbrella of a safe and creative space. With the new Middle School schedule, the department re-envisioned the art electives and used the extended class time to transform our courses to reflect our High School programs on a smaller and broader scale. We are currently looking to the future of career preparation and working towards transforming the fabric art, graphic design, and media and video design courses to reflect the contemporary career paths and provide students with hands-on experiences.

Mr. Keaney stated that the District is now able to provide these in-depth, electives, which now allow students to delve deeper into what they're doing because of the new schedule. He also commented that Mrs. Florencio has been able to provide pathways through a whole variety of different subjects. Whether students are interested in digital arts, photography, sculpture, or video media, we have courses that enable you to follow your interest and gain success in a whole variety of different ways throughout your time in High School. Additional courses which are 21st-Century Life and Careers courses, which then provide students with other opportunities like tech and construction, graphic design, culinary arts, and the fabric arts.

Mrs. DeLuca introduced her students, Carys Lee, Hunter Reilly, and Gabby Glaser (filling in for Alexa Deseta).

Mrs. DeLuca asked Carys Lee to speak on food insecurity:

"In culinary arts, we learned about food insecurity. Many of the dishes we make are recipes from around the world. In this lesson, we learned about food insecurity on a global and local scale. 9% of children in

New Jersey are dealing with food insecurity. To end the 1st semester, we worked on a small business project where we made and sold custom sugar cookies. The profit the proceeds were donated towards food and security. At the beginning of the school year, we learned about color theory and how it relates to things from food presentation all the way to our logos. Each student designed their own logo to represent themselves.

Hunter Reiley continued to say:

“First, we learned about the technology that goes into making different foods.

We learned about how 3D printing is a very big it's a very big part of, culinary arts, especially at professional levels. It's even used in different chocolate sculptures. Secondly, we learned how to use piping bags, and how to use royal icing to pipe straight lines and letters. We learned how to color and make the icing itself. We also learned how to use tipless piping bags for everything that we decorated. Finally, we used our NP cookies to portray our skills. We had to have our unique design with whatever color we just chose.

The culinary arts class students and the culinary arts club joined together to host a bake sale, the funds made from this bake sale were used to help local food pantries. This bake sale helped students work on their market strategies since they had to come up with pricing.

Mr. Keaney thanked Mrs. DeLuca and her students for their presentation.

Lastly, Mr. Keaney invited Mrs. Macchia and her students, Cameron Sheeran and Dylan Mangel, to speak about video design.

Mrs. Macchia acknowledged that students learn best by doing the work. The video design medium constantly changing therefore with each project that students do they learn a different skill set, whether it be production, writing, on camera, in the field, or the editing process. By the time students are in the advanced design class, Mrs. Macchia's goal is to become more of a facilitator or adviser, teach through collaboration, and give the students autonomy in the creative process to design their projects.

Cameron Sheeran added that:

“In class, we learn the three phases of production, the camerawork, the script writing, and the use of sound equipment, and editing equipment. Finally, as it's all composed, the cinematography is shown and finally done through editing.”

Dylan Mangle also added that:

“There is a cycle to the learning process and it's really based on gaining experience over time and then going back and reflecting on your work.”

Dylan then played a hype video for the boy's varsity swim team. After playing the video, Dylan commented that:

“What I like about this class is that we have the freedom to, like you just saw, produce work that we're passionate about, and it doesn't only serve us, it serves our teachers, fellow students, High School, Middle School, School District, and just the community as a whole.

Mr. Keaney summarized tonight's presentation by reiterating that we looked at the concepts of “more time, more depth” and this applies to kindergarten through middle school. We talked about real-world math and multisensory phonics. All of these things are incorporated into our curricular program. We talked about technology enhancements, building community, real-world learning, and how we can bring all this together to provide multiple opportunities for success. That's how we affect student achievement. Thank you very much.

Dr. Miceli thanked Mr. Keaney, the students, and the staff who came for today's presentation.

Mrs. Marano, Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, and Mr. Walsh all thanked the students and staff for all their hard work, they were all blown away by what our students have accomplished and learned.

Dr. Miceli also echoed the Board's compliments to staff and students.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System, for incidents that occurred during Reporting Period 1 - September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Dr. Zirpoli presented the District summary for the SSD report as of September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. We had eleven affirmed incidents of HIB, 0 incident of weapons possession, 1 incident of violence, which was simple, threat or electronic, 2 incidents of vandalism, which was theft less than \$10, 4 incidents of substance abuse. Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying investigations at the High School; we had 5 investigations, 3 were affirmed, in the Middle School we had 10 investigations, 4 were affirmed, at Salt Brook, we had 7 investigations and 4 were affirmed, at Allen W. Roberts we had 2 investigations and 0 affirmed. All of our investigations for Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying were completed within ten days as required by law. The nature of these HIBs was race, color, gender, gender identity, expression, and mental or sensory disability. The names of our investigators are: at the High School, Mrs. Kwiatkowski, at the Middle School, Mr. Crisitello, at Salt Brook, Mr. Firetto, and at Allen W. Roberts, Mrs. Feliciano-Allen.

The discipline that was imposed was in and out of school suspension, parent and teacher conferences, as well as individual counseling. The training we have conducted in programs that have been implemented to reduce HIB are policy, staff and student services, AS, which is our anti-bullying specialist training on law and policy. We have had trainings in social media and cyberbullying. We have in our health curriculum and instructional activities lessons that focus on bullying, our Character Education Program, peer relations, conflict resolutions, and social emotional learning activities.

Mrs. Cuccaro then declared the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System, for Reporting Period 1 - September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:41 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:41 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	January 4, 2024
Closed Meeting:	January 4, 2024

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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	January 18, 2024
Closed Meeting:	January 18, 2024

Mr. Walsh 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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	January 22, 2024
Closed Meeting:	January 22, 2024

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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

ACTION ITEMS

Mrs. Marano, the Finance Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 9 as listed below:

BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for January 2024. 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 2024, in the amount of \$4,432,337.44.

COST PER PUPIL TUITION APPROVED

- 3. Approve state-certified costs per pupil for the 2022/2023 school year as follows:

Preschool/Kindergarten	\$12,772.00
Grades 1-5	\$15,752.00
Grades 6-8	\$15,530.00
Grades 9-12	\$17,040.00
Learning and/or Language Disability	\$31,725.00
Preschool Disability- Full Time	\$34,172.00
Preschool Disability – Part Time	\$14,384.00

CREATURE COMFORT PET THERAPY AGREEMENT APPROVED

- 4. Approve the agreements between the New Providence Board of Education and Creature Comfort Pet Therapy, commencing March 2024 through June 2024, total price not to exceed: \$1,060.00, to be paid through the New Providence Education Foundation Grant.

Allen W. Roberts Elementary: Handler- Kaitlyn Conlan (Phoebe)
 In amount not to exceed \$300.00

Salt Brook Elementary: Handler- Jean Drexinger (Bailey)
 In amount not to exceed \$300.00

New Providence Middle School: Handler Jenna Stickle (Phinny)
 In amount not to exceed \$300.00

New Providence High School: Handler- Kristy McCauley
 In amount not to exceed \$160.00 (four visits @ \$40.00 per visit)

NPEF DONATION APPROVED

- 5. Approve the generous donation from the New Providence Education Foundation in the amount of \$4,500.00 to fund the *NP's Pals with Paws!* therapy dog program.

POMPTONIAN FOOD SERVICE APPROVED

- 6. Approve the Food Service Agreement with Pomptonian Food Service for the 2024/2025 school year. In addition to the costs of operation, a management fee of \$0.0397 for each \$1.00 of sales for administrative and management costs. This fee shall be billed monthly as a cost of operation. The District guarantees the payment of such costs and fees to the Food Service Agreement. The Food Service Agreement guarantees the District a no-cost of operation for the District for the school year 2024-2025.

GREATAMERICA FINANCIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVED

- 7. Approve a sixty (60) month lease agreement (with a \$1.00 buyout option) with Print-o-Stat Inc. through GreatAmerica Financial Services for Epson copiers/equipment under a cooperative contract. The cooperative contract is Sourcewell Contract #030321-EPS.

MUSIC BOOSTERS ORGANIZATION DONATION APPROVED

- 8. Approve the generous donation of a new upright string bass at the valued price of \$2,500.00 from the Music Boosters Organization to the New Providence Music and Performing Arts Department.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GRANT SUBMISSION APPROVED

- 9. Approve the acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$56,375.00 from the New Jersey Schools Development Authority and the Department of Education for emergent projects and capital maintenance projects. The grant money will be used to repair/replace hot water loop lines at the High/Middle School, install fencing and replace pavement in the South Court at Allen W. Roberts School, and purchase/replace exhaust fans at all schools.

Mr. Walsh 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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTION

Mrs. Marano, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve item 1 as listed below.

SUBMISSION OF LOCAL RECREATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT APPROVED

- 1. Approve the submission of a Local Recreation Improvement Grant in the amount of \$112,755.00 with a cash match funded through donations and/or fundraising. The grant will fund a project that will relocate and improve Miller Field, the softball field, and JV baseball field at the New Providence High School and Allen W. Roberts Elementary School.

Mr. Walsh 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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

EDUCATION ACTION

Mrs. Gunderman, the Education Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 6 as listed below.

2023/2024 NP'S PALS WITH PAWS THERAPY DOG PROGRAM APPROVED

1. Approve the *NP's Pals with Paws!* therapy dog program for the 2023/2024 school year.

2023/2024 ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #20305 AT THE CENTER SCHOOL APPROVED

2. Approve the enrollment of Student #20305 at The Center School, for the 2023/2024 school year, at a tuition cost of \$37,465.45, effective 2/7/24.

REVISED 2023/2024 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN APPROVED

3. Approve the New Providence School District Revised Communications Plan-2023/2024, copies in the hands of each Board member.

2023/2024 EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION OF NEW JERSEY BEDSIDE INSTRUCTION APPROVED

4. Approve the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey for bedside instruction, for the 2023/2024 school year, at a rate of \$84.00/hr.

2023/2024 ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIP DESTINATION APPROVED

5. Approve the following additional field trip destination for the 2023/2024 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8:
 - a. The Seeing Eye, located at The Seeing Eye Main Campus, 1 Seeing Eye Way, Morristown, NJ 07960

2024/2025 SUBMISSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION-MEDICAID INITIATIVE (SEMI) PROGRAM APPROVED

6. 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 a 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 2024/2025 school year.

Dr. Empson Hayden 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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTION

Mrs. Coniglio, the Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 5 as listed below.

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. Christian Rizzo, gameworker
- b. Kelly Waldron, playground/lunch assistant, 3 hrs./day, \$4,704.00 (base \$10,560.00), effective 2/20/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- c. Daniel D. Barletta, game worker (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- d. Denise Thompson, longevity pay for 20-24 years of employment, \$1,800.00, effective 9/1/23
- e. Corey Arnold, track (spring), girls, first assistant, \$6,614.00
- f. Tara Nelson, long term substitute teacher, \$22,737.00 (base \$71,054.00), effective 03/25/24 through 06/30/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- g. Karen Gaeta, long-term substitute teacher, effective 03/27/24, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$285.00 (prorated Step 1, Column I, base of \$56,999.00) (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 teachers will be paid through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Grant, "ESSER," for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Jennifer Morra, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - b. Holly Pizzonia, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - c. Matthew Sossin, MS winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

2023/2024 REVISED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

3. Approve the following revisions for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Leah Bromley, HS, for teaching above three (3) classes as a K-12 department head (five (5) classes total), \$4,560.00 (base \$16,000.00- \$8,000.00 for each additional class), effective 1/5/24-3/28/24
 - b. Hailey Hogan, Title III Consortium teacher, not to exceed 48 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - c. Michele Adkins, long term substitute teacher, \$64,492.00, effective 9/1/23- 6/30/24

2023/2024 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

4. Rescind the following appointment for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Paul Irwin, track (spring), girls, first assistant, \$6,614.00

FLMA APPROVED

5. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Morgan Eriksen, teacher, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of four weeks commencing 5/17/24 and ending 6/14/24, and under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 8/26/24 and ending 11/15/24, 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 11/16/24 through and including the last day of the first semester of the 2024/2025 school year. (Based on 5/16/24 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.) All time taken during the 2024/2025 school year is subject to the completion of negotiations.

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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

BOARD POLICY

Mrs. Coniglio, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Item 1 as listed below.

FIRST READING APPROVAL

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

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 5337 (Recommended)	Therapy Dog (Coniglio)	New
Policy 3418 (Recommended)	Substitute Compensation (Coniglio)	Revised

Administrative Regulations:

Regulation 5337 (Recommended)	Therapy Dog (Coniglio)	New
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Mr. Walsh 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>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: No comments
2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: Mrs. Marano commented that we are waiting on State aid numbers for the 2024/2025 school year. All programs will continue and will be approving the submission of the tentative budget to the COunty at the next meeting on March 14th.
3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Testa explained that every year board members review the code of ethics information and sign the acknowledgement of receipt and review the code of ethics. Mr. Testa briefly reviewed the PowerPoint and documents He asked the board to review and sign the acknowledgment and return it to him as they will be sent to the County.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:47 p.m. There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:47 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Coniglio moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on February 22, 2024, 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

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

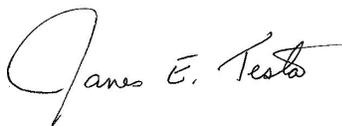
The minutes of the discussion in closed session of the aforementioned matters may be disclosed to the public after the final determination of action has been reached.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to a public session at 9:02 p.m. Mrs. Misiukiewicz called the Board to order. Members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Dr. Empson Hayde. Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Marano, and Mr. Walsh

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Gunderman, seconded by Mrs. Marano and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.



James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary