



NEW PROVIDENCE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administrative Offices
356 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, New Jersey 07974
www.npsd.k12.nj.us

AGENDA

March 13, 2025
High School/Middle School Media Center
7:00 PM

[New Providence Board of Education YouTube Link](#)

I Roll Call:

_____ Mrs. Castellano	_____ Ms. Gunderman
_____ Mrs. Cuccaro	_____ Mrs. Marano
_____ Dr. Empson Hayden	_____ Mr. Walsh
_____ Mrs. Zane	

II Flag Salute

III Opening Statement by the President:

- A.** 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 Closed session, the session will begin no later than 9:30 p.m. At the conclusion of the need for Closed Session, the Board will reconvene to the public portion of the meeting. At that time, the Board will complete 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.

IV Opening Comments

V Public Comments:

- A.** Opportunity for the Public to be heard (on specific agenda items)
B. Public portion of the meeting declared closed

VI Action Items

A. Finance Actions – Mr. Walsh

Approve Items 1 through 7 as listed below:

1. Approve the tentative budget for the 2025/2026 school year using the 2025/2026 state aid figures and authorize the Board Secretary to submit the following tentative budget to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:7F-5 and 18A:7F-6:

<u>2025/2026 School Year</u>	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Special Revenues</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Expenditures	\$51,322,758.00	\$1,074,548.00	\$3,503,983.00	\$55,901,289.00
Less:				
Anticipated Revenues	\$ 6,130,458.00	\$1,074,548.00	\$ 979,945.00	\$ 8,184,951.00
Taxes to be Raised	\$45,192,300.00	\$0.00	\$2,524,038.00	\$47,716,338.00

After approval by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, advertise said tentative budget in the Courier News in accordance with the form suggested by the New Jersey Department of Education and according to law. A public hearing will be held at New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, New Providence, New Jersey, on April 24, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget for the 2025/2026 School Year.

2. Approve that the following adjustments are included in the tentative 2025/2026 annual school budget, which will be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for technical review:

- Adjustment for enrollment: \$0.00
- Adjustment for health care costs: \$980,578.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$980,578.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums.

- Adjustment for deferred PERS pension contribution: \$0.00
- Adjustment for responsibility transferred: \$0.00
- Adjustment for banked cap: \$16.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for the banked cap in the amount of \$16.00. In accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23a-10.3(b), the District has fully exhausted all eligible statutory spending authority. The adjustment will be used to fund the operating expenses for educational programs of the District. The Board of Education will complete this by June 30, 2025 and acknowledges that it cannot be deferred or incrementally completed over a longer period of time.

3. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education recognizes school staff and Board members will incur travel expenses related to and within the scope of their current responsibilities and for travel that promotes the delivery of instruction or furthers the efficient operation of the school district; and

WHEREAS, Policy #6471, School District Travel Procedures covers the reimbursement process for travel expenses in accordance with New Jersey Statutes;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education approves travel and related expense reimbursements in accordance with Policy #6471.

4. After the Board and Executive County Superintendent of Schools approval of the tentative 2025/2026 budget, authorize the Board Secretary to publish said budget.

- 5. Approve the following resolution:

The Board of Education approves establishing a maximum travel expenditure amount of \$70,200.00 for the 2025/2026 school year. The maximum travel expenditure amount for the 2024/2025 school year is \$70,200.00 of which \$33,304.66 has been spent and \$7,417.72 encumbered to date.

- 6. Approve an annual maximum expenditure for the professional services for the 2025/2026 school year. As defined in N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.2(a)1, upon notification if it becomes necessary to exceed the maximum amount, as indicated below, the Board of Education may adopt an increase in said dollar amount through formal Board action.

Account /Auditing Services:	\$42,000.00
Architectural/Engineering:	\$ 5,000.00
Legal Services:	\$50,000.00
Public Relations Services:	\$56,966.00
School Physician Services:	\$38,000.00

- 7. Approve the appropriation of surplus in the amount of \$2,120,000.00 in the 2025/2026 tentative school budget.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano	_____ Ms. Gunderman
_____ Mrs. Cuccaro	_____ Mrs. Marano
_____ Dr. Empson Hayden	_____ Mr. Walsh
_____ Mrs. Zane	

B. Facilities Actions – Mr. Walsh

No facilities items for approval.

C. Education – Dr. Empson Hayden

Approve Item 1 as listed below:

- 1. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District administration have reviewed and discussed the Redistricting Plan approved in August 2022, which shifted the District boundary line from Livingston Avenue to South Street for Salt Brook School (Salt Brook) and Allen W. Roberts School (AWR); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education and District administration follow Board of Education Policy 2312, Class Size; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Plan was implemented in the 2024/2025 school year, and it has become evident that many families have questions and concerns regarding the changes; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education is committed to transparent communication with the District community and to addressing the concerns raised by families in relation to the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, the Redistricting Plan is based on two key factors:

1. The change in the local housing market, with future housing developments on the AWR side of town;
2. The enrollment imbalance identified by Dr. Richard Grip, the District’s demographer, between AWR and Salt Brook, with Salt Brook projected to have significantly fewer students based on current and future enrollment projections;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education formally approves the updated Redistricting Plan as outlined below, which includes the immediate changes and continued objectives of the redistricting process:

Redistricting and Moving the District Line

- The District boundary line for elementary schools shifted from Livingston Avenue to South Street, in order to achieve a more balanced student population between AWR and Salt Brook, now and into the future.

Immediate Changes to the Redistricting Plan

- The District will combine the current A-D zones into one zone.
- Starting in September 2025, all new registrants not currently enrolled in the New Providence School District who reside in the redistricted zone will attend Salt Brook.
- A map and street listing for the redistricting zone will be provided to the community for reference.

Key Elements That Will Remain Consistent

- Students currently residing in the redistricted zone and attending AWR through the 2024/2025 school year will be permitted to remain at AWR through their 6th grade year.
- Beginning with the 2025/2026 school year, kindergarten students in the redistricted zone attending Salt Brook with an older sibling at AWR may request to transfer the older child from AWR to Salt Brook to keep siblings together. This request will be honored in accordance with Board of Education Policy 2312, Class Size.

Redistricting Plan for Families with Siblings at AWR

- The District acknowledges that splitting siblings between schools may be a concern for some families. However, in light of the expected future growth due to local housing developments, the District will work to accommodate growth while making reasonable efforts to keep siblings together at AWR.
- To balance these factors and ensure optimal class sizes as per Board of Education Policy 2312, Class Size, the following process will be followed for kindergarten registration:
 - All incoming kindergarten students in the redistricted zone will be registered to attend Salt Brook starting with the 2025/2026 school year.
 - Families with an older child at AWR may request to keep their kindergarten student at AWR by opting onto an exception list during the registration process.
 - The exception list will be reviewed by June 1st each year.

- If the AWR kindergarten class size is under the Board’s optimal class size as per Board of Education Policy 2312, Class Size, (20 students per class), the kindergarten student on the exception list will be allowed to remain at AWR through their 6th grade year.
- If there are more students on the exception list than available spots, a lottery will be conducted to determine which students will be able to remain at AWR. Those not selected will attend Salt Brook.
- If the optimal class size is reached, as per Board of Education Policy 2312, Class Size, all kindergarten students on the exception list will attend Salt Brook.
- Parents of kindergarten students on the exception list will be notified in writing by June 1st each year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this updated Redistricting Plan, as described above, be implemented by the District administration in accordance with the guidelines and policies set forth, and that the Board of Education will continue to monitor the plan’s effectiveness and communicate with the community regarding any necessary adjustments.

Seconded by: _____
 Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano	_____ Ms. Gunderman
_____ Mrs. Cuccaro	_____ Mrs. Marano
_____ Dr. Empson Hayden	_____ Mr. Walsh
_____ Mrs. Zane	

D. Personnel Action – Ms. Gunderman

Approve Item 1 as listed below:

1. Approve the appointment of the following person 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. Kevin Sousa, long term substitute school psychologist, \$22,994.00 (base \$63,872.00), effective 3/14/25 through 6/30/25

Seconded by: _____
 Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano	_____ Ms. Gunderman
_____ Mrs. Cuccaro	_____ Mrs. Marano
_____ Dr. Empson Hayden	_____ Mr. Walsh
_____ Mrs. Zane	

E. Board Policy – Mr. Walsh

No board policy items for approval.

- VII Opportunity for the Public to be Heard**
- VIII Motion to Recess to Closed Session, if necessary**
- IX Adjournment**