The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on March 14, 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, Jennifer Killea, and Amanda Marano. 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 sixty-five (65) members of the public and staff.

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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:01 p.m. There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:01 p.m.

EMERGENCY DAYS

Dr. Miceli wanted to begin the conversation regarding the three remaining emergency days. He suggested that the Board could give back two days and keep one emergency day in case of inclement weather or any other unforeseen emergency post-Memorial Day weekend. The give-back days would be applied to Thursday, May 23, 2024, and Friday, May 24, 2024. He wanted to get this message out to the community promptly if the Board had no concerns.

Mrs. Coniglio asked for clarification and asked if, from now to May, there is a snow day then we would lose the the Thursday but keep the Friday.

Dr. Miceli confirmed that yes, in case of inclement weather, we would lose the Thursday.

Mrs. Marano asked if there was a possibility of doing a four-day weekend for Memorial Day and using the other give-back day on a Friday in June.

Dr. Miceli responded that that is something that can be considered, however, we would have to review the teacher contract and scheduled events.

Dr. Empson Hayden commented that she thinks that as long as it doesn't interfere with final exams then maybe it would be worth looking into.

Mrs. Cuccaro responded that Dr. Miceli can review the calendar tomorrow and get back to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

Mrs. Marano, the Finance Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 7 as listed below:

2024/2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET APPROVED

1. Approve the tentative budget for the 2024/2025 school year using the 2024/2025 state aid figures and authorize the Board Secretary to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

2024/2025 School Year	General Fund	Special Revenues	Debt Service	Total
Total Expenditures	$49,457,545.00	$1,197,163.00	$4,085,537.00	$54,740,245.00
Less:				
Anticipated Revenues	$ 6,112,735.00	$1,197,163.00	$1,156,201.00	$ 8,466,099.00
Taxes to be Raised	$43,344,810.00	$0.00	$2,929,336.00	$46,274,146.00

After approval by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law. A public hearing will be held at New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, New Providence, New Jersey, on April 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2024/2025 School Year.

2024/2025 TENTATIVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED

2. Approve that the following adjustments are included in the tentative 2024/2025 annual school budget, which will be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for technical review:

- Adjustment for enrollment: $0.00
- Adjustment for health care costs: $83,081.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of $83,081.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

- Adjustment for deferred PERS pension contribution: $0.00
- Adjustment for responsibility transferred: $0.00
- Adjustment for banked cap: $285,722.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for the banked cap in the amount of $285,722.00. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23a-10.3(b), the District has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to fund the operating expenses for educational programs of the District. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2024 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

TRAVEL EXPENSES RESOLUTION APPROVED

3. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and
WHEREAS, Policy #6471, School District Travel Procedures covers the reimbursement process for travel expenses in accordance with New Jersey Statutes;

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

AUTHORIZATION TO PUBLISH 2024/2025 TENTATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED

4. After the Board and Executive County Superintendent of Schools approval of the tentative 2024/2025 budget, authorize the Board Secretary to publish said budget.

TRAVEL EXPENDITURE RESOLUTION APPROVED

5. Approve the following resolution:

The Board of Education approves establishing a maximum travel expenditure amount of $70,200.00 for the 2024/2025 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2023/2024 school year is $69,800.00 of which $38,970.36 has been spent and $14,328.81 encumbered to date.

ANNUAL MAXIMUM EXPENDITURE FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES APPROVED

6. Approve an annual maximum expenditure for the professional services for the 2024/2025 school year. As defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)1, upon notification if it becomes necessary to exceed the maximum amount, as indicated below, the Board of Education may adopt an increase in said dollar amount through formal Board action.

Account /Auditing Services:	$40,500.00
Architectural/Engineering:	$ 5,000.00
Legal Services:	$75,000.00
Public Relations Services:	$55,424.00
School Physician Services:	$29,000.00

APPROPRIATION OF SURPLUS IN 2024/2025 TENTATIVE SCHOOL BUDGET APPROVED

7. Approve the appropriation of surplus in the amount of $2,032,000.00 in the 2024/2025 tentative school budget.

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

Roll call vote:

Yea	Mrs. Coniglio
Yea	Mrs. Cuccaro
Yea	Mrs. Gunderman
Yea	Dr. Empson Hayden
Yea	Mrs. Killea
Yea	Mrs. Marano
Absent	Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTION

No facilities items for approval.

EDUCATION ACTION

No education items for approval.

PERSONNEL ACTION

No personnel items for approval.

BOARD POLICY

Mrs. Coniglio, Committee Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below.

FIRST READING APPROVAL

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

Bylaw and Policy:

Policy 9150 (Recommended)	School Visitors (Coniglio)	Revised

Administrative Regulation:

Regulation 9150 (Recommended)	School Visitors (Coniglio)	Revised

2. Approve the following Policies and Regulations on second 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

Mrs. Killea seconded the motion. Dr. Zirpoli reviewed Policy #9150.
It was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

Yea	Mrs. Coniglio
Yea	Mrs. Cuccaro
Yea	Mrs. Gunderman
Yea	Dr. Empson Hayden
Yea	Mrs. Killea
Yea	Mrs. Marano
Absent	Mr. Walsh

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:09 p.m. There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:09 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on March 14, 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

Dr. Empson Hayden 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 7:28 p.m. Mrs. Cuccaro called the Board to order. Members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Dr. Empson Hayde, Mrs. Killea, Mrs. Gunderman and Mrs. Marano

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Marano, seconded by Dr. Empson Hayden and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

James E. Testa

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James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary