The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on November 14, 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 Uglialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and seven (7) 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. Cuccarro wished the public a good evening and hoped that everybody had the opportunity to enjoy that long weekend. She began her comments. Last, Friday was one of the first of four half days that are being used for teacher professional development. professional development days allow teachers to collaborate, grow their knowledge, and sharpen their skills, which can lead to better student outcomes. When the Calendar Committee met last year, we looked at changing the calendar to observe holidays that better align with our community and half days for our teachers.

Mrs. Cuccaro also thanked the Board for setting aside some time earlier this month for the board retreat held in the media center. She thanked Dr. Zirpoli for facilitating the evening. The retreat was an opportunity for board members to discuss the up coming year and to do some self-reflection. Today, at the regular board meeting, we will be discussing the Strategic Planning process. Lastly, some construction updates, all of the HVAC units were put in place on the roof of Allen W. Roberts School on Monday when schools were closed and work has continued on the new varsity softball field here at the High School and the baseball field at Allen W. Roberts. Thank you to everyone who has graciously donated to the project to make it a reality. The weather has certainly cooperated during the field renovations which will allow them to be used for the spring

STUDENT REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli introduced the new student representative, Vince Graziano, and Mr. Graziano's report is as follows:

Hello everyone, thank you for having me, it's a pleasure as always. So let's jump right in. The Faculty Recital was on Thursday, October 24th, and was a great success. The Music and Performing Arts Department all put on amazing performances for the community. It was truly special to see our teachers display their talents for all to see! On October 21st and 22nd, we had a very successful and enjoyable two-day visit from students and staff from Koshi HS in Japan. Our students and visitors participated in several activities with cross-cultural and curricular integration. On Wednesday, October 23rd, we had the HS Open House. There was a nice turnout for the event in providing our younger students grades 6-8 and

community with information about the High School. Monday through Thursday, October 28th-31st, was Spirit Week and the kick-off to Class Clash. The spirit days included Pajama Day, Tunes Tuesday, Fall Flannel, and Halloween. The students showcased some good school spirit earning points for their respective classes as part of the continued build-up to Class Clash! Tuesday, October 29th was the Red Ribbon Chalk The Walk. A number of our students and staff participated in our annual Red Ribbon Week Chalk the Walk with positive messages outside the main entrance specific to being Drug-Free! October 30th was the Homecoming Dance with the theme being "Mamma Mia." The students that attended had a great time and we look forward to building off of this event in the future. Halloween was the following day. Thank you to our PTSA for the student candy during lunch! We also had a Neer Nation Costume Contest with 7 categories during the lunch block. Congrats to our students and staff winners! Our amazing Marching Band has had several fantastic full performances of their show at the Friday Oct. 25th, November 2nd, and November 8th football games. The Marching Band also recently finished 3rd in the States for their group, finishing with an outstanding score of 93. Also, the Marching Band had a strong performance at Nationals at MetLife Stadium on Saturday, November 2nd. We congratulate the Marching Band on another amazing competition season! Girl's Volleyball, Girl's Soccer, and Boy's Soccer seasons have come to an end, but each team should be very proud of their accomplishments in their respective seasons. Each group had some tough, very close losses in states, but had great seasons and we congratulate them on all of their accomplishments! One big accomplishment coming from girls' soccer would be Maddie Merrick scoring 100 career points. Congratulations Maddie! Girl's Tennis won the Group 1 State Championship for the 3rd year straight! We are so proud of the girls on this truly amazing feat! The Cross Country athletes have continued strong performances in many meets including the Union County Championships and a meet at Ocean County Park in Lakewood! The football team is still dancing as they earned the #2 seed in the North Jersey Section 2 Group 1 State Tournament and have two wins under their belt. They will play for the sectional championship tomorrow, Friday, November 15th at 7:00 pm against #1 seed Cedar Grove. The game will be held at Cedar Grove HS. The ninth-grade breakfast was held during the first block on Tuesday, November 5th with our Peer Leaders. Our ninth-grade students had breakfast with our Peer Leaders and participated in some team-building activities and exercises. We thank our Peer Leaders and PTSA for their support of this event! I was there before hopping on a bus to go to Sandy Hook for an Oceanography field trip. I was a little jealous that the ninth-grade students got free bagels, but the trip was a great experience and I enjoyed learning about the history of the beach there in Sandy Hook. Senior Citizen Day was today, and there were Music Performances for NP Senior Center members. It was organized by Mr. Ziegler and Ms. Florencio and a Thanksgiving meal was prepared to go by Ms. DeLuca and our Culinary Arts students. We were so excited to welcome our Senior Citizen community members to see our amazingly talented students perform solo and group performances! Another event from today was a Blood Drive at NPHS where several students and staff generously donated blood to help others! This weekend, November 15th-16th will be our fall play "Deadline." It is a murder mystery comedy. It starts at 7:30 pm on both nights and 2:00 pm on the 16th. Please come out and support our very talented actors, actresses, and entire cast and crew! They have been working very hard in their preparations and are going to put on three excellent performances. That wraps up everything for today, and once again thank you for having me. And Mr. Walsh, I wish you the best of luck with the Eagles tonight.

ENROLLMENT

Mr. Uglialoro gave a summary of the current enrollment to start the school year. Allen W. Roberts School has 639 students, Salt Brook School has 583 students, New Providence High School has 649 students, New Providence Middle School has 393 students, and lastly, 35 out-of-district students to give us a total of 2,299 students.

STRATEGIC PLANNING OVERVIEW (LINKED PRESENTATION)

Dr. Zirpoli, Mrs. Marano, and Mrs. Gunderman alternated in presenting the Strategic Planning Overview presentation. They all jointly encouraged the community, parents, students, staff, etc. to participate in this year's strategic planning.

The Strategic Planning Overview outlines the initiation of a new strategic planning cycle, which will commence after the current five-year plan concludes. This process emphasizes the importance of

community involvement, encouraging feedback and ideas through various channels such as surveys and public forums.

The primary objectives of the strategic plan include setting actionable goals, reallocating resources effectively, and enhancing student outcomes in alignment with the identified needs and trends within the community. To facilitate engagement, the planning process will utilize multiple methods, including:

- Surveys: Distributed to gather qualitative and quantitative data from families and community members.
- Public Forums: Scheduled sessions where community members can voice their ideas and concerns regarding the district's vision, mission, and educational priorities.
- Direct Communication: Opportunities for individuals to reach out to board members and school administrators to discuss their perspectives and suggestions.

Community participation in the strategic planning process is a critical component aimed at ensuring that the voices of families, students, and community members are heard and integrated into the decision-making framework of the school district.

The second open forum Strategic Planning Session will be on December 16th at 7:00 p.m. through Google Meet (virtual).

The strategic planning process will culminate in a finalized plan by May 2025, which will be presented and approved by the Board of Education. This timeline emphasizes the importance of community feedback in shaping long-term educational goals.

Through these mechanisms, the District aims to foster a sense of ownership among community members, ensuring that the strategic plan reflects the collective aspirations and needs of the entire educational community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:21 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:21 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Marano moved to approve the minutes for:

Special Meeting:	October 2, 2024
Closed Meeting:	October 2, 2024
Business Meeting:	October 17, 2024
Closed Meeting:	October 17, 2024

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

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

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE ACTIONS

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

BOARD SECRETARY REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for October 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 November 2024, in the amount of $3,215,532.59.

ACCOUNT TRANSFER APPROVED

3. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2024/2025 school year.

October 2024

From:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-563	Tuition- Vocational	$ 4,000.00
		Total: $ 4,000.00

To:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-564	Tuition- Vocational; Special Ed.	$ 4,000.00
		Total:$ 4,000.00

DONATION APPROVED

4. Approve the generous donation from Mr. and Mrs. Natunen to the John R. O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund, in the amount of $75.00.

DONATION APPROVED

5. Approve the generous donation from the New Providence Athletic Booster Club to the New Providence Athletic Department (Cheer), in the amount of $1,000.00.

DONATION APPROVED

6. Approve the generous donation from Mrs. Kyung Lee for robotics t-shirts for the New Providence Middle School Robotics Club, in the amount of $276.00.

MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT APPROVED

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

Route	Per Annum	Aide Per Diem
908	$ 47,712.10	$ 71.49
919	$ 41,798.30	$ 103.05
920	$ 55,826.45	$ 103.05
925	$ 33,969.60	$ 71.49
929	$ 30,865.80	$ 60.11

930	$ 37,985.00	$ 77.21
952	$ 26,120.30	$ 0.00
966	$ 59,257.90	$ 90.17
980	$ 77,907.40	$ 124.52

VOIDED CHECKS APPROVED

8. Approve the following voided check:

Voided Check #	Date	Amount	Account	Reason
1726	5/22/2024	$ 32.00	Salt Brook Activities Account	Stop Payment
364808	9/26/2024	$ 888.00	General Account	Cancelation

2024/2025 MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION TRIP RATES APPROVED

9. Approve the following Morris Union Jointure Commission trip rates for the 2024/2025 school year.

Service	Rates
Trip Rate 54 Passenger (Mon-Sat)*	$ 92.95 per hour
Trip Rate 54 Passenger (Sun & Holidays)*	$ 120.21 per hour
Trip Rate Small Bus (Mon-Sat)*	$ 88.00 per hour
Trip Rate Small Bus (Sun & Holidays)	$ 106.57 per hour
*Weekend/Holiday trips have four-hour minimum	

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion.

Mrs. Marano highlighted the generous donations made.

It was carried on the following vote
Roll call vote:

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

FACILITIES ACTIONS

No facilities items for approval.

EDUCATION ACTIONS

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

2024/2025 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING 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:

School	Incident Report Number(s)
Middle School:	1
Allen W. Roberts:	1
District:	1

2024/2025 FIELD TRIP DESTINATION APPROVED

2. Approve the following additional field trip destination for the 2024/2025 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8:

   a. Universal Technical Institute, trade school campus, Bloomfield, New Jersey

2024/2025 ESSA GRANT APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE APPROVED

3. Approve the submission and acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant Application Amendments for Title I ($33,277.00), Title IIA ($6,527.00.00), and Title III Immigrant funds ($1,551.00) for the period 7/1/24 through 6/30/25. These amendments allow for the addition of rollover funds not utilized during the 2023/2024 school year.

2024/2025 IDEA-B SUBMISSION APPROVED

4. Approve the submission of the amended Fiscal Year 2025 Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA-B) Consolidated Grant Application, in the amount of $550,584.00, for the period 7/1/24 through 6/30/25.

2024/2025 CONTRACT ADDENDUM FOR STUDENT #11912 AT ECLC OF NEW JERSEY APPROVED

5. Approve the contract addendum for student #11912 at ECLC of New Jersey, for the 2024/2025 school year, for one-to-one services at the rate of $28.69 per hour, effective 10/1/24.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #10824 AT HUNTERDON PREPARATORY SCHOOL APPROVED

6. Approve the enrollment of Student #10824 at Hunterdon Preparatory School, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of $54,015.50, effective 10/10/24.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #12309 AT THE SHEPARD SCHOOL APPROVED

7. Approve the enrollment of Student #12309 at The Shepard School, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of $47,345.40, effective 10/28/24.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #13638 AT FIRST CHILDREN APPROVED

8. Approve the enrollment of Student #13638 at First Children, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of $74,555.00, effective 9/5/24.

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

Roll call vote:

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

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Items 1 through 5 as listed below:

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. Gavin Tripicchio, wrestling (winter), volunteer
    b. Natalia Campione, school counseling practicum placement at New Providence Middle School, effective 1/2/25-6/18/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
    c. Grace Kinsella, crisis counselor, $49,668.00 (base $70,955.00), effective 12/1/24
    d. Sean Theis, wrestling (winter), first assistant, $6,614.00 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
    e. Noran Elmahroukey, wrestling (winter), volunteer
    f. Elizabeth Hurrell, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
    g. Craig Barclay, winter track, girls, head coach, $8,719.00
    h. Craig Barclay, spring track, girls, head couch $9,448.00

RESIGNATIONS APPROVED

2. Accept the resignations of the following employees:

    a. Noelle Vallario, long term substitute teacher, effective 12/20/24
    b. Pamela Van Nostrand, teacher, effective 10/28/24

2024/2025 REVISIONS APPROVED

3. Accept the following revision for the 2024/2025 school year:
    a. Carolyn Macchia, TV Production/Stage Manager, $916.20 (base $3,054.00), effective 9/1/24 through 11/29/24

2024/2025 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

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

    a. Caitlyn Alongi, HS musical (winter), music director, $3,300.00
    b. Carmine DeNicola, spring track, girls, head coach, $9,448.00
    c. Paul Irwin, Jr., winter track, girls, head coach, $8,719.00
    d. Craig Barclay, winter track, boys and girls, first assistant, $6,103.00
    e. Craig Barclay, spring track, boys, first assistant, $6,614.00

UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED

5. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Erin Doherty, teacher, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of six weeks commencing 2/11/25 and ending 3/19/25, and under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 3/20/25 and ending 6/18/25, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 2/10/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

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

Roll call vote:

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

BOARD POLICY

Mrs. Coniglio moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

SECOND READING APPROVED

1. Approve the following Policy on the second reading:

Policy:

Policy 1550 (Mandated)	Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices (Coniglio)	Revised

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: No comments.

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

Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Testa reported on the Unofficial School Board Election Results and congratulated the election candidates.

The unofficial results of the three seats on the Board are the following:

Stacey Gunderman- 3,018 votes
Laura Castellano 2,860 votes
Donna Zayne- 2,694 votes

Mr. Testa stated that once he receives the official result he will forward the results to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:24 p.m.

Rupa Kale, 35 Delaware Ave

Mrs. Kale shared her concern regarding the visibility and effectiveness of the strategic planning survey distributed via email. She also expressed frustration that many community members were unaware of the survey, suggesting that it was not sufficiently reaching people's attention. She shared that the PTA and PTSO are working to make the survey known and encourage the community to fill it out.

She also expressed her concern about students' parking issues during school drop-off times, which were described as chaotic and potentially unsafe on MeeLane. She suggested that the school administration could send reminders to parents about parking etiquette and safety without penalizing students, aiming to alleviate the morning chaos and enhance overall safety for students arriving at school.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7: 26 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mrs. Marano moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on November 14, 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 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.

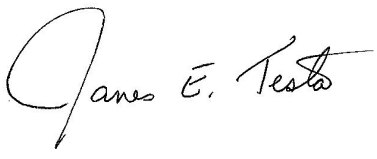
RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:26 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 Mr. Walsh, seconded by Mrs. Marano, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.



James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary