

These meeting minutes have not been approved and are subject to change or modification by the Board of Education.

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on October 17, 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, Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and sixteen (16) 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**

Good Evening. I hope you all had the opportunity to enjoy the long weekend. Last Friday was our first of four half-days, which are being used for teacher professional development this year. Professional development days allow our teachers to collaborate with their colleagues, grow their knowledge and sharpen their skills, leading to better student outcomes. When the calendar committee looked at changing the calendar last year, in addition to observing holidays that better align with our community, we added these ½ days to the calendar for staff development while limiting the impact on parents.

I would also like to thank the Board for setting aside time earlier in the month for our mini-retreat here in the media center and Dr. Zirpoli for facilitating the evening. The retreat allowed board members to discuss the coming year and do some self-reflection. At the regular meeting of the BOE in November, we will provide an overview of the upcoming strategic planning process.

Lastly, some construction updates - all of the HVAC units were put into place on the roof at AWR on Monday when schools were closed for the holiday, and work is continuing on the new varsity softball field here at the high school and the baseball field at AWR. Thank you to everyone who so graciously donated to the project to make it a reality. The weather has certainly cooperated during the field renovations which will allow for them to be used in the spring.

### **STUDENT REPORT**

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

Hello everyone, once again it is a pleasure to be here with you all. To begin, I'm going to start with a little recap. So let's get started right away, the Club Fair on Friday, September 27th was a big success! Student advisors and leaders helped facilitate and Peer Leaders assisted our freshmen and new students to have

an opportunity to see all of our wonderful course offerings! The PSAT was on Wednesday, October 2nd for all Sophomores and Juniors. Shortly after was the Week of Respect. It was the week of October 7th-11th. The Character Education Theme for the school year was released and is "Respect is Homegrown." The whole district watched the Character Education video with a number of middle school and high school students and staff in the video. It was played to start the day on Friday, October 11th in order to announce the theme for the Year. Coming up is the NPHS Open House on Wednesday, October 23rd. All Grades 5 through 8, parents and guardians are invited to take part in student-led tours, a presentation by Mr. Henry and Ms. Shadis, as well as meet with all of our Department Heads to hear about the extensive course offerings and happenings in each of our departments. On the following day, there will be a Faculty Recital on Thursday, October 24th. Another event to look forward to is the Homecoming Dance. The theme is Momma Mia! It is on Wednesday, October 30th from 7-10 pm. Definitely going to have a great time as a student body! We are about a month away from another big school event- our fall play. Come out to the fall play "Deadline" which is a murder mystery comedy that will be held on November 15th and 16th to support our wonderful actors and actresses. The marching band performed the first three parts of their program at the football game on Friday, October 4th during halftime. It was a great performance and we are excited to see all four parts with the complete performance at the home football game on October 25th. It was also Band Night and Senior Night for the Band on the 4th. Twenty-seven (27) Marching Band Seniors were recognized for their incredible dedication through Marching Band and we will certainly miss their talents and leadership! There was also a highly successful competition on Saturday, October 5th at Somerville High School. In the world of athletics here, a major achievement was Gianna Culver, who finished first in 3rd singles in Girl's Tennis for the County. Girl's Tennis won the State Sectional on Tuesday, October 15th! Hot off the press, our girls' tennis team won the NJSIAA Group 1 State Championship this afternoon over Glen Rock. This makes it a 3-peat for our girl's tennis team. Congratulations on this amazing achievement. Boys soccer is 7-4 right now and undefeated in the conference during the regular season. They play Highland Park at Lieder Field this Saturday. Girls soccer has a record of 8-7-1 and is 3-2 in the conference. Their next game is against Cranford next Thursday. Our Cross Country teams had their senior night yesterday. The girls finished 3rd in the 5000-meter run for the Union County Conference, with Miranda Bournique finishing 2nd out of 46 people in the race. The football team is 5-2 right now, as they take on Bound Brook tomorrow at 7. As the season is winding down, the team is looking to get a home playoff game. As I wrap up this report, I'd like to end with a tremendous accomplishment by the girls' volleyball team. They raised over 20 thousand dollars at their dig pink game for the Side Out Foundation. Let me say that again, over 20 thousand dollars. Absolutely remarkable, way to go volleyball! Truly the epitome of the Pioneer spirit. Thank you.

### **ENROLLMENT**

Mr. Ugliadoro gave a summary of the current enrollment to start the school year. New Providence High School has 652 students, New Providence Middle School has 394 students, Allen W. Roberts School has 584 students, Salt Brook School has 639 students, and lastly, 32 out-of-district students to give us a total of 2,301 students.

### **SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

Dr. Zirpoli discussed the board retreat on October 2nd held in the media center. She thanked the Board for participating in the retreat. As discussed Dr. Zirpoli put together the Needs Assessment that will be sent out next week for students in grades 5 through 12, teachers, and parents.

Dr. Zirpoli thanked Mrs. Marano and Mrs. Gunderman who will help with the presentation of the strategic planning process moving forward. The first strategic planning update will be in November at the board meeting. Once dates are set, they will be released to the community so that the community can get them on their calendar.

This month there have been many awareness campaigns such as Anti-Bullying Week, Red Ribbon Week, Unity Day, and School Violence Awareness Week. Last week, the District had Character Education kickoffs at each of our four school buildings. Dr. Zirpoli then shared how wonderful and exciting it was to see all the schools be excited about the kickoffs. She also thanked Mrs. Drexinger and Mrs. Kwiatowski for inviting Mr. Ugliadoro and herself to their school kickoff. Our theme is "Respect is Homegrown", in this week's newsletter, the community will be able to see videos of each of our school kickoffs. The theme this year is

for our entire community to nurture respect for one another, foster kindness, and cultivate a sense of belonging. Lastly, Dr. Zirpoli wished all of the families who are celebrating Diwali, a Happy Diwali.

### **ASSESSMENT REPORT ([LINKED PRESENTATION](#))**

Mr. Keaney began his report by discussing the three sets of federal funds that the District received as a result of the pandemic, the District received the CARES Act in March 2020, ESSER II in December 2020, and ESSER-ARP in March 2021. As per federal mandate, these funds were distributed amongst five sections as shown below:

- ARP Learning Loss Program
  - Addressed the needs of over 350 students
  - Programs conducted over the years were;
    - Summer Learning Academy 2021, 2022
    - Summer Small Group Instruction 2023, 2024
    - School Year Small Group/Individual Instruction, Spring 2023, 2024, and Fall 2023
- Accelerated Learning Coaching and Support
  - Programs and Initiatives were
    - Math Coach 2022-2023
    - iReady Math Coach 2023-2024
    - Math Professional Development
    - After School Music, Art, and STEM
- Mental Health Support
  - Addressed the needs of over 200 students
    - Consultants- Mental Health First Aid, Suicide Prevention
    - K-5 SEL Curriculum Implementation
    - Spanish Speaking Counselors
    - SEL Mini Camps
    - SEL Individual Counseling
- Beyond the School Day Programs
  - Addressed the needs of over 120 students
    - Elementary Robotics Club
    - After School Art Classes
    - After School Music Lessons and tutoring
    - ESL Cultural Experiences
- Summer Learning and Enrichment Programs
  - Addressed the needs of over 200 students
    - ESL 1:1 Academic Support
    - Art Enrichment Camp
    - Performing Arts Classes and Enrichment
    - STEM Enrichment Camp
    - SEL Mini Camps

Next, Mr. Keaney went to discuss the New Jersey Student Learning Assessment scores. When combining ELA and Math scores, we see that 81% of students met or exceeded expectations on the NJSLA, reflecting a positive trend compared to previous years. This suggests that the District is making progress in academic achievement. Additionally, the introduction of the iReady program has been emphasized as a significant factor in enhancing student performance in math. The report suggests that while it may be too early to fully assess its impact, there are optimistic expectations for future improvements in math scores as the program continues to be implemented.

Mr. Keaney then went on to discuss in further detail how each grade did on the ELA, Math, and Science scores. He also highlighted the consistency of programming across grade levels, which contributes to stable performance outcomes. It shows that students are receiving a coherent educational experience that is designed to build on their learning year after year. In addition, when New Providence is compared to neighboring Districts, New Providence scores are comparable to Millburn and Livingston.

Mr. Keaney discussed the PSAT, SAT, and ACT several strategies to improve test scores, emphasizing the importance of communication, accessibility, and preparation. The administration plans to send out email blasts to parents, informing them about free online testing resources available for SAT and ACT preparation, promoting various SAT and ACT resources and strategies, and highlighting the necessity of preparation outside of school hours. This includes encouraging students to take advantage of free online materials and practice tests to enhance their readiness for the exams. This initiative aims to increase awareness and utilization of these resources among students and their families. Additionally, to alleviate the burden of travel for students, the school has and will continue to offer PSAT, SAT, and ACT testing on-site at New Providence High School. This decision was made in response to reports of students having to drive long distances to reach testing sites. The school has seen an increase in SAT scores this year compared to the previous year, which is particularly noteworthy given the national trend of declining scores. The ACT scores have also shown consistency with a slight uptick, remaining above national and New Jersey averages across all tested components (English, Math, Reading, and Science). The administration emphasizes the importance of students retaking the SAT and ACT if their initial scores do not meet their goals. This includes the strategy of "super scoring," where students can combine their highest scores from multiple test attempts to achieve a better overall score. By implementing these strategies, the school administration aims to support students in their preparation for college entrance exams, ultimately improving their scores and enhancing their college readiness.

Mr. Keaney went on to analyze the significant increase in AP student participation that has been observed, with the number of students taking AP exams rising from 197 to 235 over the last year. The total AP exams taken increased from 397 to 531, reflecting the successful promotion of AP courses in the last few years. The pass rate for AP exams has reached 88%, with 90% of AP students scoring three or higher, indicating both increased access and maintaining academic rigor within the program, noteworthy achievements include the AP Environmental Science course achieving a 100% pass rate. In addition, there has been a significant rise in the number of AP Scholars, in the last year, demonstrating effective course management and rigorous academic standards.

Next, the presentation gave a brief review of the Project Lead the Way program. The PLTW program continues to achieve success, showing rigorous performance in various courses. A 98% pass rate was noted across three courses in the PLTW, which includes Aerospace Engineering, Intro to Engineering Design, and Principles of Engineering. Environmental Sustainability did not run as planned due to the introduction of AP Environmental Science, showcasing adaptability in course offerings. The program allows for a granular assessment of student skills, fostering growth opportunities.

Lastly, Mr. Keaney presented a snapshot of the class of 2024. The District reports an impressive 98% of students continuing their education post-graduation, with 95% enrolling in four-year colleges. Tracking from the class of 2022 shows that 87% entered a four-year college, and 16 months later, 94% of these students remained enrolled. The focus remains on preparing students for both academic and social success, with initiatives aimed at enhancing career readiness throughout the school experience.

Mrs. Killea asked if the ACT is offered for students to take in the District.

Mr. Keaney clarified that the District does offer the ACT to be taken within the District, as well as the SAT.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Mrs. Cuccaro declared the Public Hearing on the 2023/2024 School Self-Assessment For Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, open.

Mr. Ugliarolo reported the following, The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires each school in the school district to complete an annual self-assessment on how well they implemented the various components of the mandate. The anti-bullying specialist at each school met with their school safety and climate team members this fall to complete our District's self-assessment process. The self-assessment, even though it was done this fall, reflects the assessment of performance from the previous school year. The scores

reflect their assessment of their performance in 2023-2024, the self-assessment contains the following eight core elements:

- Core Element One- HIB programs approach and other initiatives
- Core Element Two- Training on the Board of Education approved HIB policy and procedures
- Core Element Three- Other staff instructions and training programs
- Core Element Four- Curriculum and instruction on HIB and related information and skills
- Core Element Five- HIB personnel
- Core Element Six- School-level HIB incident reporting procedure
- Core Element Seven- HIB investigation procedures
- Core Element Eight- HIB reporting

Each core element contains several specific indicators for which each school safety and climate team determines a score; the total possible points each school could earn on the self-assessment is 78. The 2023-2024 self-assessment scores for each of our schools and our district average were as follows: New Providence High School - 70, New Providence Middle School - 73, Salt Brook Elementary School - 75, Allen W. Roberts Elementary School - 73, and the District average was 72.5.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared the Public Hearing on the 2023/2024 School Self-Assessment For Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, closed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:39 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:39 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Business Meeting: | September 26, 2024 |
| Closed Meeting:   | September 26, 2024 |

Mrs. Gunderman 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>Abstain</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

### **ACTION ITEMS**

### **FINANCE ACTIONS**

Mrs. Marano, Finance Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 9:

### **BOARD SECRETARY REPORT APPROVED**

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for September 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 October 2024, in the amount of \$5,143,858.04.

**CAPITAL RESERVE MAXIMUM AMOUNT APPROVED**

3. The New Providence School District (LEA 3560) has seventy-seven (77) projects identified in its Five Year Long Range Facility Plan. The seventy-seven (77) projects have an estimated total cost of \$37,724,577.00. Twenty-three (23) projects have been completed, initiated, or advanced. Fifty-four (54) remaining projects, with a total cost of \$23,867,368.00, are currently identified in the plan for initiation. The local share would be funded from bond proceeds and/or annual school budget appropriations (based on needs and dictated by the availability of funds). The District may be eligible for state debt service or EDA grant funds for the identified projects in the amount of \$9,546,947.00. The local share amount of \$14,320,421.00 for the identified projects represents the maximum amount the New Providence School District may deposit in its capital reserve fund for the 2024-2025 school year.

**VOIDED AND REISSUED CHECKS APPROVED**

4. Approve the following voided and reissued checks:

## Voided

| <u>Check #</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Account</u>                   | <u>Reason</u> |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 364818         | 9/26/24     | \$1,545.00    | 60-910-310-500-99                | Duplicate     |
| 1727           | 6/3/24      | \$ 20.00      | Salt Brook<br>Activities Account | Lost          |

## Reissued

| <u>Check #</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Account</u>                   |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------------|
| 1733           | 10/4/24     | \$ 20.00      | Salt Brook<br>Activities Account |

**TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT WITH MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION APPROVED**

5. Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Morris Union Jointure Commission and the New Providence School District for the 2024/2025 extended school year as stated below:

| <u>Route</u> | <u>Per Annum</u> | <u>Aide Per Diem</u> |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------|
| 908S         | \$ 9,726.00      | \$118.20             |
| 919S         | \$ 4,171.20      | \$ 90.17             |
| 920S         | \$10,060.26      | \$ 73.68             |
| 925S         | \$ 6,201.30      | \$ 94.46             |
| 952S         | \$ 2,833.92      |                      |
| 966S         | \$16,569.90      | \$163.19             |
| 980S         | \$ 9,449.70      | \$105.14             |
| 984S         | \$ 5,613.90      | \$ 42.05             |

**DONATION APPROVED**

6. Approve the generous donation from Mr. Mitch Dowling and family, in the amount of \$120.00, for the upper playground replacement fund at Salt Brook School.

**DONATION APPROVED**

7. Approve the generous donation from students Grace Lavery (grade 2) and Juliana Stango (grade 2), in the amount of \$40.00, for the upper playground replacement fund at Salt Brook School.

**NONPUBLIC SCHOOL SECURITY PROGRAM APPROVED**

8. Approve the Nonpublic School Security Program spending plan for the participating school located within the District, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace, for the 2024/2025 school year.

**NONPUBLIC SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM APPROVED**

9. Approve the Nonpublic School Technology Program spending plan for the participating school located within the District, The Academy of Our Lady of Peace, for the 2024/2025 school year.

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Mrs. Marano highlighted the generous donations made.

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         |

**FACILITIES ACTIONS**

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

**COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE PLAN APPROVED**

1. Adopt the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public school facilities, and

**WHEREAS**, the required maintenance activities listed in the plan for the various school facilities of the New Providence School District are consistent with these requirements, and

**WHEREAS**, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the New Providence School District hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the New Providence School District in compliance with the Department of Education requirements.

**(EXHIBIT A)**

**TECHNOLOGY DISPOSAL APPROVED**

2. Approve the disposal of FM systems, hearing aids/accessories, and testing protocols as they are outdated and no longer used. **(EXHIBIT B)**

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>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

**EDUCATION ACTIONS**

Mrs. Gunderman, Education Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 5:

**2024/2025 SUPERINTENDENT RECOMMENDATIONS OF HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING 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:  | 1 and 2                          |

**ADOPTION OF TEXTBOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS APPROVED**

2. Approve the adoption of textbooks and other educational materials for the 2024/2025 school year, as per the attached list. **(EXHIBIT C)**

**2024/2025 DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS PLAN APPROVED**

3. Approve the New Providence School District Communications Plan for the 2024/2025 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.

**2024/2025 HIGH SCHOOL TRIP TO SPAIN AND FRANCE APPROVED**

4. Approve the HS trip to Spain and France for the 2024/2025 school year, scheduled for spring break 2025, 4/11/25-4/19/25.

**ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT IN HUNTERDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL APPROVED**

5. Approve the enrollment of Student #11607 at Hunterdon Preparatory School, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of \$54,717.00, effective 10/8/24.

Dr. Empson Hayden seconded the motion and it was carried on the following vote:

Mrs. Gunderman reviewed items #3 and #4.

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 7:

**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. Steve Hughes, basketball (winter), girls, first assistant, \$1,763.73 (base \$6,614.00), effective 1/1/25 through 1/31/25
  - b. Rose Rella, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - c. Sydney Bleach, teacher, \$56,901.00 (base \$71,126.00), effective 11/1/24
  - d. Arthur Cattano, basketball (winter), boys, head coach, \$10,157.00
  - e. Alexis Mangino, MS art club, advisor, \$2,064.00
  - f. Jenna Stickle, 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, co-advisor, \$564.50
  - g. Todd Bennington, 7<sup>th</sup> grade class, co-advisor, \$564.50
  - h. Rebecca DeCelestino, MS yearbook, co-advisor, \$1,032.00
  - i. Kaely Maire Sturges, future civic leaders, advisor, \$2,064.00
  - j. Kathleen DeAngelo, HS freshman class, advisor, \$908.00
  - k. Wendi Kane-Millard, HS freshman class, advisor, \$908.00
  - l. Sandra Timmermann, HS World Language National Honor Society, co-advisor, \$1,032.00
  - m. James McGeechan, summer technology work, not to exceed 80 hours @ \$54.87/hr.
  - n. Susan Sirna, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - o. Kevin Cahillane, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - p. Ann Kielblock, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - q. Bonnie Cabezas, AWR STEM club, advisor, 4<sup>th</sup> grade, \$2,064.00
  - r. Leslie Ditta, AWR STEM club, advisor, 5<sup>th</sup> grade, \$2064.00
  - s. Scott Rahner, AWR STEM club, advisor, 6<sup>th</sup> grade, \$2,064.00
  - t. Shawna Damon, AWR Student Council/Service Learning Club, advisor, \$2,064.00
  - u. Melissa VanWingerden, AWR Technology Tools for Students Club, advisor, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades, \$2,064.00

**RESIGNATIONS APPROVED**

2. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
  - a. Sally Trench, teacher aide, effective 12/31/24, due to retirement
  - b. Carolyn Macchia, teacher, effective 11/29/24

**2024/2025 REVISION APPROVED**

3. Approve the following revision for the 2024/2025 school year:
  - a. Tara Garcia, basketball (winter), girls, first assistant, \$4,850.27 (base \$6,614.00), effective 11/25/24 through 12/31/24 and 2/1/25 through 3/9/25

**RESCINDED APPOINTMENT APPROVED**

4. Rescind the following appointment for the 2024/2025 school year:

a. Dana Branstetter, SB STEM club, advisor, \$2,064.00

**REQUEST FOR UNPAID MATERNITY APPROVED**

5. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Jacqueline Henriques, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 4/21/25 and ending 9/16/25, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 3/18/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

**REQUEST FOR UNPAID LEAVE APPROVED**

6. Approve the request for unpaid leave for Jill Lepre, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 10/21/24 and ending 1/22/25, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

**REQUEST FOR UNPAID LEAVE APPROVED**

7. Approve the revised request for unpaid leave for Euris Castillo, custodian, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 9/30/24 and ending 12/20/24, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

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>Yea</u> | Mr. Walsh         |

**BOARD POLICY**

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

**FIRST READING APPROVED**

1. Approve the following Policy on the first reading:

|                       |                                      |         |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| <b><u>Policy:</u></b> |                                      |         |
| Policy 1550           | Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination | Revised |
| (Mandated)            | Practices                            |         |
|                       | (Coniglio)                           |         |

**SECOND READING APPROVED**

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

**Policies:**

|             |                     |         |
|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| Policy 2423 | Bilingual Education | Revised |
| (Mandated)  | (Coniglio)          |         |

Policy 5516  
(Mandated)

Use of Electronic Communication  
and Recording Devices  
(Coniglio)

Revised

**Administrative Regulation:**

Regulation 2423  
(Mandated)

Bilingual Education  
(Coniglio)

Revised

Mrs. Gunderman seconded the motion.

Mr. Ugliodoro reviewed the first and second reading policies and administrative regulations with the Board.

Roll call vote:

Yea  
Yea  
Yea  
Yea  
Yea  
Yea  
Yea

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: No comments.

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

Personnel, Management, and Communication: The committee met and reviewed the Communications Plan. Mrs. Coniglio reminded the public that all important information can be found on the District website and app.

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:45 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7: 45 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on October 17, 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:

- Personnel and Student Matters related to HIB

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 8:37 p.m.

Mrs. Cuccaro called the Board to order. Board 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 8:38 p.m.

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James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary