

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 21, 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 began her comments by greeting the audience and saying it is great to see everyone tonight as the Board honors the four New Providence Teachers of the Year; Mr. Ben Rubens, Mrs. Leah Bromley, Mrs. Lynn Kowalskie, and Ms. Christina Focacci. Although many were nominated for this honor, the committee was only able to choose one educator from each school. The four educators we will honor tonight have inspired, motivated, and challenged not only their students inside the classroom but also their peers. The Board would like to extend our thanks to you and all of the amazing teachers who are in our District for their dedication to the profession and our District.

Before moving on with the rest of the meeting, Mrs. Cuccaro congratulated all of the winter athletes on an exceptional season and acknowledged all of the hard work and dedication from the Performing Arts department that went into putting on another amazing Spring musical.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

AJ reported on the following student highlights for the month:

Starting, over these past two weekends, the Performing Arts department put on five fantastic showings of the On The Town spring musical. Congratulations to all of the cast, crew, and directors involved for your success, I speak for all of us when I say you brought great joy to the community with your performances!

Beyond that, last week we marked the successful completion of the NJGPA for all Junior students. Thanks to the two days of state testing, our 9th, 10th, and 12th grade students had the opportunity to hear two guest speaker presentations, and of course sleep in.

During the first Fuel Your Future Assembly, we learned about mindful living for success and well-being, as well as the importance of making healthy, sound decisions. During the Grind is Real Assembly, we heard from Dr. Reggie Wright on empowering ourselves to overcome adversity so that we can cultivate academic success and positive character development.

Looking forward, the SAT School Day test will be held on March 27th, and the Winter Sports Awards will be held on Tuesday, March 26th. Congratulations to all winter teams on their amazing seasons, and again congratulations to the hockey team for winning sectionals and making it to the Prudential Center for the 3rd year in a row. With Spring athletics having just started last week, we're excited about what accomplishments are in store for this season!

Regarding other student achievements, congratulations to sophomore NPHS student Adrien Zussa, who won the 5th Annual Pomptonian Healthy School Lunch Challenge and earned a place in our cooking competition. He prepared Steak and Potatoes with an Ice Cream Sundae, and his first-place finish has earned him the grand prize of \$1,000 and several other awards/recognitions.

This week also marked the introduction meeting of the Senior Internship program, which provides a great opportunity to have a unique experience in a field of interest and potential career during the last four weeks of the year. For the first time, the Pilot Capstone program facilitated by Mrs. Brennan and Mrs. Bromley was also offered, which allows students to conduct a high school capstone project focusing on the UN's Sustainable Development goals.

Looking forward, New Providence High School PTSA is running this year's Tricky Tray Prom Fashion Show this Saturday, March 23rd. Baskets and Bites will begin at 5:30 and the show itself at 7. Admission is \$20 with a \$10 discount for children, students, and seniors, so be sure to come out and support the class of 2024!

With just 5 more school days to go, I wish everyone a wonderful upcoming spring break!

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 - 673 students, Salt Brook- 588 students, New Providence Middle School - 416 students, and New Providence High School - 641 students, for a total of 2,318 students. We have 35 out-of-district students, making the total 2,353 students.

NAVIGATE 360 UPDATE

Dr. Zirpoli updated the Board on the progress of the Navigate 360 program implementation. The program was approved at last month's meeting and the updated School Visitors policy is on for second reading tonight for approval. This past Monday, school personnel, staff, and administration were trained on Navigte 360 and its implementation. There will be a letter sent out tomorrow to explain Navitgate 360 and what to expect when coming into the building. Beginning Monday, in each one of our security vestibules, there will be a self-service kiosk where parents/guardians will walk up and scan their government-issued ID, passport, or green card. If someone doesn't have an ID, we will be able to manually put them into the system which will very quickly scan their identification and date of birth against the sex offenders list in New Jersey as well as the national list. If there is a match, we will immediately be notified.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dr. Miceli thanked Dr. Zirpoli and reminded the community that on tonight's agenda, the Board will approve the revised school calendar for the remainder of this year. The board will be giving back two of the emergency days which will be Thursday, May 23rd, and Friday, May 24th, resulting in an extended Memorial Day weekend.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR RECOGNITION

Dr. Miceli commented that tonight is one of his favorite events of the year and thanked staff, administration, and the Board for this program. Dr. Miceli stated the following:

In reflecting on today, thinking about our four recipients, and having spent a lot of time with each of you, I think about the impact you've made on our students. Some of you, in a relatively short period, have been

in the District and some of you have been here for many years. It was interesting to see the difference in the teaching years of each of our recipients. Mr. Rubens has been here for four years, Mrs. Bromley has been here for ten years, Mrs. Focacci has been here for twenty years, and Mrs. Kowalskie has been here for thirty years. It's very interesting the progression of how all of you came to the table today as teachers of the year but have been here for different periods of time and have made such a great impact on our kids. In reflecting on the four of you and watching and observing the work that you've done, I was very reminiscent of my parents. I was very fortunate to have a mom and dad who taught and we were fortunate to live near the district that they worked in, whenever we would go out kids would run up to them and give them big hugs and say thank you. I got to witness that impact every day and when I think of the four of you and see how your students react to you and the work that you do, I think of my parents. I'm very proud of each of you and super happy to congratulate you tonight.

New Providence High School Teacher of the Year: Ben Rubens

Mr. Henry then went up to present Mr. Rubens and Mrs. Bromley. He first presented Mr. Rubens with the following comments.

"Good evening. It is my distinct pleasure to speak this evening about Ben Rubens, orchestra teacher at our High School and Middle School, and to honor Ben as this year's New Providence High School Teacher of the Year. Ben's dedication, passion for music, and commitment to his students and school have left a lasting impression on all who have encountered him as part of our school community. It is with immense pride and gratitude that we celebrate him this evening.

In reflecting on Mr. Rubens' contributions, it is clear that he not only cares deeply about those around him, but he loves his school and being a part of the New Providence School Community. Through his efforts, he has transformed our Orchestra program allowing our students to showcase their creativity while inspiring them to excellence in their work and performance. This is Mr. Rubens's fourth year as our HS/MS Orchestra teacher and fifth year in our district, so receiving this honor showcases the positive impact he has had in such a short amount of time.

Mr. Rubens created a new initiative, "SEL Music Performance in the Classroom," that has transformed the way our students engage with music. By providing opportunities for our orchestra students to perform for their peers and teachers in the classroom setting, he has fostered a supportive environment that nurtures everyone's mental and emotional well-being. This program stands as a testament to Mr. Ruben's innovative mind and his deep understanding of the power music has to uplift.

Mr. Rubens' impact extends far beyond the confines of our school walls though. His leadership was instrumental in coordinating the inaugural Kean University Strings Day, an exciting event that brought together middle school students from across the state to showcase their talents and forge lasting connections. Through his efforts, our students have had the opportunity to perform in a myriad of venues, from the New Providence Senior Citizen Center to the NP Rotary Club luncheon, sharing our students' incredible talents with others.

In addition to his role as a music educator, Mr. Rubens has selflessly devoted his time and energy to various extracurricular activities, serving as the advisor for the Swingin Strings and Music Club. Also, last year he filled in during the first half of the school year, leading our middle school Jazz Band, and even lending his talents to our spring musicals as part of the pit orchestra. Furthermore, he played a pivotal role in supporting our students' participation in music enrichment activities outside of school, from the CJMEA to region orchestra and all-state ensembles. His willingness to go above and beyond for his students outside of the school allows for them to continue to hone their musical skills and participate in critical enrichment opportunities.

What is incredibly impressive about Mr. Rubens's nomination for NPHS Teacher of the Year is that he received nominations from all three stakeholder groups- his students, colleagues, and parents/community members. This again speaks to the outreach and impact he has had on everyone. One of Ben's colleagues shared:

"Ben is an absolutely delightful and inspiring presence in our school. He has created a program where students feel absolutely invested in.

It is absolutely enchanting and gratifying, even as a non-music teacher, to see his students proudly stand in front of their peers and perform. I know it isn't easy, but they make it look like it is.

Perhaps more impressively, he has embraced the rest of the non-musical population of the school, both students and colleagues, and drawn them into his orchestra by inviting us to join him and his musicians in their classroom, and by traveling into our classrooms, bringing music and joy with him.

Ben's dedication to sharing the positive benefits of music with his community has made NPHS a better place to be."

Furthermore one of Ben's students stated:

"Orchestra has always been the highlight of my day because of him. He's always been a very positive teacher. It's easy to talk to him for help about any of our pieces and he's always ready to sacrifice his time to assist a student. Mr. Rubens is a great teacher and I think he should be nominated."

Ben, your genuine care and concern for each and every student who crosses your path is seen on a daily basis in our school. Whether in the classroom or on the stage, you serve as an inspiration to our students and someone who they know will always support them on their academic and personal journeys.

As we celebrate your accomplishments, let us also take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for your continued dedication and enthusiasm for teaching and learning and for helping others reach their musical and educational goals.

Ben, thank you for all that you do, and congratulations on this well-deserved honor!"

Mr. Rubens said a few words of appreciation and thanked the Board and students.

New Providence Middle School Teacher of the Year: Leah Bromley

Mr. Henry then went on to introduce Mrs. Bromley and made the following comments:

It is with great pleasure and admiration that I stand before you with the opportunity to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of our New Providence Middle School Teacher of the Year- Leah Bromley. In a profession and career where dedication and passion are paramount, Leah stands out as a shining example of a commitment to student excellence, overall versatility, and an ability to motivate and inspire both students and her colleagues to maximize their full potential.

Throughout her 10 years in the New Providence School District, Ms. Bromley has demonstrated an unparalleled willingness to go above and beyond for her students, her colleagues, and her community. Her tireless efforts in the area of science as well as other school/district goals, have not only enriched the lives of countless students but have also propelled our school district forward in its pursuit of excellence.

One of Ms. Bromley's most remarkable qualities is her versatility. Whether she is teaching enriched Science to our 8th-grade students, lending her expertise and time filling in for AP Biology, or spearheading initiatives that shape the future of our Science Department, she approaches each task with passion and a deep sense of purpose. Her ability to adapt to diverse challenges and excel in various roles is a testament to her exceptional talent and unwavering dedication.

Ms. Bromley has been instrumental in the development and implementation of our district's personalized learning initiative, ensuring that each student receives an education tailored to their needs and aspirations, allowing them to be change agents in their learning. Her visionary leadership has transformed our classrooms into dynamic learning environments where students are empowered to explore, discover, and thrive. Anytime you step foot in Ms. Bromley's classroom, you see students collaborating, analyzing, and pushing themselves to achieve successful and positive outcomes. She truly allows her students ownership and autonomy in their learning while guiding and supporting them along the way.

In addition to Ms. Bromley's work in the classroom as a Science teacher, she has played a pivotal role in fostering global awareness and civic engagement among our Middle School students through the creation of the middle school Capstone project centered around the United Nations sustainable development goals. By challenging our students to tackle real-world issues and create and innovate as a part of this process, she has provided our students with an enriching and meaningful educational experience that extends far beyond the confines of the classroom. She now is looking to expand the Capstone project and program as we pilot a new Capstone opportunity for our current senior students as part of the Senior Internship program. We are certainly excited to provide our high school students with this unique and fulfilling opportunity knowing the benefits we have seen from our middle school students who have completed this project.

Ms. Bromley is also deeply committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within our school district. Her advocacy and leadership on the district's DEI Committee has and will continue to help foster a culture and environment of respect, acceptance, and belonging for all members of our school community. This committee is just one committee of many in which Ms. Bromley has volunteered her time and efforts. She was a member of our Middle School Bell Schedule Committee and has assisted as a member of our School Improvement or SciP Committees. Her time and efforts are truly appreciated by all.

As if her plate wasn't full enough, Ms. Bromley also serves as our K-12 Science Department Head, guiding and inspiring her colleagues with her intelligence and understanding of what it takes to be a leader. Under her guidance, our Science Department has flourished, embracing innovation, collaboration, and a shared commitment to student success. Furthermore, Ms. Bromley supported the creation of a new Science National Honors Society at NPHS where she advises the group in its second year. Through this Science Chapter, she has fostered a love for science among our students, empowering them to reach new heights of achievement.

One of Leah's colleagues shared:

"In preparing for classes, Leah is innovative, thoughtful and organized. She arrives prepared to enlighten students while highlighting their interests. She cares deeply about her students' dignity, growth, and self-worth. Leah played a key role in the creation of the middle school Capstone Project, an invaluable endeavor for middle schoolers to pursue. She is always ahead of the curve and thinking of the future needs of our students. Leah is also an exceptional department head. Her vision of what science education could be is inspiring. She allows teachers to independently grow in their practice while supporting where necessary with the most current educational strategies. Leah is a selfless and fearless leader. Her ability to recognize the important points of an issue and articulate a thoughtful response are second to none. In times of stress, she comes prepared to deliver a perspective that is valuable for all to hear."

What may be most impressive of all though, is that Leah does this all while being a devoted and loving mother to her children Hazel, Violet, and Jett and to her husband Andy. As a father of three myself, I truly appreciate and admire Leah's ability to balance all of her responsibilities and commitments to her students, colleagues, and family. In closing, today, we celebrate Leah's many accomplishments and contributions to our school and district. With a leader and educator like Leah, I am fully confident for the future for our science students, school, and district.

And one last item, today just so happens to be Leah's birthday so please join me in wishing her a happy birthday and congratulating and recognizing her as our New Providence Middle School Teacher of the Year!

Mrs. Bromley stated that it's been an honor and a pleasure and a joy to teach the students of New Providence, I truly love going in the classroom every day and working with them and it's been an honor to teach among such amazing colleagues and staff and administrators.

Allen W. Roberts Elementary Teacher of the Year: Lynn Kowalskie

Mr. Richter presented Mrs. Kowalskie and said the following comments:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, Board of Education members, district and school administrators and New Providence community. It is my honor to introduce and speak about Mrs. Kowalskie who is the Allen W. Roberts teacher of the year. Our learning community is extremely proud of you, Mrs. Kowalskie, as you are an outstanding and dedicated educator who has set such a high bar for teaching in this district.

Mrs. Kowalskie comes from a family of educators with parents who were longtime teachers and many other relatives in the field. She jumped into teaching right out of Kean University and worked for one year as a fourth-grade teacher in Irvington. She then began her successful career here in New Providence in 1990. She worked at Salt Brook and gained valuable experience in the 5th and 6th grades before eventually making her way to AWR and settling into 3rd grade where she has been a stalwart for many years - in fact, she is in the midst of finishing her 31st year in education! If you sit with Mrs. Kowalskie, for even just a few minutes, she will tell you a story from years passed that, while funny or entertaining, will show how she learned something from it.

Mrs. Kowalskie is a true professional who excels in all aspects of her teaching role. Anytime you visit her classroom, you will see her dressed in professional, stylish attire. Teachers comment that, "she's always dressed to the nines." Many of us found it funny that, on the day of the announcement of her selection as teacher of the year, Mrs. Kowalskie was slightly embarrassed as she was in more comfortable attire as we were celebrating Read Across America week with a spirit day. She actually said to Dr. Miceli, "this is how I'm dressed for this, every other day I'm dressed up" She is certainly proud of how she represents herself as a professional.

Mrs. Kowalskie loves her job and aims to have a positive impact on students' lives each day. She focuses on teaching and strengthening students' life skills, including problem solving, taking responsibility, demonstrating respect, and listening to others. She uses read-alouds, short stories, writing, class discussions and more to focus on these skills. She consistently models and has students practice kindness toward others as it has always been a major theme of each school year. Her expectations for behavior and how to be a good person are very high and she holds the students to the expected standards. Mrs. Kowalskie's classroom is organized and structured, where students thrive, both as young people and in their academics. One parent commented that, "She teaches the students to take responsibility for themselves and understand that actions can have consequences."

Mrs. Kowalskie works closely with parents as a partner to help students be successful. She communicates regularly, answers questions, offers direct feedback, and collaborates to come up with plans for student improvement, both academically and behaviorally. She uses her own experiences as a parent of three children to empathize with parents and, given her honest and direct approach, even guides them with their parenting.

Mrs. Kowalskie spends considerable time, including much of her lunchtime, planning and preparing for lessons and projects. Her experience with curriculum and programs allows her to use numerous resources and strategies to help all students learn and grow. She gets to know her students' skills, interests, abilities and pushes them through differentiation and individual support. She infuses regular public speaking opportunities along with listening activities. For example, the "joke of the day" allows individual students to tell a joke in front of the class. Each year she invites students and their parents to share their cultures, traditions, and celebrations. Students are always excited to participate in activities and crafts to learn about each other. With the infusion of literature from and about different cultures, diversity and respect for others is highlighted in her room. She regularly engages the mayor in a classroom event to show the students the real-world application of their studies about local government. Her students can be seen regularly moving and taking brain breaks, including the old fashioned jump rope games and exercises. One parent stated, "Mrs. Kowalskie has fostered an environment in her classroom of fun that relates to the students and the strategies make it easier for the students to grasp the concepts."

Mrs. Kowalskie is part of a large contingent of teachers who started in New Providence in the early nineties with many, like herself, still contributing to our community. There are many tales of the fun and

laughs that she and her colleagues shared during school, at school events, after school, and on the weekends. She and her colleagues bonded and supported one another and still do to this day. It seems that most anyone you speak to knows or worked with Lynn in some capacity over the years as she has friends all around the district. Her colleagues would all say similar things about her, structured; runs a tight ship; an amazing teacher; great person; and can't believe it took this long for her to win this recognition.

Another parent stated, "She is an incredible teacher. I know this because not only do I see it in the development of my daughter, but because she made a lifetime impression on me many years ago when she taught me in 5th grade. She brings the ideal balance of care and accountability, helps her students better understand the learning process, and challenges them to be the best possible versions of themselves. In her time in Mrs. Kowalskie's classroom my daughter has transformed into a more confident, curious and accountable student."

Lynn, you have been earning this for a long time, and countless students, parents, families, and colleagues have been the beneficiaries of your talent and hard work. You are appreciated by so many for so many different reasons. Congratulations to you, on behalf of everyone at AWR and in New Providence!

Mrs. Kowalskie thanked the Board and the administration. She went on to say: I've been here a long time, three decades, I just can't imagine leaving teaching. I think I come to work every day not having to work, my dad always said "If you love what you do you never go to work" I wish my parents could be here, they're in their little chairs at Crane's Mill. Thank you to my husband, and my kids, who are here. And I'm going out with this: "Susan Lucci, I beat you."

Salt Brook Elementary Teacher of the Year: Christina Focacci

Mrs. Drexinger went up to present Ms. Focacci and made the following comments:

Ms. Focacci is undoubtedly a remarkable teacher, and her nominations for Teacher of the Year paint a vivid picture of why she deserves this recognition. It should be noted that besides several staff nominations, Ms. Focacci received a total of 19 student nominations from both present and former students. A true testament to the kind of teacher she is. Known for her unwavering care and dedication to her students, Ms. Focacci goes above and beyond to ensure every individual in her classroom feels valued and supported.

Her commitment to student success is evident in her tireless efforts, whether it's staying late after school or during lunch to provide extra help, or meticulously organizing daily slideshows to keep her students on track with their homework. She not only teaches her subjects effectively but also fosters a sense of self-worth and a love for learning in each student.

Creating a positive classroom climate is second nature to Ms. Focacci. She establishes rapport with her students effortlessly, making them feel loved and appreciated every day. Her innovative instructional strategies, including incorporating technology seamlessly into lessons, ensure that students remain engaged and motivated to learn.

Ms. Focacci's caring nature extends beyond academics; she makes personal connections with her students, remembering details about their lives and making each one feel special. From instilling confidence before tests to creating choice boards and fun activities, she goes the extra mile to ensure every student's needs are met.

Moreover, Ms. Focacci's impact transcends the classroom. She dedicates her time to professional development within the district, continuously striving to improve her teaching methods for the benefit of her students.

In essence, Ms. Focacci embodies everything one could hope for in a teacher: kindness, dedication, innovation, and a genuine passion for helping students succeed. Her impact on her students' lives is profound, leaving a lasting impression of warmth, encouragement, and academic achievement. It is

without a doubt that Ms. Focacci deserves the title of Teacher of the Year at Salt Brook School, as her unwavering commitment to her students' well-being and academic growth is truly exemplary.

A video made by staff and students was played for Ms. Focacci.

Afterward, Ms. Focaccia made the following comments:

I would like to thank my family, staff, administration, and the Board it has been an honor. This makes me think about twenty-six years ago, it was my first week of work and I came home I had a rough day I was working at Essex County and I said to my dad "I don't know if I can do this for another twenty-five years this is hard and he's like "Well, you only have twenty-five more years or fifty-five years, whichever comes first" and now I stand here and I can't imagine not doing it for another 25 years and I love what I do so thank you to everybody.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:47 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:47 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Special Meeting:	February 10, 2024
Closed Meeting:	February 10, 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>Abstain</u>	Mr. Walsh

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	February 22, 2024
Closed Meeting:	February 22, 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

Mrs. Killea moved to approve the minutes for:

Special Meeting:	February 24, 2024
Closed Meeting:	February 24, 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 7 as listed below:

BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for February 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 March 2024, in the amount of \$5,619,101.71.

VOIDED CHECKS APPROVED

3. Approve the following voided and re-issued checks:

<u>Voided</u>				
<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Reason</u>
036712	11/15/22	\$ 817.84	PAYROLL	OUTDATED
036735	12/15/22	\$ 709.04	PAYROLL	OUTDATED
036749	01/13/23	\$ 329.46	PAYROLL	OUTDATED
036767	02/15/23	\$ 716.96	PAYROLL	OUTDATED
363533	02/22/24	\$9,179.60	11-000-100-566-11	VOIDED

<u>Re-issued</u>			
<u>Check#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
037017	03/14/24	\$ 817.84	PAYROLL
037018	03/14/24	\$ 709.04	PAYROLL
037015	03/14/24	\$ 329.46	PAYROLL
037016	03/14/24	\$ 716.96	PAYROLL

NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY INITIATIVE PROGRAM APPROVED

4. Approve the Nonpublic School Security Initiative Program spending plan for the participating school located within the District, New Providence Presbyterian Church Preschool & Kindergarten, for the 2024/2025 school year. (EXHIBIT A)

JOHN R. O'NEILL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATION APPROVED

5. Approve the generous donation From Mrs. Gloria Prunesti to the John R. O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$300.00.

GENYOUTH DONATION APPROVED

6. Approve the generous donation to the New Providence School District in the amount of \$3,100.00 from GENYOUth on behalf of ACME Markets Foundation's Nourishing Neighbor Program to be given to District families receiving free or reduced lunch and to the New Providence High School Food Pantry.

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS INSURANCE GROUP MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT APPROVED

7. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A 18A:18B-1, et seq., enables boards of education to join with other boards of education in school board insurance trusts for the purpose of forming self-insurance pools;

WHEREAS, THE New Jersey Schools Insurance Group ("NJSIG") is a joint insurance fund authorized by N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. to provide insurance coverage and risk management services for its members;

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education, herein after referred to as the "Educational Institution," has resolved to apply for and/or renew its membership with NJSIG;

WHEREAS, the Educational Institution certifies that it has not defaulted on a claim, and has not been canceled for non-payment of insurance premium for a period of at least two (2) years prior to the date of its application to NJSIG;

WHEREAS, the Educational Institution desires to secure protection, services, and savings relating to insurance and self-insurance for itself and its departments and employees; and,

WHEREAS, the Educational Institution finds that the best and most efficient way of securing this protection and services by cooperating with other boards of education in the State of New Jersey.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

- 1) This agreement is made by and between NJSIG and the Educational Institution;
- 2) This Educational Institution joins with other boards of education in organizing and becoming members of NJSIG pursuant to N.J.S. 18A:18B-3(a), for a period of three years, beginning on July 1, 2024, and ending July 1, 2027 at 12:01 a.m.;
- 3) Inconsideration of membership in NJSIG, the Educational Institution agrees that for those types of coverage in which it participates, the Educational Institution shall jointly and severally assume and discharge the liabilities of each and every member of NJSIG to such agreement arising from their participation in NJSIG. By execution hereof the full faith and credit of the Educational Institution is pledged to the punctual payment of any sums which shall become due to NJSIG in accordance with the bylaws thereof, the plan of risk management, this Agreement, and any applicable statute or regulation;
- 4) The Educational Institution and NJSIG agree that NJSIG shall hold all monies paid by the Institution to NJSIG as fiduciaries for the benefit of NJSIG claimants all in accordance with applicable statutes and/or regulations;

- 5) NJSIG shall establish and maintain Trust Accounts in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18B-1, et seq. and such other statutes and regulations as may be applicable;
- 6) By adoption of this resolution, the Educational Institution is hereby joining NJSIG in accordance with the terms of this Indemnity and Trust Agreement and Resolution to Join/Renew Membership, effective the date indicated below, for the types of insurance as indicated in the Insurance Binder issued by NJSIG;
- 7) The Educational Institution hereby ratifies and affirms the bylaws and other organizational and operational documents of NJSIG, and as from time to time amended by NJSIG and/or the State of New Jersey, Department of Banking and Insurance, in accordance with the applicable statutes and regulations as if each and every one of said documents were re-executed contemporaneously herewith;
- 8) The Educational Institution agrees to be a participating member of NJSIG for the period herein provided for and to comply with all of the rules and regulations and obligations associated with said membership, including, but not limited to the NJSIG's Plan of Risk Management;
- 9) The Educational Institution under its obligation as a member of NJSIG agrees to allow for safety inspections of its properties, to pay contributions in a timely fashion and to comply with the bylaws and standards of participation of NJSIG including the plan of risk management;
- 10) If NJSIG, in the enforcement of any part of this Agreement, shall incur necessary expense or become obligated to pay attorney's fees and/or court costs, the Educational Institution agrees to reimburse NJSIG for all such reasonable expenses, fees and costs on demand;
- 11) The Business Administrator is hereby authorized in accordance with the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq., to execute such contracts and documentation with NJSIG as is necessary to effectuate this resolution: and,
- 12) The Business Administrator is directed to send a certified copy of this Indemnity and Trust Agreement and Resolution to Join/Renew Membership to NJSIG.

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 item 1 as listed below.

DISPOSAL APPROVED

1. Approve the disposal of the following item, as it is outdated and no longer deemed necessary for school use:

Quantity	Item Description	Model/ISBN #	BOE#/Ser.#	Reason for Disposal
1	30-year-old inoperable walk-behind scrubber	N/A	101486	Inoperable

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.

2023/2024 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2023/2024 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	7
Middle School:	10, 11, 12
Salt Brook:	8

2023/2024 ADDITIONAL FIELD TRIP DESTINATION 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.

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 Items 1 through 9 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. Steve Hughes, gameworker
 - b. Grace Kinsella, lacrosse (spring), girls, second assistant, \$5,231.00
 - c. Jessica Campos, student teacher, effective 3/22/24-6/14/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - d. Danielle Bloom, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
 - e. Harold Jones, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
 - f. Kyung Lee, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - g. Jose Chaves, substitute custodian
 - h. Harold Jones, substitute custodian

2023/2024 ESSA 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 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant "ESSA" for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Heather Maguire, Title III teacher for the spring ESL/ELL programs, not to exceed 20 hours @ \$75.00/hr.
 - b. Hailey Hogan, Title III teacher for the spring ESL/ELL programs, not to exceed 20 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

2023/2024 REVISED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

3. Approve the following revisions for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. Kelly Waldron, playground/lunch assistant, 3 hrs./day, \$4,644.00 (base \$10,560.00), effective 2/21/24
 - b. Karen Gaeta, long-term substitute teacher, effective 3/21/24, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$285.00 (prorated Step 1, Column I, base of \$56,999.00)

2023/2024 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

4. Rescind the following appointment for the 2023/2024 school year:
 - a. David Fama, lacrosse (spring), girls, second assistant, \$5,231.00
 - b. Michele Picarelli, AWR winter/spring academic achievement program teacher, not to exceed 25 hours @ \$75.00/hr.

REVISED 2023/2024 SCHOOL CALENDER APPROVED

5. Approve the revised 2023/2024 School Calendar.

(EXHIBIT B)

2024/2025 EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY SCHEDULES APPROVED

6. Approve the following 2024/2025 Employee Holiday Schedules:

- a. 12 Month
- b. 10/10.5 Month

FAMILY LEAVE APPROVED

7. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Christina Piccirillo, teacher, 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. (Based on 6/17/24 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

FAMILY LEAVE APPROVED

8. Approve the request of Pamela Van Nostrand, teacher, (currently on maternity leave), for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2024/2025 school year, pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, effective 9/1/24 through 6/30/25.

FAMILY LEAVE APPROVED

9. Approve the request of Christine Hubert, teacher, (currently on maternity leave), for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2024/2025 school year, pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, effective 9/1/24 through 6/30/25.

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

BOARD POLICY

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

SECOND READING APPROVAL**Bylaw and Policy:**

Policy 9150 (Recommended)	School Visitors (Coniglio)	Revised
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Administrative Regulation:

Regulation 9150 (Recommended)	School Visitors (Coniglio)	Revised
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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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: Mrs. Gunderman stated that the committee will be meeting in April to go over the DEI report with Dr. Zirpoli.

2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: Mrs. Marano commented that the budget has been sent to the county and are waiting to get feedback. We plan to present the budget at the April board meeting.

3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Congilio wanted to echo everyone's positive comments about the musical success. Thanked everyone who came out to support the students.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cuccaro wanted to bring to the Board's attention the invitation to the World Language National Honor Society induction on April 22nd at 7:30. There is also a calendar for spring events and Mrs. Cuccaro stated that she would be reaching out to the Board to see who can be representatives at those nights.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE HEARD

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:53 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:53 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on March 21, 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:

- Litigation
- Negotiations
- Personnel

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

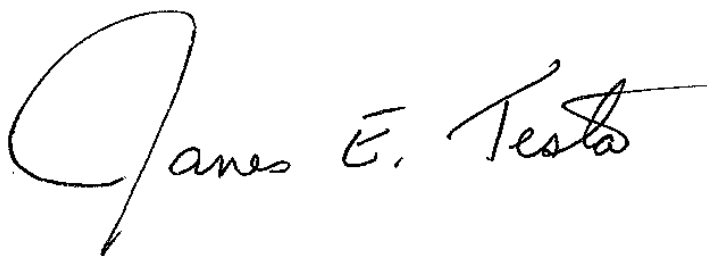
The minutes of the discussion in closed session of the aforementioned matters may be disclosed to the public after the final determination of action has been reached.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to a public session at 8:46 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 Mrs. Marano, seconded by Mr. Walsh and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 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".

James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary