

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on July 25, 2024, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Mrs. Cuccaro, Board President.

Present on the roll call were Rebecca Coniglio, Bernadette Cuccaro, Dr. Kristen Empson Hayden, Stacey Gunderman, Jennifer Killea, Amanda Marano, and Joseph Walsh. Also present were Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and six (6) 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 a notice was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Whenever the business of the Board requires it to convene to a Closed Session, the session will begin no later than 9:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the need for a Closed Session, the Board will reconvene to the public portion of the meeting. At that time the Board will complete any other business that may be before it and the public will then be given an opportunity to be heard before the meeting is adjourned.

BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro welcomed everyone to the 2024-2025 school year and the beginning of a new era for New Providence Schools! It is an exciting time for our district, and we have much to look forward to. I would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Zirpoli, who officially began her tenure as our new Superintendent of Schools on July 1st, and to Joseph Ugialoro, the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services who will begin to transition into his new role on Monday.

I also want to thank our administration, custodial, and maintenance staff in each building. Your dedication and hard work in preparing for the new school year is truly commendable and does not go unnoticed. The summer months are always busy in our schools, and this year has been no exception.

Additionally, I want to acknowledge the efforts of H&S Mechanical, who has been diligently working in each school since June to complete the rough plumbing and electrical work as part of the upgrades from HV to HVAC in each school. This work is being completed ahead of the installation of the new HVAC units when they arrive. Mr. Testa will provide more detailed information on this project during the meeting.

There is still plenty of summer left and I hope that our families and students are taking advantage of the time to unwind and relax before getting back to work. Lastly, I would like to remind the parents of incoming Kindergarten students that registration is open on the New Providence Education Foundation website for the annual Kindergarten Mixer at Crestview Swim Club on Thursday, September 5th from 7:00-9:00 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet the parents of the Class of 2037 in a casual, relaxed environment just as school is beginning.

ENROLLMENT

Dr. Zirpoli gave the enrollment report for the following schools Allen W Roberts - 680 students, Salt Brook- 588 students, New Providence Middle School - 414 students, and New Providence High School - 643 students, for a total of 2,325 students. We have 34 out-of-district students, making the total 2,359 students.

Incoming kindergarten; Salt Brook has 80 full-day kindergarten students, 6 of the students were from either zone A or D in the redistricting plan, and Allen W. Roberts has 64 full-day kindergarten students. There are six new 1st grade registrants at Allen W. Roberts and thirteen new 1st grade registrants at Salt Brook.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli went over the report on AP test scores. The AP test scores are released annually in the month of July. Mr. Keaney will review the AP scores in more detail when he presents the assessment report in the Fall. This year's total of 235 students taking AP exams represented an increase from 197 students the previous year. The percentage of students achieving scores of 3 or higher rose from 83% to around 90%, which is commendable progress. Dr. Zirpoli also highlighted the number of students that achieved a classification of AP Scholars: 38 students received AP Scholars recognition, 21 students received AP Scholar with Honors, and 42 students received AP Scholar with Distinction, signifying not just participation but excellence.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:12 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:12 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Gunderman moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	June 27, 2024
Closed Session:	June 27, 2024

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

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

ACTION ITEMS **FINANCE ACTIONS**

Mrs. Marano, Finance Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 13:

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for June 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 July 2024, in the amount of \$7,841,041.93.

ACCOUNT TRANSFER APPROVED

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

June 2024

From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-218-105	Salaries- Guidance	\$ 1,737.00
11-000-230-100	Salaries- General Admin.	5,729.00
11-000-240-103	Salaries- School Admin.	33,889.00
11-000-262-622	Utilities- Electric	12,000.00
11-000-291-270	Employee Benefits	67,847.00
		Total: \$121,202.00
From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-240-103	Salaries- School Admin.	\$ 1,691.00
11-000-262-107	Salaries- Non Instr. Aides	2,014.00
11-000-270-512	Contracted Services- Trans.	2,374.00
11-150-100-320	Purchased Prof. Services	6,180.00
		Total: \$12,259.00
To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-218-199	Unused Vacation Payments	\$ 1,737.00
11-000-230-199	Unused Vacation Payments	24,893.00
11-000-240-199	Unused Vacation Payments	14,725.00
11-000-262-621	Utilities- Natural Gas	12,000.00
11-000-270-515	Contracted Services- Trans.	67,847.00
		Total: \$121,202.00
To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-230-100	Salaries- General Admin.	\$ 1,691.00
11-000-262-100	Salaries- Custodians	2,014.00
11-000-270-161	Salaries- Spec. Ed. Trans.	612.00
11-000-270-162	Salaries- Other Transportation	1,762.00
11-150-100-101	Salaries- Home Instruction	6,180.00
		Total: \$12,259.00

VOIDED AND REISSUED CHECKS APPROVED

4. Approve the following voided and reissued checks:

Check #	Date	Amount	Account	Reason
3262	2/08/2022	\$ 300.00	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
3415	12/09/2022	\$ 348.50	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
3451	2/21/2023	\$ 349.40	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
3490	5/12/2023	\$ 1000.00	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
3518	6/22/2023	\$ 42.97	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
3520	6/22/2023	\$ 760.00	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
3521	6/22/2023	\$ 112.13	HS Activities Account	Not Deposited
364032	5/29/2024	\$ 168.00	11-402-100-500-01	Lost

Reissued

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
364032	7/12/2024	\$ 168.00	11-402-100-500-01

2024/2025 BUS COMPANIES APPROVED

5. Approve the following bus companies for athletics, extracurricular, and field trip transportation in the event the Morris-Union Jointure Commission is unable to provide transportation for the 2024/2025 school year:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>2024/2025 Rates</u>
Belair Transport	Orange	\$ 95.00/hr. – In-state \$105.00/hr. – Out-of-state
Durham Charter Services	Roselle	Price to be determined based on trip
First Student	Berkeley Heights	Price to be determined based on trip
Charter UP	Newark	Price to be determined based on trip
US Coachways	New York	Price to be determined based on trip

DONATION APPROVED

6. Approve the generous donation from Apple TV in an estimated amount of \$3,899.65 for tables and chairs.

UNION COUNTY EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT APPROVED

7. Approve the transportation agreement between the Union County Educational Services Commission and the New Providence School District for the 2024/2025 school year.

PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL IREADY MATH SUPPLIES APPROVED

8. Approve the following additional purchase in accordance with N.J. Statutes 18A:18A-5(a)(5) for the 2024/2025 school year:

- iReady Math Classroom workbooks and Supplemental Resources for Grades K-6 from Curriculum Associates, not to exceed \$1,385.75.

1962 SCHOLARSHIP DONATION APPROVED

9. Approve the generous donation to the New Providence High Class of 1962 Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$109.00.

RENEWAL OF COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT APPROVED

10. Approve the following resolution:

Authorizing the New Providence Board of Education to renew the following cooperative pricing agreement:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11, et seq. authorizes two or more contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services, and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, NJEdge.Net, Inc. ("NJEdge"), hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency" has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2024, the New Providence Board of Education, duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services; and

WHEREAS, New Providence Board of Education within the County of Union, State of New Jersey, desires to participate in the EdgeMarket Cooperative Pricing System; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-11, et seq., James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary of the New Providence Board of Education, on behalf of New Providence Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

This Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the Public School Contracts Law, N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1, et seq., and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

PURCHASE/RENEWAL OF SOFTWARE APPROVED

11. Approve the purchase/renewal of software, including support and maintenance, for the 2024/2025 school year in accordance with N.J. Statutes 18A:18A-5. **(EXHIBIT A)**

PURCHASE OF CARPETING AND REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING CARPETING APPROVED

12. Approve the purchase of new carpeting and replacement of existing carpeting in the High School Auditorium, Orchestra Room, and Chorus Room, in an amount not to exceed \$59,830.75, under Coop# HCESC Bid # 215. **(EXHIBIT B)**

METHFESSEL & WERBEL P.C. BOARD OF EDUCATION ATTORNEY APPROVED

13. Approve the appointment of Methfessel & Werbel, P.C. as the attorney for the Board of Education due to the merger with Cornell, Merlino, and Osborne in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-5.

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

EDUCATION ACTIONS

Mrs. Gunderman moved to approve Items 1 through 10:

HIB INVESTIGATIONS APPROVED

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2024/2025 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	10
Middle School:	16
Salt Brook:	9
District:	4

2024/2025 IDEA GRANT SUBMISSION APPROVED

2. Approve the submission of Fiscal Year 2025 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA) Consolidated Grant Application, in the amount of \$543,862.00 (Basic: \$523,219.00; Preschool: \$20,643.00), for the period 7/1/24 through 6/30/25.

2024/2025 LIEP PLAN APPROVED

3. Approve the Language Instruction Educational Program (LIEP) Three-Year Plan for the 2024/2025 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member. This plan is aligned with the District's Comprehensive Equity Plan (N.J.A.C. 6A:7).

2024/2025 ANTICIPATED FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS APPROVED

4. Approve the attached list of anticipated field trip destinations for the 2024/2025 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8. **(EXHIBIT B)**

2024/2025 BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS APPROVED

5. Approve the Board of Education Goals for the 2024/2025 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.

2024/2025 CHAPTER 27 EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PLAN APPROVED

6. Approve the New Providence School District's annual Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2024/2025 School Year, as prepared in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32. Approve also the submission of this plan to the NJDOE.

2024/2025 ESSA GRANT APPROVED

7. Approve the New Providence School District's annual Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2024/2025 School Year, as prepared in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32. Approve also the submission of this plan to the NJDOE.

2024/2025 TITLE III CONSORTIUM APPROVED

8. Approve for the 2024/2025 school year acceptance into a Title III Consortium with the Springfield Board of Education in order to receive the amount of \$6,242.00 since federal legislation requires a consortium given that the District's allocation is below the \$10,000.00 minimum requirement. The Springfield Board of Education will be the lead district in this consortium.

2024/2025 NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT'S COMPREHENSIVE EQUITY PLAN APPROVED

9. Approve the submission of the New Providence School District's Comprehensive Equity Plan (CEP) Statement of Assurance for the 2024/2025 school year to the NJDOE. This is an extension of the New Providence School District's 2019 through 2022 CEP.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT IN THE CALAIS SCHOOL APPROVED

10. Approve the enrollment of Student #1601130 at The Calais School, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of \$77,464.80, effective 9/3/24.

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

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Coniglio
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Items 1 through 11:

2024/2025 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 2024/2025 school year:
 - a. Claudia Branco, long term substitute teacher, \$38,637.00 (base \$77,274.00), effective 9/1/24 through 1/31/25
 - b. Amelia Nagle, summer HS/MS media center, not to exceed 8 days, \$4,366.76
 - c. Ryan Glatz, football coach intern, for the 2024 football season (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - d. Byron Tracey, trainer, new teacher professional development workshop, not to exceed 30 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - e. James McGeechan, new teacher technology training workshop, not to exceed 15 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - f. Michelle Testa, trainer, new teacher professional development workshop, not to exceed 20 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - g. Jaclyn Kaufmann, K-6 Language Arts Department Head
 - h. Sean Theis, student teacher, effective 9/1/2024-6/30/2025
 - i. Emma Hughes, student teacher, effective 9/1/2024-6/30/2025 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - j. Edward Insinger, playground/lunch assistant, \$10,560.00, effective 9/1/2024 (subject to criminal history review procedures)

2024/2025 ARP-ESSER APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

2. Approve the appointment of the following people with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2024/2025 school year. These appointments are made under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP-ESSER).

- a. Sharon Licari, professional development hours to prepare mini-series workshops, not to exceed 6 hours @ \$54.87/hr., effective 7/1/24-8/23/24

RESIGNATIONS APPROVED

- 3. Accept the resignation of the following employees:

- a. Katherine Blanco, teacher, effective 7/31/24
- b. Robert Yannotta, maintenance/plumber/assistant foreman, effective 8/2/24
- c. Jacqueline Ciaramello, playground/lunch assistant, effective 5/13/24

2024/2025 REVISION APPROVED

- 4. Approve the following revision for the 2023/2024 school year:

- a. Gina Calleo, teacher, \$58,186.00, effective 9/1/24
- b. Victoria Delia, teacher, \$58,186.00, effective 9/1/24
- c. Fiona Flanagan, teacher, \$58,186.00, effective 9/1/24 (subject to issuance of certification)
- d. Tara Martin, teacher, \$68,783.00, effective 9/1/24
- e. Rebeca Barbagallo, long term substitute teacher, \$61,686.00, effective 9/1/24 through 6/30/25
- f. Karen Gaeta, long term substitute teacher, \$31,936.00 (base 63,872.00), effective 9/1/24 through 1/31/25
- g. Rachel Winard, teacher, \$88,227.00, effective 9/1/24
- h. Holly Lessing, secretary II, 12 mos., 7.5 hrs./day, \$45,614.00, effective 7/1/24
- i. Dana Lester, teacher, \$70,062.00, effective 9/1/24
- j. Tara Nelson, reading specialist (.48), \$34,676.00 (base \$72,241.00), effective 9/1/24 (subject to issuance of certification)
- k. Melissa Marszalek, teacher, \$66,039.00, effective 9/1/24 (subject to issuance of certification)
- l. Nicole McGuire, extended school year PSD program teacher, not to exceed 20 half days, \$4,283.80
- m. Noelle Vallario, long term substitute teacher, \$58,186.00, effective 9/1/24 through 6/30/25
- n. Alexis Mangino, long term substitute teacher, \$29,093.00 (base \$58,186.00), effective 9/1/24 through 1/31/25
- o. Heather Huber, long term substitute teacher, \$23,565.00 (base \$58,186.00), effective 9/30/24 through 1/31/25
- p. Jessica Leon, school nurse, from Step 11, Column II (\$72,340.00), to Master's, Step 11, Column IV (\$78,289.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits
- q. Jessica Leon, AWR nurse summer hours, not to exceed 3 days, \$1,174.34
- r. Jessica Leon, extended school year program nurse, not to exceed 30 half days, \$5,871.68
- s. Joanna Silva, teacher, from Step 15, Column V (\$100,537.00), to Master's, Step 15, Column VI (\$104,165.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits

2024/2025 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

- 5. Rescind the following appointments for the 2024/2025 school year:

- a. Katherine Blanco, teacher, \$92,191.00
- b. Katherine Blanco, professional development hours to prepare mini-series workshops, not to exceed 6 hours @ \$54.87/hr., effective 7/1/24-8/23/24

UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED

6. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Yu (Lucy) Zheng, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 12/13/24 and ending 3/18/25 with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 11/14/24 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

APPOINTMENT OF NON-TENURED STAFF APPROVED

7. Approve the appointment of the following personnel, including non-tenured staff, with the salaries as noted on file with the Board Secretary per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools for the 2024/2025 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member. This group includes co-curricular appointments and department heads.

APPOINTMENT OF NON-TENURED STAFF APPROVED

8. Approve the revised appointments of the following personnel, including non-tenured staff, with the salaries as noted on file with the Board Secretary per the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools for the 2024/2025 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member. This group includes secretaries and maintenance/custodial personnel.

SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

9. Approve the Shared Services Agreement for the Provision of Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEOs) between the Borough of New Providence and the Board of Education, for the 2024/2025 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.

UNPAID LEAVE APPROVED

10. Approve the request for unpaid leave for Euris Castillo, custodian, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of 6 weeks commencing 8/30/24 and ending 10/11/24, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

2024/2025 ESY NURSE APPROVED

11. 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 2024/2025 school year. The following personnel will all participate in the Extended School Year (ESY) Program.

- a. Lynn Kral, substitute nurse, \$66.42/hr.

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

Dr. Zirpoli recognized Katie Blanco. She was a teacher here for a long time as well as the K-6th grade department head of language arts. She dedicated a lot of time to the program, and Dr. Zirpoli wished her well. She also would like to recognize Robert Yannotta, who was a part of the maintenance staff. He was

a plumber for the District for many years. He was a very dedicated employee. He gave a lot of years of service here, and the District has truly appreciated all of his support throughout the year. She also wishes him lots of luck.

BOARD POLICY

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Items 1 and 2 as listed below:

FIRST READING APPROVED

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

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 2626	Artificial Intelligence (AI) (Coniglio)	New
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SECOND READING APPROVED

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

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 9181	Volunteer Athletic Coaches and Co-curricular Activity Advisors/Assistants (Coniglio)	Revised
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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>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Killea
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh

Dr. Zirpoli discussed the new AI policy. The District anticipates that AI will have a transformative impact on the future of education, and that's why it's really important that both our teachers as well as our students identify and be able to navigate AI systems. In this policy, the purpose is to establish what our educational purpose and goals are for the New Providence School District when it comes to the use of AI for both our students as well as our teachers. The policy itself does go through privacy and data security, equity and access, instruction about responsible digital citizenship, monitoring and evaluation, academic integrity and artificial intelligence tools, violations of the policy, and staff use guidelines. In August, the District plans, during professional development days, to devote half a day and to focus on AI and to introduce our staff to the use of AI, for themselves as well as for the students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: No comments
2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: No comments
3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Testa reviewed the updates for the HVAC project at each of the schools. His comments are summarized as follows:

- All units were ordered by the contractor in the winter with a delivery date of mid-June 2024 by the manufacturer.
- Waiting on approval from JCP&L regarding the electrical upgrades at the buildings. We have submitted the requested documents and the district's engineer is supplying the final piece of information for the HS/MS. Has been a longer process than expected.
- The switch gears for all buildings have a delivery date of February 2025. The switch gear are needed for the air conditional portion of the units. therefore, the air conditioning will be available at the earliest in the Spring of 2025.

Allen W. Roberts Update

- Received a majority of the UV units (waiting on 10 units, which are scheduled to be delivered by the end of the week)
- All demolition has been completed and the asbestos abatement is almost complete, as waiting on the final air testing results.
- Some casework may have to be completed in September during the night shift.
- Heat and air ventilation will be operational in September
- Except the air conditioning to be operational by the Spring of 2025

High/Middle School

- Have not received the UV units and the first delivery is expected next Tuesday. The delivery will be 25% of the order, with a delivery of 25% of the total order each week. Based on the delivery schedule, the contractor expects to replace 50% of the units by the end of August.
- The plan is to complete the remaining portion of the project during breaks throughout the school year with a worst-case scenario of finishing in the summer of 2025.

Salt Brook Update

- UV unit delivery has been pushed back to the end of August 2024.
- The contractor will continue to complete all the required plumbing, electrical, and remaining preliminary work during the summer.
- The contractor will continue the project when the school is on break throughout the school year.
- asbestos abatement will be completed when the school is closed and old units are replaced.
- the project will be completed in the summer of 2025.

The delivery of the units is out of our control and not the fault of anyone, including the contractor and architect. It is disappointing, but we are making plans to keep the project moving forward. The decision not to remove the old until we receive the new ones is excellent. The school would not have been able to open without them installed due to airflow/heat requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:18 p.m.

Molly Stassfurth, 61 Colchester Road

Mrs. Stassfurth made the following comments:

As you can imagine, I am incredibly disappointed in hearing the news this evening. I know this project has been a large undertaking for our district. However, there was a huge support for this bond issue and what it would cover. Parents, family, and community members all believed in every single one of you sitting up here to lead our school district. I have believed in you. That's what makes being up here even harder. I know you are aware of this feeling of mine. I voted a resounding yes and worked diligently with my neighbors to get the word out to vote on this particular issue. It's important for our children's learning environment. It's important for our teachers and their ability to have the best climate to teach our students, and it's important for our community to be able to bring in the best possible candidates for our school district. And now all I feel is let down, misguided, disgusted. This news is devastating, devastating to my children, devastating to my family. It'll be devastating to families that continue to hear this tomorrow. If I had messed up a budget for a multimillion-dollar project and then did not deliver the cutback lower-grade project on time, I wouldn't expect to continue to have my job.

How much has gone wrong with this project before we get it right? And to my elected BOE members, especially those on the finance facilities' safety and security committees, isn't one of your goals to monitor the bidding process and the planning of the district-wide HVAC project that was to take place in the summer of 2024? That's in all caps on my paper. I would like to remind everyone that this is the summer of 2024, after tonight, it's clear, you will not complete this goal. So where do we go from here? I think everyone here tonight really needs to take a hard look at the work they're putting in and what steps you will be taking in the future to ensure that this project is finally brought to fruition with the taxpayers' dollars that were laid out for it. I believe that a discussion regarding accountability needs to happen in your closed-door sessions as you see fit and steps to determine a very clear timeline with necessary steps on who's going to be held accountable for each of those steps. This completion of this bond referendum project isn't just the BOE's responsibility. It's everyone in the entire school district. So I ask you to please do better. Do better for all of our kids, and our community. Thank you.

Mrs. Cuccaro commented on the way that Mrs. Stassfurth is portraying what is happening with the HVAC project. Mrs. Cuccaro wanted to make it clear that the district is moving forward with the project the best that it can. They are bound by state purchasing laws and by how much money the District went out for bonds. When the bids came in higher than what we had, we had to make decisions.

The District has no control over when the product comes to us and did its best to follow the information we were getting from our manufacturers, our vendors, and our architects. Everyone wants the same thing. We want this as much as you do. It's not that we're not doing the project. It'll be another summer. We've been working towards this, and we're getting there.

Brian Gardner, 25 Knollwood Drive

Mr. Gardner asked Mr. Testa, how is it that the Board and District had only found out about the delays recently as opposed to two weeks ago at the first project meeting or at any point since the orders for supplies were placed in October. He also asked if there were going to be additional costs due to the delays.

Mr. Testa responded that the delivery was supposed to be in mid-June. When the units didn't arrive in mid-June, the contractor began to contact the manufacturer. At the first project meeting, on July 10th, the contractor let him know that UV units were coming in for Allen W. Roberts and the rest of the other UV units for the other schools should be delivered by the end of July. The contractor stated that if the UV units were received at the end of July, the units could all be installed.

At the second project meeting, two weeks later, the contractor notified Mr. Testa about the delays. Mr. Testa made it clear that that was the first time that he had heard that many units weren't coming in until

the end of August, as soon as he was made aware of this situation he related the information to the Board.

Mr. Testa also made it clear and emphasized that he could not speak to how much the contractor pushed the manufacturer. The contractor was calling every three days to get updates on the units and at the last minute the manufacturer called the contractor and let them know that they were having delays and that the delivery date would be pushed back.

With regards to additional costs, there will be no additional cost based on the contract. Everything that the contractor is doing is in the contract and as per the specs. The subs that were needed to come haven't been here yet because we didn't receive the units, so they were on call. We're not paying for anything twice.

Mr. Gardner then asked if the workers would be able to be slotted in when needed.

Mr. Testa responded that that is up to the contractor since the contractor is the one who handles all the subcontractors. The District does not handle the scheduling. At the next project meeting the contractor will be providing more information and once received, the information will be given to the committee and will be reported on at the August meeting.

With regards to Salt Brook, the asbestos can not be removed until the old unit is removed, as the unit is against the wall and the asbestos is behind part of a panel that is behind the unit. It would be great to have been able to remediate the asbestos this summer but it is not possible with having the new units delivered.

A good decision that was made regarding the installation of units, not remove any units until the new replacement units were received. If all the units had been removed without the replacements being delivered, it would have been a very different situation and a hard discussion on how the schools were going to be opened in a month and a half.

Mr. Gardner asked for more clarification as to why, if the units were ordered in October, why then did we only now find out about the delays in the delivery of the UV units.

Mr. Testa clarified that the order of the units was not placed in October, rather the bids were awarded in October. Once the bid is awarded, then the architects get all the submittals from the contractor. Some of contractors want to use different types of equipment, not what's in the specs. The contractors send the cut sheets to our architect, then it has to go to the engineer. If they don't agree, it goes back to the contractor and that takes about a month or so. The order for the units was placed in the winter, approximately December or January. When the contractor placed the order, they then had an approximate date of delivery. They are giving me a copy of the confirmation for the Board from the manufacturer that said the units would be delivered in mid-June.

Mr. Gardner then asked, as a contingency planning standpoint, if February 25th is the date of delivery, what is the likelihood that the product will be delivered on that date.

Mr. Testa responded that would be the conversation at the August meeting. Right now the priority is to get to the end of the summer and get Allen W. Roberts ready for students. Mr. Testa made it clear that now that he is aware of the new dates he will be on top of the delivery of the switch gears.

Mr. Gardner asked Mr. Testa to keep digging for information as he believes that the information provided does not add up.

Mr. Testa responded that he was not sure what information was not adding up as he was very clear and thorough in explaining the situation at hand. He encouraged Mr. Gardner to call him with any questions he may have.

Mr. Gardner mentioned that he does not want there to be any mystery in the situation. He wants to know what changed between the first planning meeting and the second planning meeting, that now there is a "catastrophic", in Mr. Gardner's opinion, change in delivery.

Mr. Testa responded that he can look into that, however, at this time the priority is to have a solution on how to get things finalized for the opening of schools.

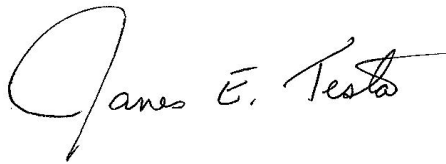
Mr. Gardner commented that it would be good to know the "Why?" of this situation, so it can be prevented on February 25th.

Mrs. Cuccaro commented that it's important for everyone to understand that the contractor is not getting paid for the work that hasn't been done. So, him not producing the air conditioning units, he's not making any money. He wants to get out of here as fast as we want him to be out of here. He can only submit for the bills that he's incurred to this point. Everyone is working as fast as they can to get this to a resolution. I can tell you from a municipal standpoint, I ordered a truck three years ago and it took two and a half years, even though they told me it would take ten months. Sometimes you're at their mercy, and it's out of your control, and it's disappointing. There's no excuse, and there's nothing we can do about it, though. But rest assured, we will get to the end, and our schools will have air conditioning for all of eternity after that. But it is a process at this point, and we're trying to work through it.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:46 p.m.

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 7:47 p.m.



James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary