

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 26, 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, and Amanda Marano. Also present were Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and thirty-eight (38) 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 for 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 greeted the public and began her opening comments. She stated that it is hard to believe we are already wrapping up the fourth week of school and rolling into October. We have a full agenda this evening, but I want to mention a few things before we start. First, I would like to welcome our new student representative, Vince Graziano. Vince is the senior class president. We look forward to you informing us throughout the year about what our students are up to.

The New Providence School District Newsletter was emailed to parents and guardians today. The newsletter is published every Thursday and is a great way to stay in touch with what is going on in the district and the community. Thank you to Katie Mangel for putting it together. Of note in the newsletter is the Safety and Security Letter sent home last week by Dr. Zirpoli. If you have not had the chance to read it, please click on the link today and read through this important information.

Also, Dr. Zirpoli will be hosting "Coffee with Dr. Zirpoli" in person at the district offices on Tuesday, October 8th, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. This is an opportunity for you to drop in and speak about any topic with our new Superintendent. There will be an additional opportunity in December to join her virtually.

The contractors continue to be onsite as part of the HVAC upgrade project, which will continue throughout the school year. Larger projects will happen during breaks when students are not in the buildings. We are still waiting for approval from JCP&L for the electrical upgrades for all three schools but have received all the UV units for the High School / Middle School and AWR. We are still waiting on 8 of the 35 units for Salt Brook. We are targeting the spring of 2025 for completion at AWR, while both Salt Brook and the High School/Middle school will finish over next summer.

STUDENT REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli introduced the new student representative, Vince Graziano, and Mr. Graziano began his report as follows:

Hello everyone, I'd like to thank Dr. Zirpoli, Mr. Henry, and the Board of Education for allowing me the opportunity to be the New Providence High School Board of Education student representative. I greatly appreciate this opportunity and look forward to sharing the High School reports each month with you. Since it is my first report, I thought I'd quickly introduce myself to start. My name is Vince Graziano and I am a senior at NPHS. I'm 17 years old, for another five hours. I have three brothers, two in high school with me, and one who graduated last year.

And with that, let's jump right into it. August 29th was our first day back from summer break, as well as the first football game of the season. Everyone was excited to see one another and there was a certain excitement that was shared heading into this school year. The football game was a great start to the year, as many of our students came out to support our football team on their way to beating South Plainfield 23-7. Back to school night was just this past week and we had a great turnout from our Parents! It is always a great time for the parents to learn about the students' schedules and meet their new teachers.

On the agenda for this week, the Club Fair is tomorrow. It will take place in the last block for all of our freshmen students and new students. All of our students lead the Club Fair and showcase all of our co-curricular and non-sponsored club offerings. Also, fall play auditions recently wrapped up and they are currently rehearsing, so clear your calendars for November 15th-16th! I know we all can't wait to see our students perform. On the topic of performing, the marching band is currently rehearsing for their fall preview this Saturday at 4:30-6. They have been putting in countless hours and we can't wait to see them this Saturday. Next week, sophomores and juniors will be taking the PSAT on Wednesday, October 2nd.

The Week of Respect will be the following week, October 7th-11th, and the Character Education Theme for the School Year will be released then as well. Moving on to club updates, the stem club brought 20 students to the national competition in Orlando over the summer. They had a record number of semi-finalists, three top-ten finalists, and a few national award winners. Furthermore, the stem club is currently selling merch to support the pumpkin sling competition on October 25th, probably my favorite stem event all year. They always do a great job with that.

Some exciting news from Neer Nation is that the school will be hosting the first-ever annual homecoming dance. It will be Wednesday, October 30th, and it leads up to the first round of state sectional football playoffs. There will be a spirit week that week as well, there are no official dates currently but they will be announced in the coming weeks. In athletics, girls' soccer is now 6-3 after their win today against Roselle Park. Boy's soccer is 5-2, as they have a +20 score differential through their first 7 games. Both boys and girls cross country teams are ramping up for future meets, highlighted by the senior girls winning the Thompson Park 2 miler. Football is 3-1 and currently undefeated at home. They're coming off of a big shutout win last week against Metuchen. The final was 22-0. They travel to Roselle tomorrow for a big conference matchup. Additionally, our girls' Tennis team is competing among the best in the state. Their next match is on October 1st at Chatham.

As this concludes my first report, I'd like to thank the Board for giving me this opportunity. I look forward to sharing the great things going on at NPHS throughout the school year.

ENROLLMENT

Mr. Ugliarolo gave a summary of the current enrollment to start the school year. New Providence High School has 652 students, New Providence Middle School has 393 students, Allen W. Roberts School has 636 students, Salt Brook School has 584 students, and lastly, 31 out of district students to give us a total of 2,296 students.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Cellphones/Smart Devices

Dr. Zirpoli began by discussing the stance of the District regarding the use of cell phones. The administration has decided to maintain the existing policy (Policy 5516) with a minor revision and will continue to monitor its effectiveness by collecting data. This policy requires high school students to keep their phones turned off and out of sight, while middle school students must store their phones in lockers. For elementary students, the policy requires them to turn off their phones and keep them in their

backpacks or lockers. Additionally, there is a new plan concerning smartwatches, which have been identified as distractions during class. The administration has decided that elementary students will be required to store their smartwatches in their backpacks or lockers upon entering school. This measure aims to minimize distractions and enhance the learning environment, while still allowing parents to track their children after school hours. The administration has also emphasized that parents can contact the school office if they need to relay messages to their children during school hours.

QSAC Update

Dr. Zirpoli discussed the results of the QSAC scores. The district received recognition as a high-performing district based on its outstanding QSAC scores, which reflect the academic performance and achievements of its students. This recognition is attributed to the collective efforts of staff, educators, and administrators who contributed to the district's success during the assessment period. Looking ahead, the district anticipates future monitoring of its performance, particularly because the state has discontinued waivers for high-performing districts.

ESSER Funds

Dr. Zipoli stated the funds have been completely used. The funds had to be spent by the end of September 30, 2024. In total, from March 2020 to March 21, 2024, the District was awarded \$1.3 million. These funds are allocated to various initiatives aimed at addressing the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The utilization of these funds included:

- Ventilation Improvements
- Purchase of iPads and other technological resources to support remote learning and facilitate educational continuity during periods of disruption.
- Mental health support
- Learning loss acceleration
- Summer learning and enrichment programs

Dr. Zipoli highlighted that more detailed information on the ESSER program will be presented by Mr. Keaney at the next board meeting. She also thanked him and the administration team, teachers, and department heads who helped throughout the three years of the program.

Belonging and Community

Dr. Zirpoli continued to speak on the continued commitment to the Belonging and Community initiative. A video of the professional development was shared with the board members before the board meeting. With the first early dismissal professional development day coming up, the District is working on the professional development plan. This plan includes focused efforts to enhance this sense of community by intentionally grouping teachers into cohorts based on grade levels and departments. This strategy aims to promote collaboration and deeper engagement during development sessions.

The district has conducted surveys to assess students' perceptions of belonging and community. The feedback gathered from these surveys will be analyzed at the end of the academic year to measure progress and identify areas for improvement. This data-driven approach ensures that the initiatives are effectively addressing the needs of the students and staff, ultimately contributing to a more cohesive and supportive educational environment.

Baseball/Softball Relocation and Improvement Update

Dr. Zirpoli congratulated Mr. Carangelo and the entire community on raising funds for the relocation and improvements of the baseball and softball fields. She invited Mr. Carangelo up to speak more about the project.

Mr. Carangelo stated that recently, the school district received \$63,000 through a local Recreation Improvement Grant from the Department of Community Affairs, which is to be utilized over the next two school years. To complete the necessary upgrades, an additional \$50,000 was required, and this amount has now been received through fundraising events and donations, allowing the project to move forward more swiftly than anticipated.

As for the project timeline, the contractors have assured that there will be no interference with other sports activities, particularly the JV soccer team that plays on Miller Field. Safety measures, including the installation of a safety fence, are being implemented to ensure a smooth operation. The hope is to begin work with vendors soon, aiming for a seamless execution of the project while minimizing any disruptions to existing sports schedules.

Mrs. Marano asked if there were any anticipated delays in receiving supplies for the project.

Mr. Carangelo stated that there are no delays anticipated.

CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE

Mrs. Marano presented certificates of excellence to the TSA National Award recipients and read the following acknowledgment.

We are delighted to honor the TSA National Award recipients with the prestigious STEM Certificate of Excellence, a symbol of our profound respect for their outstanding achievements during the 2023-24 academic year.

The Technology Student Association (TSA) offers over 30 competitions for middle and high school students to apply their knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). TSA competitions help students explore topics that interest them and develop leadership skills. There are currently over 300,000 students enrolled in TSA worldwide.

Matteo Agastra, Sean Kruger, Rohan Kulkarni, Brandon Maneely, and Cleo Rossmann received the TSA Gold Achievement Award.

Elizabeth Bigham, Eden Kim, and Cleo Rossmann placed 4th in the Audio Podcasting. Students were challenged to make a podcast focused on personal development, motivation, or coaching. They chose to do their podcast about Mr. N and their incredible experience in the NPHS marching band.

Sebastian Mercado placed 4th in Software Development with his app incorporating Artificial Intelligence and gamification to teach students coding.

Sebastian Mercado and Trevor Fornuff placed 9th in Virtual Reality Visualization with their virtual reality game to teach youths how to perform health exercises.

The New Providence School District is immensely proud of these students' achievements and encourages them to continue exploring their passions in STEM. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated STEM educators, from elementary through high school, who have guided and supported our students throughout their journeys and during these competitions.

INTERNATIONAL/OUT-OF-STATE TRIPS/2024 ITALY TRIP PRESENTATION ([LINKED PRESENTATION](#))

Mr. Henry briefly shared his experience of going to Italy and visiting the Vatican, resulting in waiting three hours only to get to the front of the line and have the Vatican close for the day. He then continued the presentation on International and out-of-state trips. He highlighted the New Providence School District's commitment to enhancing students' educational experiences through travel. The trips are designed to align with the district's "Portrait of a Graduate" initiative, which emphasizes the development of essential skills,

values, and knowledge that students should acquire before graduating. The overarching goals include promoting global citizenship, enhancing social skills, and cultivating a growth mindset. There are possible plans for future international trips to various countries, including Italy, Spain, France, and Japan. These trips are strategically scheduled during Spring Break to take advantage of lower costs and favorable weather conditions, allowing students to immerse themselves in the cultures they study in the classroom.

Mr. Santoro and Mrs. Florencio, then presented the students' experience while in Italy and presented various pictures of students traveling and participating in the various activities set up for the trip.

The trip included a visit to Capri, where participants took the funicular to the top of the island, enjoying the famous view associated with the opera song. A leisurely hike to Emperor Tiberius's Palace allowed visitors to see the ruins, prompting reflections on the challenges faced by ancient people who built such structures without modern conveniences.

The next stop was Pompeii, marked by intense heat. A guide named Flor provided insight into the ancient city, including a fully restored Roman house, ancient olive jars, and a city center viewpoint. A unique food experience followed, where students learned to make fresh mozzarella at a nearby farm called La Sente, led by Nona Maria, a longtime mozzarella maker.

The group toured the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, discovering restored mosaics and artifacts recovered from Pompeii, including a Buddhist sculpture. An underground tour in Naples revealed ancient tunnels used for storing water and later as bomb shelters during World War II, enhancing the historical appreciation of the area. Students visited Vatican City, captivated by the art they studied, including masterpieces in the Sistine Chapel.

The Colosseum tour included discussions about ancient Roman social structure and the varied experiences of different classes during events held there. The trip culminated in a pizza-making lesson at a restaurant with its archaeological dig site and garden, allowing students to engage further with Italian culture.

Senior students, Isabella DeLuca, and Danielle Formichella, also shared their experiences during the trip.

Mr. Santoro thanked the Board and its support of international travel for the students.

Dr. Zirpoli thanked Mr. Santoro, Mrs. Florencio, and Mrs. De Luca for all their work. She is very happy that the students can have this opportunity.

Mrs. Marano asked what the qualifications were to be able for the international trip.

Mrs. Florencio stated that the qualifications for art students are that they must be in AP I/AP II Studio, AP 3D, or an upcoming junior who will be taking an AP art class the following year.

Mr. Santoro commented that for world language the student must be anticipating being enrolled in level 3, in the corresponding language for the trip or above. Level 3 is intermediate language usage, students should have at least two years of novice foundational work so they can have some communication repertoire.

Mrs. Marano then asked if there was a possibility to open up this experience to other students who may not be in art classes or a world language class. Could it be opened up to an AP History class.

Mr. Henry stated that this has been discussed and that there have been updates in qualifications. It's been a process and it is being taken into consideration.

SUMMER COLLEGE VISITS PRESENTATION ([LINKED PRESENTATION](#))

Ms. Shadis visited four (4) different states in this summer college visit, she visited; New York, Delaware, Florida, and Virginia. In total, she visited twelve (12) colleges in these states. The following are colleges that she highlighted in her presentation :

1. Ithaca College: This small college, with around 5,000 students, is characterized by its nurturing environment that encourages students to explore their interests without the pressure of declaring a major upfront. Ithaca College leaves a quarter of its openings for open-minded students, allowing those who may not yet have a defined path to engage in various activities across campus. The admissions process is transparent, with a focus on individual support and a holistic review of applicants.
2. University of Delaware: At Delaware, there is a strong emphasis on student self-advocacy and the need for students to take initiative in their educational journey. The university offers a wide range of unique majors, catering to niche interests, which allows students to discover and develop their passions. The admissions representative highlighted the importance of applying early for popular majors and noted that the university's test-optional policy means that not submitting standardized test scores will not negatively impact an application.
3. University of Richmond: The application process at Richmond is distinctive in that students are not allowed to declare a major until the start of their sophomore year. This approach promotes a holistic evaluation of applicants, focusing on their overall fit for the university rather than just academic achievements. The admissions team considers extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, and personal statements to understand how each applicant will contribute to the campus community.
4. Virginia Tech: Virginia Tech's application process is streamlined, requiring no school-provided documents like transcripts or recommendations. Instead, the university seeks to understand students through their narratives, particularly through four short answer essays that reflect on service, resilience, leadership, and long-term goals. Interestingly, the university's undeclared program is the most competitive, indicating a preference for students who demonstrate clear passion and intent in their chosen fields.

Ms. Shadis also went over the cost of attendance at the schools that she presented and visited. The University of Miami being the most expensive school and James Madison University being the least expensive school.

She also mentioned that a new law signed by Governor Murphy mandates that students from the graduating classes of 2025 and 2026 must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to earn their diplomas. This requirement aims to enhance students' and families' awareness of the financial resources available for college education, thereby making higher education more accessible and affordable. While last year, about 80% of the class of 2024 completed the FAFSA voluntarily, this year, the completion is now a graduation requirement. For families who choose not to complete the FAFSA, a waiver option is available.

Ms. Shadis went on to discuss the admission data for different universities. The data collected over the past five graduating classes indicates that students from New Providence have favorable admission rates to various selective colleges, despite the generally low national acceptance rates. For instance, while only 7% of applicants nationally are accepted to Northeastern University, New Providence students have achieved a 34% acceptance rate. This suggests that the guidance provided by counselors and the preparation of students are effective in navigating the competitive admissions landscape. She also mentioned that while high academic scores and rigorous coursework are essential, they are no longer sufficient guarantees for admission. Applicants must demonstrate significant achievements, intellectual curiosity, and a passion for specific interests, which can be as varied as starting a club or engaging in

community service. Colleges are looking for well-rounded candidates who fit their campus culture and values.

Ms. Shadis finished her presentation by thanking the Board for their continued support of the college visitation program.

Dr. Empson Hayden asked if there is something that makes the margins at Northeastern and NYU much bigger.

Ms. Shadis said that she would like to believe that the university representatives know our students and have been in that position for a long time so they have had the opportunity to work with New Providence students and see their contributions to students.

Dr. Zirpoli thanked Ms. Shadis for all the work that she did in preparing this presentation every year.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PRESENTATION ([LINKED PRESENTATION](#))

Mr. Keaney explained that the implementation of generative AI in education at New Providence schools is centered around enhancing student learning while addressing concerns related to academic integrity. The process began with teachers investigating AI's implications, which led to the establishment of an AI committee that expanded its focus from high school to include middle and elementary education.

To ensure the effective integration of AI tools in the classroom, extensive training and well-defined guidelines have been developed. These guidelines prioritize data security and privacy, creating a safe environment for both teachers and students. A key feature of this initiative is the use of the program called MagicSchool, which provides a suite of AI tools designed to streamline teachers' workloads and support personalized student tutoring. MagicSchool operates within a self-contained domain, ensuring that all interactions and data remain secure and private. This controlled environment allows teachers to manage the use of AI tools effectively, facilitating a more focused and effective learning experience for students. Overall, the initiative aims to leverage generative AI to enhance educational outcomes while maintaining a strong emphasis on ethical use and academic integrity.

Teachers have reported positive feedback regarding the use of AI for various tasks, such as differentiating reading materials to cater to diverse learning levels and modifying lesson plans to better meet student needs.

One significant feature is the chatbot builder, which allows students to create personalized tutoring experiences by loading their academic resources into the chatbot. This tool acts as a personal assistant, guiding students through subjects like AP Biology by facilitating conversations based solely on the resources provided by their teachers.

MagicSchool establishes a controlled environment where teachers can manage the use of AI tools in their classrooms. This includes the ability to set up individual classrooms, dictate which tools are available, and monitor student interactions. Such controls are crucial for maintaining a secure learning environment, as they allow teachers to track student engagement with AI and respond to any inappropriate usage promptly.

Moving forward the integration of AI in the classroom will follow a phased approach, utilizing a red, yellow, and green light system to guide students on when and how they can use AI tools. This structured framework helps ensure that the educational purpose of AI is met while promoting responsible use among students. Overall, the combination of controlled access, individualized support, and clear guidelines fosters a productive learning atmosphere that leverages AI's capabilities effectively.

Mrs. Gunderman asked if MagicSchool only operates inside the district domain when the students are inside the building.

Mr. Keaney responded that the students can still use the program at home, however, in the district domain the teacher can control the feature. All other AI programs have been turned off. Only MagicSchool is accessible but in a confined and controlled way.

Mrs. Cucarro thanked Mr. Keaney for his presentation and she commented how valuable it is to not shut out this type of tool to our students and teach them the proper way to use this tool. That way when they get out to the real world they are equipped with the right skills.

Mr. Keaney agreed with Mrs. Cucarro and stated that AI is not going away, so it's our responsibility to teach our students how to use it ethically and safely.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Cucarro declared the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System, for Reporting Period 2 - January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, open.

Mr. Ugliarolo presented the District summary for the Student Safety Data System report.

We had three (3) affirmed incidents of HIB, zero (0) incidents of weapons possession, three (3) incidents of violence, which was a simple threat or electronic, two (2) incidents of vandalism, which was theft less than \$10, Four (4) incidents of substance abuse. We had a total of fifteen (15) cases district-wide.

At the High School, we had three (3) investigations, and one (1) was affirmed. In the Middle School, we had seven (7) investigations, and one (1) was affirmed. At Salt Brook, we had two (2) investigations, and one was affirmed. Lastly, at Allen W. Roberts, we had three (3) investigations, and zero (0) was affirmed. All of our investigations for Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying were completed within ten days as the law requires. The nature of these HIBs was race, color, gender, gender identity, expression, and mental or sensory disability. The names of our investigators are: at the High School, Mr. Crisitello, at the Middle School, Mrs. Wittenburg, at Salt Brook, Mrs. Kwiatkowski, and at Allen W. Roberts, Mrs. Feliciano-Allen. The discipline that was imposed was in and out of-school suspension, parent and teacher conferences, as well as individual counseling. The training we have conducted in programs that have been implemented to reduce HIB are policy, staff and student services, and anti-bullying specialist training on law and policy. We have had training in social media and cyberbullying. Our health curriculum and instructional activities lessons focus on bullying, our Character Education Program, peer relations, conflict resolutions, social-emotional learning activities, and Red Ribbon Week.

Mrs. Cucarro declared the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System, for Reporting Period 2 - January 1, 2024, through June 30, 2024, closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cucarro opened the meeting to the public at 8:24 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cucarro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:24 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	August 26, 2024
Closed Meeting:	August 26, 2024

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

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE ACTIONS

Mrs. Marano, Finance Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 5:

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for August 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 September 2024, in the amount of \$6,062,752.40.

VOIDED AND REISSUED CHECKS APPROVED

3. Approve the following voided and reissued checks:

<u>Voided</u>					
<u>Check#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Reason</u>	
364538	8/26/24	\$134,492.70	11-000-100-562-11	Payee Amount	

ACCOUNT TRANSFER APPROVED

4. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfer for the 2024/2025 school year.

August 2024

From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-261-100	Maintenance- Salaries	\$ 8,762.04
		Total: \$ 8,762.04
To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-261-199	Unused Vacation Payments	\$ 8,762.04
		Total: \$ 8,762.04

DONATION APPROVED

5. Approve the generous donations made for the High School and Allen W. Roberts School baseball/softball field relocation and improvement project, in the total amount of \$50,044.69, made by the following donors:

- New Providence PAL
- Mr. and Mrs. Kruep

- New Providence Soccer Club
- New Providence Athletic Booster Club
- Community donations through SchoolFundr

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>Absent</u>	Mr. Walsh

FACILITIES ACTIONS

Mrs. Marano, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 2:

DISPOSAL OF TECHNOLOGY APPROVED

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

Asset Number	Site	Room	Asset Description	Manuf	Model Num	Serial Number
104795	HS	HS-118-IMAC6	Computer	Apple	iMac Intel (21.5-Inch, Late 2015)	C02RW26FGF1J
104792	HS	HS-118-MAC07	Computer	Apple	iMac Intel (21.5-Inch, Late 2015)	C02RW2AAGF1J
105254	HS	HS-118-MAC12	Computer	Apple	iMac Intel (21.5-inch, Mid 2017)	C02V20DMH7JY
105255	HS	HS-118-MAC08	Computer	Apple	iMac Intel (21.5-inch, Mid 2017)	C02V2111H7JY
105539	HS	HS-118-IMAC13	Computer	Apple	iMac Intel (21.5-inch, Mid 2017)	C02W27H7JY
105540	HS	HS-118-MAC02	Computer	Apple	iMac Intel (21.5-inch, Mid 2017)	C02W23FZH7JY
104525	HS	514	Projector	Epson	696Ui	
105297	SB	L-12	Interactive Display	Smart	SPNL-6275	Q022jw22b0830

DISPOSAL APPROVED

2. Approve the disposal of the following items, as they are outdated and no longer deemed necessary for school use.

School	Quantity	Item Description	Model/ISBN #	Asset #	BOE #/Ser.#	Reason for Disposal
SB	1	25" Laminator	#ARL-25	#100054	#9206 05776	Outdated. No longer used for instruction.
SB	1	Percussion Cabinet	N/A	N/A	001031	Cabinet is old and outdated.

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

EDUCATION ACTIONS

Mrs. Gunderman, Education Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 8:

CURRICULUM GUIDES APPROVED

1. Approve the following curriculum guides with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools. Each of these curricula has been written by a District teacher and revised by the appropriate Department Head according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and District expectations. The Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision has reviewed and approved each curriculum, and each one has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Education Curriculum Committee.

Language Arts 7-12

7-12 NJSLS Revision Addendums (Grades 7-12) New

Science

Honors Physics (Phase 1) (Grades 10-12) New

STEM

Digital Circuits (Phase 1) (Grades 11-12) New

Art-Visual & Practical Arts

AP Art History (Phase 1) (Grades 11-12) New

2024/2025 ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN APPROVED

2. Approve the New Providence School District Annual Professional Development Plan for the 2024/2025 school year, prepared in compliance with the New Jersey Administrative Code 6A:9C-4.2, inclusive of its funding, and approve the submission of the plan's Statement of Assurance for the 2024/2025 school year to the NJDOE.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT AT COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL APPROVED

3. Approve the enrollment of Student #10813 at Columbia High School, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of \$16,570.00, effective 9/4/24.

EDUCERE HOME INSTRUCTION SERVICES AGREEMENT APPROVED

4. Approve the agreement between the New Providence School District and Educere, for the 2024/2025 school year, for home instruction services, effective 9/10/24.

GENPSYCH AGREEMENT APPROVED

5. Approve the agreement between the New Providence School District and GenPsych, for the 2024/2025 school year, to provide psychiatric clearance to return to school, at a rate of \$250.00 per clearance, effective 9/3/24.

FOUNDATIONS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGREEMENT APPROVED

6. Approve Foundations Behavioral Health, for the 2024/2025 school year, to provide hospital homebound instruction at a rate of \$54.08/hr., effective 9/12/24.

RUTGERS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY CENTER OUTREACH SERVICES APPROVED

7. Approve the agreement between the New Providence School District and Rutgers Developmental Disability Center Outreach Services, for the 2024/2025 school year, for a Program Evaluation of the NPSD Full-Day ABA Preschool Program, at a cost of \$3,350.00, to be completed between 9/3/24 and 6/18/25.

2023/2024 NJQSAC PLACEMENT RESULTS APPROVED

8. Approve the New Providence School District New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC) Placement Results for the 2023/2024 school year, as based on the monitoring visit of the NJDOE County office and as reported by the NJDOE.

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>Absent</u>	Mr. Walsh

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Items 1 through 9:

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:
- Alexis Mangino, teacher, \$50,040.00, (base \$58,186.00) effective 10/14/24
 - Russell Anderson, HS fitness center monitor (3 seasons), \$18.00/hr.
 - Denise Careccia, playground/lunch assistant, 3 hrs./day, \$9,228.00 (base \$10,560.00), effective 10/15/24 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - Jenifer Manzione, HS marching band (fall), color guard director, \$1,872.08 (base \$4,814.00), effective 9/16/24
 - Colleen Hasson, fall NJGPA ELA targeted support, 10 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - Joan Rykus, fall NJGPA Math targeted support, 10 hours @ \$54.87/hr.

- g. Doug Seu, high school music department, field experience for the 2024/2025 school year (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- h. Valerie Montrone, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
- i. Mabel Flaherty, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
- j. Evan Kavanaugh, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
- k. Caitlin Cahill, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures and issuance of certification)
- l. Vanda Gupta, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
- m. Mercedes Lopez, substitute custodian (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- n. Alexander Robson, HS student intern/coach/strength and conditioning assistant, for the 2024/2025 school year (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- o. Kelly Hawkins, long term substitute teacher, \$48,895.00 (base \$62,686.00), effective 11/4/24 through 6/30/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
- p. Nadeem Elmahroukey, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary

2024/2025 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 2024/2025 school year. These appointments are made under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
 - a. Shawna Damon, Title III consortium teacher, not to exceed 22 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - b. Heather Maguire, Title III consortium teacher, not to exceed 22 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - c. Monica Burgos, Title III consortium teacher, not to exceed 22 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
 - d. Hailey Hogan, Title III consortium teacher, not to exceed 22 hours @ \$54.87/hr.

RESIGNATION PPROVED

- 3. Accept the resignation of the following employee:
 - a. Julie Spoerl, elementary technology coordinator, effective 11/8/24

2024/2025 REVISIONS APPROVED

- 4. Approve the following revisions for the 2024/2025 school year:
 - a. Melissa Marszalek, teacher, from Step 1, Column V (\$66,039.00), to Master's, Step 1, Column VI (\$68,257.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits
 - b. Katherine Witte, long term substitute teacher, \$25,602.00 (base \$58,186.00), effective 11/4/24 through 3/18/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - c. Alexis Mangino, long term substitute teacher, \$8,146.00 (base \$58,186.00), effective 9/1/24 through 10/11/24
 - d. Russell Anderson, teacher, from Step 10, Column IV (\$73,966.00), to Master's, Step 10, Column V (\$76,906.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits
 - e. Craig Barclay, teacher, from Step 6, Column IV (\$67,639.00), to Master's, Step 6, Column V (\$69,924.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits
 - f. Jordan Neilson, athletic trainer, from Step 8, Column III (\$67,574.00), to, Step 8, Column VI (\$75,671.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits and receipt of doctorate degree
 - g. Colin Sheeley, HS marching band (fall), color guard assistant director, \$645.60 (base \$1,162.00), effective 7/1/24 through 9/9/24
 - h. Leah Bromley, professional development hours to prepare mini- series workshops, not to exceed 16 hours @ \$54.87/hr., effective 7/1/24-8/23/24
 - i. Lauren Abbatemarco, school nurse, from Step13, Column II (\$79,446.00), to Step 13,

- Column III (\$82,309.00), effective 9/1/24, due to course credits
- j. Fiona Flanagan, teacher, \$54,113.00 (base \$58,186.00), effective 9/23/24
- k. Heather Huber, long term substitute teacher, \$26,184.00 (base \$58,186.00), effective 9/23/24 through 2/6/25

RESCINDED SUMMER APPOINTMENT APPROVED

5. Rescind the following summer 2024 appointment:
 - a. Natasha Feliciano-Allen, extended school year, summer school principal, \$667.00, effective 6/24/24-6/28/24

2024/2025 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

6. Rescind the following appointments for the 2024/2025 school year:
 - a. Nhan Ngo, AWR Technology Tools for Students Club, advisor, \$2,064.00
 - b. Jody Khan, MS Art Club, advisor, \$2,064.00
 - c. Jody Khan, MS Yearbook, co-advisor, \$1,032.00

REQUEST FOR UNPAID PATERNITY APPROVED

7. Approve the request for unpaid paternity leave for Anthony Conzentino, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 1/2/25 and ending 3/26/25, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

REQUEST FOR UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED

8. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Sydney Bleach, teacher, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of eight weeks commencing 1/10/25 and ending 3/7/25, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. Approve an extended leave pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, from 3/10/25 through and including 6/30/25. (Based on 1/9/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

REQUEST FOR UNPAID LEAVE APPROVED

9. Approve the request for unpaid leave for Wendy Zigon, teacher aide, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of eight weeks commencing 9/26/24 and ending 11/20/24, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

Mrs. Killea seconded the motion and Dr. Zirpoli to a moment to recognize Ms. Sporel for her contributions to the District.

lit 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>Absent</u>	Mr. Walsh

BOARD POLICY

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

FIRST READING APPROVED

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

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 2423 (Mandated)	Bilingual Education (Coniglio)	Revised
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Policy 5516 (Mandated)	Use of Electronic Communication and Recording Devices (Coniglio)	Revised
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Administrative Regulation

Regulation 2423 (Mandated)	Bilingual Education (Coniglio)	Revised
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SECOND READING APPROVED

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

Policies:

Policy 1140 (Mandated)	Education Equity Policies/ Affirmative Action (Coniglio)	Revised
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Policy 1523 (Mandated)	Comprehensive Equity Plan (Coniglio)	Revised
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Policy 1530 (Mandated)	Equal Employment Opportunities (Coniglio)	Revised
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Policy 6620 (Recommended)	Petty Cash (Coniglio)	Revised
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Administrative Regulation

Regulation 1530 (Mandated)	Equal Employment Opportunity/ Complaint Procedure (Coniglio)	Revised
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Mrs. Killea seconded the motion.

Mr. Ugliarolo went over the first reading policies and administrative regulation.
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

Yea
Absent

Mrs. Marano
Mr. Walsh

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: Mrs. Gunderman stated that the committee recently met to discuss the professional development plan, during which we also took the opportunity to review data from the in-school SAT and ACT assessments that have been made available to our high school students over the past few years. Given the increasing trend among colleges to incorporate standardized testing into their admissions processes, we recognize the importance of continuing to offer these assessments for the foreseeable future. However, we are committed to ensuring that these tests are beneficial and effectively utilized. To that end, we will closely monitor the data to assess their impact on student performance and engagement. If it becomes evident that the assessments are not yielding significant benefits or are disrupting instructional time, we will reconsider their implementation. For now, we will maintain the current offering while actively collecting and analyzing data to inform our future decisions, ensuring that our primary focus remains on enhancing student achievement.

Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: No comments

Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 8:32 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 8:32 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on September 26, 2024, in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, discuss in closed session, pursuant to Section 7 of the Open Public Meetings Act, specific matters which may generally be described as follows:

- Student Matters related to Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

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.

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

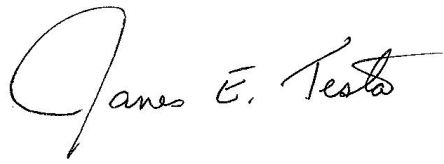
RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:53 p.m.

Mrs. Cuccaro called the Board to order. Board members present were Mrs. Coniglio, Mrs. Cuccaro, Dr. Empson Hayden, Mrs. Gunderman, Mrs. Killea, and Mrs. Marano.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs Marano, seconded by Dr. Empson Hayden, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Testa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary