

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 25, 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, 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 greeted the public and commented that tonight's agenda would have something for everyone to enjoy. She went on to address the rankings released this year, each ranking will use different criteria to determine a school's place. She cautioned the public to look past the numbers and examine the evaluation metrics. U.S. World News recently ranked New Providence High School, forty-one (41) out of four hundred and six (406) high schools in New Jersey. This ranking system significantly emphasizes AP classes and AP testing as a way to determine college readiness. Not every student at the New Providence High School is on the path to taking an AP class, and not every student who takes an AP class will sit for the test, however, this makes up forty percent (40%) of the score in this ranking. In 2022, the year used by U.S. World News, 58% of 12th-grade students at New Providence High School took at least one AP exam, and 54% passed at least one AP Exam. The 2022 graduating class graduated 142 students; 135 of them pursued a secondary education. To quote U.S. News and World Report, "A great High School educates all of its students from different social and economic backgrounds, exposing them to challenging coursework on the path to graduation." The board and the administration use the rankings and the test scores that make up the ranking to drive instruction in the classroom for Math, Language Arts, and Science.

As the end of the school year is fast approaching, the weather has finally broken, spring sports are in full swing, and we are beginning to celebrate our students' successes. This week, we had the honor of congratulating members of the Junior class who were inducted into the World Language Honor Society and the National Honor Society. These achievements are a testament to our students' hard work and dedication, and we couldn't be prouder.

Additionally, we look forward to celebrating the Class of 2024 in the weeks leading up to graduation with the annual Senior Breakfast, Senior Awards Night, Prom, High Honors Recognition Breakfast, and Graduation. At the end of this school year, we will also see the retirement of Dr. Miceli after 18 years of

service as the educational leader of our district. We have some time left before he leaves, but I would like to take the opportunity to thank him on behalf of the board and the community for devoting almost two decades to the education of students in New Providence.

For those who may not know what we do, the Board of Education is responsible for adopting policies under which the school district operates. We oversee the budget, approve the curriculum, represent the public during contract negotiations, serve as a communications link between the community and the school system, and hire and evaluate the Superintendent. The Superintendent is the only position the Board is solely responsible for hiring in the district. I commend this Board for their professionalism and desire to seat the best candidate possible as our next Superintendent.

In September 2023, the Board contracted with New Jersey School Boards to assist with the search to replace Dr. Miceli. By early October, the position was officially posted, and the Board got to work holding listening sessions with staff, administrators, and parents. From these sessions and the online survey, the Board formulated interview questions specific to our district for prospective candidates.

The search generated 28 applicants, including internal candidates, external candidates, current superintendents, assistant superintendents, principals, directors, and business administrators. More than half of these applicants had earned their doctorate.

One applicant stood out from the rest in a very competitive candidate pool. The Board is unanimous in its decision to hire Dr. Lauren Zirpoli as the next Superintendent of the New Providence School District, effective July 1, 2024.

Dr. Zirpoli received her Bachelor of Arts in English from Kean University and then her Masters in Educational Leadership Management and Policy from Seton Hall University before earning her Doctorate in Education—K-12 Administration, also from Seton Hall University.

Dr. Zirpoli started her career in education with the Elizabeth Board of Education as a teacher of American and British Literature and has worked her way through various administrative positions since 2005, including the Dean of Students at Franklin Township High School and the Assistant Principal at Northern Highlands Regional High School before landing in New Providence as the Assistant Principal of New Providence High School in 2011. Dr. Zirpoli has served in different capacities in the district, including as the Assistant Principal and Principal of New Providence High School and Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services for the past four years.

Throughout the interview process, Dr. Zirpoli displayed her passion for student-centered education and her desire to move the district forward while keeping the traditions that have become part of our district's culture in place. Congratulations! The Board is confident that you are the right person to lead us forward with your strong sense of passion and commitment to our community.

The Board will share "Meet and Greet" opportunities with the public in the coming weeks.

Dr. Zirpoli thanked Mrs. Cuccaro and the Board and said the following:

I'm certainly excited about starting my new role as Superintendent of Schools, working with each of you, and getting to know you better in the capacity of my role. I do thank you for your professionalism throughout the entire process of interviewing. Thank you so much for this opportunity. I would like to also speak to the teachers, secretaries, custodians, and support staff; I have enjoyed, over the past 13 years,

working with each of you and getting to know you. You truly are an amazing group of educators who care deeply about the students of New Providence and no matter how hard a decision is we always make the best decision in the best interest of our students. I truly do look forward to working with each of you in my new leadership role. I would also like to thank the entire administrative team. I definitely have special relationships with each of you. Whether we came in together, you are my Assistant Principal or have worked side by side as principals and I've really valued that as a leadership team, we've always come together and made the hard decisions and we've always led this District to true excellence so I truly look forward to continuing working with each of you.

I'd like to thank my family because I couldn't have done all of these roles that I've had in New Providence for the past 13 years, without the support of my entire family. I thank you, guys, very much for being here tonight and all of your support.

Dr. Miceli, you are going to be very large shoes to fill! I appreciate all of these years of you challenging me, at times me questioning why you were challenging me so hard but tonight I realize why and I'm thankful for your mentorship, for your collegiality, and for your friendship. I hope that when you look back I make you proud.

Last but most certainly not least, Mr. Testa, who is our business administrator whom I have been able to work with the past four years, I just want to say that I admire your work ethic and I think that many times folks don't realize how much you do to make this an amazing School District because in your role you're definitely behind the scenes. I could not be happier to get my superintendency here and for you to be my partner and to be the business administrator that I'll be working with. Thank you so much and I look forward to our partnership.

Once again I would like to say thank you, I'm thrilled and I look forward to this journey. I look forward to going around the schools, meeting folks, and speaking with everyone in this new role. Thank you!

### **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

AJ reported on the following student highlights for the month:

Thank you, as always, it's a pleasure. Looking back on this past month, we've had a lot going on, starting with the New Providence High School PTSA Tricky Tray Prom Fashion Show on March 23rd which was a huge success!

After that, our Winter Sports Awards were hosted on Tuesday, March 26th, so congratulations to all athletes from the past season. We are all really looking forward to this Spring season, and things are already in motion, with Track running a boys 4x100 at the Penn Relays tomorrow after the girls represented us today.

Moving on, we saw a successful completion of the SAT School Day test on March 27th and a great District Choral Day on March 28th. Marking Period #4 also began on Monday, April 8th, so we're in the home stretch!

As we've locked in for this last part of the year, we've been hosting some Class Clash activities during the Lunch period including the Trivia Challenge and Mario Kart ahead of the big competition in June.

Moreover, we saw our juniors inducted into the National Honor Society yesterday and into the World Language Honor Society this past Monday, so congratulations to everyone on the successful ceremony! Also this week, the ACT school day was held on Tuesday the 23rd, and for Take Your Child To Work, today, many staff like Mr. Henry brought in their children to experience true pioneer spirit.

Also, Congratulations to Ms. Fintz and to all of our students who compete as a part of the HS Teams. 4 of the 8 teams that competed at NJIT in the state TEAMS (Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics, and Science) competition have qualified for the National Conference in Orlando!

Students include *Eden Kim, Brandon Maneely, Rohan Kulkarni, Anna Fanning, Maria Armenciu, Carina Pang, Wasay Syed, Sebastian Mercado, Brandon Le, Elizabeth Bigham, Matteo Agastra, Hazel Chen, Arianna Bradford, Sean Kruger, Chiranth Agarkhed, and Lila McNamara.*

Moreover, Congratulations to the entire Arts Department as several of our students received awards for the Regional Northern NJ Scholastic Art & Writing Awards.

- *Gold Key Winners: Isabella DeLuca, Harper Gold, Ava Dowling*
- *Silver Key Winners: Shail Mohl, Ava Cuminsky (2), Veronica Saburova, Emma Berry, Maggie Liu, Riya Mallya (Jody Khan's Student), Audrey Cai (through private art school)*
- *Honorable Mentions: Veronica Saburova, Emma Berry, Maggie Liu*

With the PTSA Senior Breakfast coming next Friday, May 3rd, our class is happy to have had a great number of exciting college acceptances and decisions. I am pleased to announce my commitment to studying computer science at the University of Pennsylvania, and I want to thank everyone for their support, especially Mr. Arnold, Mr. C, Mr. Henry, Ms. Fintz, Mrs. Pasuit, and Mrs. Brennan.

Circling back, I'm also excited to say that the STEM Club will be competing at NJTSA states at TCNJ this Saturday. As part of the state officer team, I was involved in running a Pie in the Face fundraiser for the American Cancer Society, and after a total of \$616.00 was raised, I'm pleased to say the New Providence chapter raised the most and will be pieing me live in front of around 1,700 attendees.

Beyond that, AP exams are coming up May 6th-17th.

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 - 676 students, Salt Brook- 611 students, New Providence Middle School - 398 students, and New Providence High School - 661 students, for a total of 2,346 students. We have 39 out-of-district students, making the total 2,385 students.

## **2023/2024 NEW PROVIDENCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT PRESENTATION**

Dr. Miceli invited the members of the New Providence Education Foundation (NPEF) to present.

Chris Naughton, the President of the New Providence Education Foundation, explained the foundation's goals and three methods of raising money: through individual donations, sponsorships from local organizations, and events like Harlem Wizards games and bourbon and wine tastings. The foundation raises money and gives it back to the school district through teacher-initiated grants or funding existing programs to benefit students.

Mr. Naughton also thanked Dr. Miceli for his tremendous support and commented that he is excited to work with Dr. Zirpoli moving forward.

He mentioned that Mrs. Suzanne Botvinis would be presenting the grant check tonight, he also mentioned that Mrs. Botvinis would be stepping down after this year and that the NPEF Board nominated Mrs. Kelly Szeto.

Mrs. Botvinis thanked Mr. Naughton for his kind words and congratulated Dr. Zirpoli. She thanked the teachers for submitting requests for teacher-initiated grants. The committee looked at many different factors to approve and award grants, even though not every grant can be awarded, the committee tries to award as much as possible. An amount close to \$150,000 was submitted in grants. A \$4,500 grant was awarded in February for the dog therapy program. A total of \$67,900 was awarded for grants this year. Mrs. Botvinis has been involved with the grant committee for 10 years and is happy to have administered over half a million in grants, she also mentioned that she has had children who have taken advantage of many grants from their school district.

She then thanked the teachers, administration, and principals for their support.

#### **2024/2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION ([LINK TO PRESENTATION](#))**

Mrs. Marano thanked Mr. Testa, Dr. Miceli, and Dr. Zirpoli for their time, effort, and hours that have gone into keeping the budget within the cap and keeping students and teachers at the forefront of everything that the District does.

She then went on to give a brief overview of the budget goals. The goals have not changed and have remained consistent, the goals are:

- Maintain educational programs and goals to support student achievement
- Review and analyze staffing needs
- Maximize operational efficiencies
- Continue to enhance security, facilities, and equipment
- Consider the burden on taxpayers
- Maintain the culture of the District

Additionally, the budget highlights are broken down into four areas: Education, New Course Offerings, Technology Items, and Staffing.

Education- This year the District is continuing full-day kindergarten and the new K-12 math curriculum, as well as Middle School and High School course offerings. The District will continue updating curricula to address the new NJSLs in math and language arts.

New Course Offerings- Within the High School we're going to be offering Honors Physics, Cyber Security, and Digital Circuits. For the Middle School, we will offer Project Lead The Way Robotics, and for the elementary schools ESL and SLIFE.

Technology Items- The budget will continue to fund software and apps that enhance student achievement best-addressing student needs, as well as, purchasing iPads and cases for the class of 2028 and continuing to replace projectors and interactive boards in different classrooms as well as other network switches.

Staffing- There will be no increase in staff this year.

Mrs. Marano went on to review the capital items that will be done at each of the schools:

Salt Brook School

- Installation of bottle filling station in gymnasium
- Replacement of two AEDs
- Purchase of percussion cabinet/workstation

Allen W. Roberts School

- Installation of drain system in the north playground area
- Purchase of a floor scrubber

High/Middle School

- Replacement of three HVAC units
- Cleaning/Recharging of acid neutralization tanks
- Replacement of bathroom partitions
- Replacement of carpeting in chorus room, orchestra room, and auditorium
- Purchase of a floor scrubber

Maintenance Department

- Purchase of a stainless steel truck salter

Mr. Walsh then went on to discuss the 2024/2025 budget allocations, summarized as follows:

- The budget for this year will see an increase in spending of only 0.27% compared to prior years.
- This demonstrates that the district is efficient, with per-student costs remaining well below the state average.
- Fluctuations in spending can be attributed to enrollment changes and other factors.
- The proposed tax levy for the fiscal year 24/25 is \$43 million, with a 2% increase use of cap bank and a healthcare cap adjustment.
- Cap banking allows the district to save any funds not spent up to the 2% increase and carry it forward into subsequent budgets.
- The state aid for 24/25 is \$3.2 million, representing an increase of \$339,000 from the previous year.
- The total ratables in the district continue to grow due to construction and growth, positively impacting the tax rate.
- The first bucket consists of the operating budget resulting in a tax increase of \$219 or 2.53%.
- The second bucket includes the debt service tax increase of \$282, contributing to a total tax increase of \$551.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared a public hearing for the proposed 2024/2025 school budget.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024/2025 school budget closed at 7:40 pm.

### **DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY PRESENTATION**

Dr. Miceli reviewed the findings of the demographic study:

- The demographic study has revealed a decline in enrollment.
- The study also addressed concerns about enrollment and live births, showing that there is no significant need for movement between elementary schools now.

When analyzing the Community Population Trends and Enrollment Demographics the study showed:

- Whites make up the largest race in New Providence, but their population has declined from 81.1% in 2010 to 69.1% in 2020, reflecting the community's increasing cultural diversity.
- Asians were the second largest race at 15.9% in 2020, with Hispanics following as the third largest race at 9.2%.
- An estimate was made for the number of public school children that could potentially come from the proposed housing development at 111 Spring Street, with approximately 74 students projected, along with 47 for K-6th grade, 12 for 7th-8th grade, and 9 for 9th-12th grade students, although the actual numbers could vary.
- The historical and projected population of New Providence has seen a notable increase of 12.2% since 1940, with a population of 13,650 as of the 2020 census.
- Median household income has risen from 124,454 to 167,188, and the median value of an owner-occupied unit increased from 594 to 770 thousand dollars.
- Historical enrollment trends over the past 10 years show a slow increase from 1,415 to 2,400 by the 2019-2020 school year, followed by a slow decline since then.
- The breakdown of elementary, Middle School, and High School population shows a declining elementary population, a stable Middle School population, and an increasing High School population.
- Live birth rates are a critical factor for determining projected enrollments and have been used consistently for a long period.
- Enrollment projections show a decrease in the absence of housing growth, with projected numbers at 28/29 being 634 at the Middle School and 557 at the elementary school. High School enrollment stays consistent at around 600 students.
- Capacity analysis shows available seats at Allen W. Roberts, Salt Brook, and the High School and Middle School combined, with 23, 132, and 174 seats available respectively by 28/29.
- The plan to move kindergarten students from Allen W. Roberts to Salt Brook in 2024 and 2026 is intended to balance out enrollment projections at both elementary schools.
- It is concluded that the projections and plan are correct, and no changes are needed at this time. However, it is important to monitor potential housing projects in the future.

After the presentation, Mrs. Coniglio asked if Dr. Gripp would still be available for any questions in the future after Dr. Miceli retires.

Dr. Miceli responded that Dr.Gripp will be available for any questions since the District has contracted him.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:55 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:56 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Business Meeting: | March 14, 2024 |
| Closed Meeting:   | March 14, 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>Yea</u> | Mrs. Killea       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mrs. Marano       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

Dr. Empson Hayden moved to approve the minutes for:

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Business Meeting: | March 21, 2024 |
| Closed Meeting:   | March 21, 2024 |

Mrs. Marano 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>Yea</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 10 as listed below:

**BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT APPROVED**

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for March 2024. 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 March 2024, in the amount of \$5,262,384.27.

**ACCOUNT TRANSFER APPROVED**

3. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2023/2024 school year.

**March 2024**

| From:          |                             |                     |
|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Account        | Description                 | Amount              |
| 11-000-100-562 | Tuition- LEA in NJ          | \$ 28,000.00        |
| 11-000-100-563 | Tuition- Vocational         | 40,000.00           |
| 11-000-261-420 | Maintenance & Repair        | 11,000.00           |
| 11-000-266-610 | General Supplies- Security  | 5,000.00            |
| 11-000-270-512 | Contracted Services- Trans. | 15,000.00           |
| 11-000-291-270 | Employee Benefits           | 17,800.00           |
| 11-150-100-101 | Salaries- Home Instruction  | 6,000.00            |
|                |                             | Total: \$122,800.00 |

| To:            |                                 |                     |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Account        | Description                     | Amount              |
| 11-000-261-610 | General Supplies- Maintenance   | \$ 11,000.00        |
| 11-000-262-610 | General Supplies- Custodial     | 5,000.00            |
| 11-000-270-420 | Maintenance & Repair- Trans.    | 8,000.00            |
| 11-000-270-615 | General Supplies- Trans.        | 7,000.00            |
| 11-000-291-241 | Other Retirement Contributions  | 17,800.00           |
| 11-150-100-320 | Purchased Professional Services | 74,000.00           |
|                |                                 | Total: \$122,800.00 |

**NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GRANT AGREEMENT APPROVED**

4. Approve the following resolution:

Authorize execution and delivery of the Grant Agreement between the New Jersey Schools Development Authority and New Providence Board of Education for the replacement of HVAC classroom units at the New Providence High/Middle School, under DOE Project #: 3560-050-23-R501, SDA Project #: 3560-050-23-G5YH and Grant #G5-7035.

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY APPROVED**

5. Approve the following resolution:

The New Providence Board of Education designates the Delegation of Authority to the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary for supervision of the School Facilities Project, regarding the replacement of HVAC classroom units at the New Providence High/Middle School, under DOE Project #: 3560-050-23-R501, SDA Project #: 3560-050-23-G5YH.

**SUSTAINABLE JERSEY FOR SCHOOLS GRANT APPROVED**

6. Approve the acceptance of a Sustainable Jersey for Schools Grant, in the amount of \$2,000.00.

**2024/2025 BUDGET APPROVED**

7. Approve the adoption of the final budget as approved by the Executive County Superintendent:

**WHEREAS**, the New Providence Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 14, 2024 and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

**WHEREAS**, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, and

**WHEREAS**, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the Courier News on April 9, 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, the FINAL BUDGET was presented to the public during a public hearing held in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, New Providence, NJ on April 25, 2024.

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

**ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2024/2025 BUDGET APPROVED**

8. Approve that the following adjustments are included in the final 2024/2025 annual school budget, was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools:

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

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Education includes in the final 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 final 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, 2025 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

**2023/2024 NEW PROVIDENCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT APPROVED**

9. Approve the 2023/2024 grant awards amount, \$63,793.16, from the New Providence Education Foundation, this includes a grant award in the amount of \$4,500.00 for a Dog Therapy Program grant that was approved on February 22, 2024.

**SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM SUBMISSION APPROVED**

10. Approve the 2023/2024 grant awards amount, \$63,793.16, from the New Providence Education Foundation, this includes a grant award in the amount of \$4,500.00 for a Dog Therapy Program grant that was approved on February 22, 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>Yea</u> | Mrs. Killea       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mrs. Marano       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

**FACILITIES ACTION**

Mrs. Marano, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below.

**DISPOSAL APPROVED**

1. Approve the disposal of the following textbooks as they are outdated and no longer necessary for school use:

| Quantity | Textbook Title                                  | Publisher         | Copyright |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|
| 30       | Java Methods, Maria and Gary Litvin             | Skylit Publishing | 2001      |
| 10       | AP Java Methods A and AB, Maria and Gary Litvin | Skylit Publishing | 2006      |

**DISPOSAL APPROVED**

2. Approve the disposal of textbooks as they are outdated and no longer necessary for school use. **(EXHIBIT A)**

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>Yea</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 and 2 as listed below.

**TEACHER RECOGNITION RESOLUTION APPROVED**

1. Approve the following resolution in observance of Teacher Recognition Week May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup>.

**WHEREAS,** the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> through May 11<sup>th</sup> has been declared Teacher Recognition Week throughout the State of New Jersey; and

**WHEREAS,** the faculty of the New Providence School District continue to provide excellent instruction, tutoring, encouragement, counseling, and understanding to the students who pass through their classrooms; and

**WHEREAS,** in addition to the regular educational programs many of the staff provide advice, direction, coaching, and sponsorship to extra-curricular activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

that the Board of Education acknowledges with pride and sincere appreciation the efforts of all of the teachers and its staff; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**

that the members of the Board extend to these teachers their best wishes for the future, firm in the belief that they will always perform in the same fine fashion.

APPROVED THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2024, and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

**KEAN UNIVERSITY MEMORANDUM AGREEMENT APPROVED**

2. Approve the Memorandum of Agreement Between Kean University Diversity Council on Global Education and Citizenship and the New Providence School District in connection with Teaching the Holocaust/Prejudice Reduction Courses.

Mrs. Gunderman read the resolution into the record.

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>Yea</u> | Mrs. Killea       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mrs. Marano       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

**PERSONNEL ACTION**

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

**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS RESOLUTION APPROVED**

1. Adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education has conducted an extensive search for a candidate to fill the position of Superintendent of Schools, and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of said search the Board reviewed the applications and conducted interviews of several candidates for the position, and

**WHEREAS**, after careful review, the Board determined that there was one outstanding applicant for the position (the “applicant”), and

**WHEREAS**, the applicant has accepted the offer of the Board to serve as Superintendent of Schools, and

**WHEREAS**, such applicant and the Board of Education have entered into negotiations concerning the terms and conditions of employment for said service as Superintendent of Schools, and

**WHEREAS**, the Interim Executive Union County Superintendent has approved the negotiated contract between the Board and the applicant, a copy of which is in the hands of each Board member.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the President of the Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into the contract of employment with the applicant named therein as agreed to by the parties, a copy of which is in the hands of each Board member.

APPROVED THIS 25<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2024, and signed by order of the New Providence Board of Education.

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

Mrs. Coniglio read the resolution into the record.

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>Yea</u> | Mrs. Killea       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mrs. Marano       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

Mrs. Coniglio, the Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve Items 2 through 8 as listed below.

**2023/2024 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.
  - a. Scott Butterfield, long term substitute teacher, to teach six (6) classes (eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation), effective 4/8/24, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$540.26 (prorated Step 16, Column VI plus an extra teaching period stipend), base \$108,052.00.
  - b. Neil Carrozza, home instructor
  - c. Kyung Lee, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary

**2023/2024 ESSA APPOINTMENTS APPROVED**

3. 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. This teacher will be paid through the Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant "ESSA" for the 2023/2024 school year:
  - a. Brenda Avila, Title III teacher for spring ESL/ELL programs, not to exceed 20 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

**RESIGNATION APPROVED**

4. Accept the resignation of the following employee:
  - a. Bierka Garcia, playground/lunch assistant, effective 4/28/24

**2023/2024 REVISIONS APPROVED**

5. Approve the following revisions for the 2023/2024 school year:
  - a. Rebeca Barbagallo, long term substitute teacher, \$35,699.00 (base \$59,499.00), effective 1/1/24 through 6/30/24
  - b. Rachel Fintz, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, \$6,040.00 (base stipend \$8,000.00), effective 9/26/23-5/9/24

**EXTENDED FAMILY LEAVE APPROVED**

6. Approve an extended leave pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA for Jorden Neilson, athletic trainer, from 9/30/24 through and including 12/31/24. Additionally, approve the request for unpaid maternity leave under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 1/1/25 and ending 3/26/25 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 8/17/24 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

**FMLA APPROVED**

7. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Rebecca DeCelestino, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 10/30/24 and ending 1/31/25 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 10/1/24 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

**EXTENDED CHILD REARING LEAVE APPROVED**

8. Approve the request of Alyssa Machado, teacher, for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2023/2024 school year, pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, effective 3/27/24 (half day) through 5/15/24.

Mrs. Killea 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>Yea</u> | Mrs. Killea       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mrs. Marano       |
| <u>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

### **BOARD POLICY**

No Policy for review.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: Mrs. Gunderman thanked the DEI committee for reviewing the report and the committee has another meeting scheduled for next month. Plan to present the DEI report at the next board meeting.

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

3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Testa let the Board know that the District has received a NJDOE Emergent Grant for \$56,375.00. At each of the schools, we will continue to replace the exhaust fans which will complete the projects at Allen W. Roberts and Salt Brook and get a majority of them done at the High School and Middle School. At the High School, we will replace one set of fire doors and hot water loops. At Allen W. Roberts, we will install fencing and replace the pavement in the South Court, which is a security upgrade. We're in the process of getting all the quotes for that and we'll move forward this year.

Under Finance, the Board did approve the ROD grant, I want to make everyone aware that we did receive the Grant and it's a matching Grant at 60/40. The 40% match is in the capital budget that we approved for the replacement of HVAC units at the High School. We're in year two of three to replace 18 units that weren't part of the bond, they're existing units that have air conditioning already and they have passed their useful life. We're trying to get ahead of the game, instead of only replacing three we will be able to replace six.

Mr. Walsh took a moment to thank Mrs. Cuccaro for all her work during the Superintendent of School search.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD**

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:05 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:05 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on April 25, 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 Matter related to HIB

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

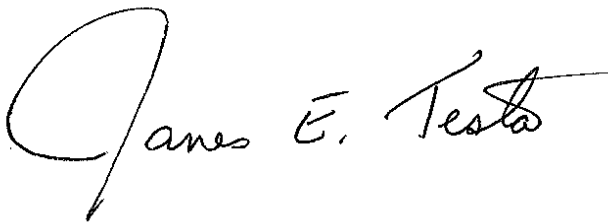
The minutes of the discussion in closed session of the aforementioned matters may be disclosed to the public after the final determination of action has been reached.

**RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board reconvened to a public session at 8:18 p.m. Mrs. Cuccaro called the Board to order. Members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Dr. Empson Hayden, Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Killea, Mrs. Marano, and Mr. Walsh.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Marano and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Testa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

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James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary