

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on April 24, 2025, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Mrs. Cuccaro, Board President.

Present on the roll call were Laura Castellano, Bernadette Cuccaro, Dr. Kristen Empson Hayden, Stacey Gunderman, Amanda Marano, Donna Zane, and Joseph Walsh. Also present were Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board, and fifty-eight (58) 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 in 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 VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro did not have any comments.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli invited Vince Graziano to present his student report, the report is as follows:

Hello everyone, thank you for having me. To start, I hope everyone had an enjoyable spring break! It is good to be back, and we look forward to a great final marking period of the school year. Saturday, March 29th, was the PTSA Tricky Tray Fashion Show. The event was a great success with many Seniors participating as models in the show! A special thank you to the PTSA and all those who helped organize an amazing event for our school community! Earlier this month, over 35 NPHS students traveled to France and Spain. They went on Friday, April 11th, and returned on Saturday, April 19th. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for our students, and a great time was had by all who were able to attend! Earlier this week, there were two Induction Ceremonies where we recognized our newest National Honor Society members as well as our World Language Honor Society members. Congratulations to all of this year's inductees! Today was Take Your Child to Work Day, and it was a lot of fun meeting some of the kids of our teachers and faculty. Next Friday, May 2nd, will be the PTSA Senior Breakfast. All the Seniors are looking forward to an opportunity to come together as a group and celebrate our college commitments and spend some time together as a class. This will be one of many events over the final two months of the school year for the Seniors. In athletics, Boys lacrosse is 6-2 and 5-0 in the conference. The team beat St. Peter's Prep 9-8 yesterday. Girls lacrosse is 7-2, starting off the season 5-0. Baseball is on a 2 game win streak and playing Summit today. Softball is 5-2 with a win over Union Catholic yesterday.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Ugliarolo gave a summary of the current enrollment. Allen W. Roberts School has 639 students, Salt Brook School has 583 students, New Providence High School has 657 students, New Providence Middle School has 394 students, and lastly, 36 out-of-district students, to give us a total of 2,309 students.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli commented that with the end of the school year coming up, there is an unmistakable energy in each of our buildings. From our concerts to our art shows to spring sports and senior events, our schools are alive with activity and excitement. It is truly a special time of the year as we celebrate student growth, achievement, and the many milestones that mark the end of the academic year. She was especially proud to share some exciting news from our High School. To date, our seniors have been accepted to over two hundred colleges and universities across the country. And the list continues to grow each day. Among the most popular choices this year are the University of Maryland, Boston University, University of Tampa, Bucknell, Drexel, Fairfield, Indiana University, Fordham, Michigan State, and the University of Michigan. Even more exciting news is that many of our students have already made their college commitments. I'm thrilled to announce that some of our seniors will be attending outstanding institutions such as the University of Virginia, Notre Dame, Boston College, and Duke.

Congratulations to all of our seniors and their families on these incredible accomplishments. Looking ahead, our final strategic planning session will take place next Tuesday, April 29th, and we will focus on finance, facilities, and security. Lastly, she is very pleased to report that we remain on track with our HVAC project timeline.

Mr. Testa updated the Board and community on the HVAC progress. His update is as follows:

Good evening. We had a busy break at all three of our schools. Starting with the High School/Middle School, the underground trenching and the conduit were installed from the new pole that was put in to the transformer location, and then the underground trenching and conduit continued from the transformer to the switch gear location, which was in the garage at the High School. The transformer pad has been installed, and we're waiting on JCP&L to bring the transformer in, and then from there we could set up inspections and move forward with it having the switch over with the electrical upgrade. This project was due to be done in the summer. We're on schedule with that, and the remainder of the project will be done in the summer.

At Salt Brook, we removed and replaced the remaining ceiling unit ventilators. What this means is that all the unit ventilators in the building are complete. We are ahead of schedule. We thought we would have to do most of this work in the summer, but we did a lot of it during the school year, and we did well last week. We also installed all the cabinets and countertops in all the rooms. We completed all the ductwork, electrical, piping, and controls to the units that were installed over break. All the roof supports were put up on the roof. Ready for the equipment. What our plan is, in the next couple of months, we'll try to start getting some of the units onto the roof on a Saturday, this way we can start as soon as school ends. The pole has not been installed by JCP&L yet. We hope to get that in by June, so then they can do the electrical upgrade over the summer.

Finally, at Allen W. Roberts, the underground trenching and the conduit were installed from the new pole to the transformer. JCP&L set the transformer, pulled all the preliminary wire, and the transformer from the pole. Our electrician pulled all the wires from the transformer to the switch gear in the building. We are having an inspection tomorrow, and if we pass, they will give us what they call a cutting card, and you need that so you can have the electrical upgrade switched. We hope to get the cut card within the next week or two. We're going to schedule the switch-over of power on the weekend. We'll do it on a Saturday, and then once that's done, H&S and Carrier will come in and test all the units, and we're hoping that it'll all be working by May 19th, and we're on schedule.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE

Mr. Walsh invited the following students to present them with their certificates of excellence: Michael Aranda, Camryn Bedder, Sofia Cadmus, Mia Montero, and Adam Moy.

The certificate presentation is as follows:

Tonight, we are happy to recognize the 2024/2025 school year recipients of the Certificate of Excellence in Visual Arts. Students who excel in art and design routinely think “outside the box” to create new and exciting works. These skills in creativity and innovation are essential for success in college and in the workplace. The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, a national competition, awards regional and national recognition to students who exhibit originality, technical skill, and emergence of a personal vision through their works. For the year 2025, over 5,000 works of art were submitted in the Northern New Jersey region. To start, I would like to recognize this year’s Scholastic Art & Writing winners. Our first student has been awarded a National Silver Medal and a Gold Key in digital art from Scholastic, Adam Moy. Our other Gold Key recipient is Camryn Bedder.

Next, I would like to recognize those students who received a Scholastic Art & Writing Honorable Mention. I would also like to call forward our first-ever middle school Scholastic Art & Writing recipient, Rama Bhor. We recognize these talented students for their artistic achievements during the 2024/2025 school year. New Providence is very proud of these students’ achievements and encourages them to continue with their arts education.

Mr. Walsh then invited students who represented New Providence in the Region Music Ensembles to receive their certificates. Mr. Walsh’s presentation is as follows:

Students who excel in music exhibit a high level of motivation and work ethic to develop their skills. Those who perform in ensembles become outstanding team members and experts at collaboration. New Providence takes pride in providing opportunities for young musicians to fully develop their musical potential within the school program, as well as in auditioned honors ensembles. The New Jersey Music Educators Association divides the state into three regions. The central region, C.J.M.E.A., sponsors auditioned Honors Bands, Orchestras, and Choirs at the intermediate and high school levels every year. Hundreds of students throughout the region, who are sponsored by their school music teachers, prepare and audition. Only the highest-scoring applicants are accepted. This year, 18 students represented New Providence in regional ensembles. Abigail Boshart, Olivia Hoang, Abigail Kim, Mia Pardo, and Naomi Wu were selected for the Intermediate Region Orchestra, and Jared Becker, Lillian Cai, Asher Chow, Leo Ettinger, and James Tan were selected for the Intermediate Region Band. Tyler Lee was selected for the Intermediate Region Percussion Ensemble, and Alexander Gigliotti, Sean Kruger, and Natalie Tom were selected for the High School Region Orchestra. Dan Ruzicka was selected for the High School Region Symphonic Band, and Julia Halldorson, Sophia Scott, and Rachel Zack were selected for the High School Region Chorus. These students have earned special recognition for excellence in music performance. New Providence is very proud of their achievements and encourages them to continue with their music education. Congratulations!

Along with regional ensembles, N.J.M.E.A. sponsors auditioned all-state honors ensembles at the elementary, middle, and high school levels every year. Hundreds of students throughout the entire state, who are sponsored by their school music teachers, prepare and audition. Only the highest-scoring applicants are accepted. Membership in an all-state ensemble is a prestigious distinction. In collaboration with N.J.M.E.A., the New Jersey chapter of the American Choral Directors Association sponsors auditioned all-state honor choirs at the elementary and junior high school levels. This year, 21 students represented New Providence in All-State Ensembles. Ana Sofia Alves Invante, Shania Arora, Sarina Loor, Aarohi Misra, Olivia Salazar, Aariyana Sharma, and Evelyn Tai were selected for the Elementary All-State Chorus, Isabella Arias, Abigail Boshart, Raina Kamath, Shaurya Kotte, Anisha Kumar, Annie Liu, and Shreya Rao were selected for the Junior High All-State Choir, Olivia Huang and Naomi Wu were selected for the Intermediate All-State Orchestra, Alexander Gigliotti and Natalie Tom were selected for the High School All-State Orchestra, Dan Ruzicka was selected for the High School All-State Band, and Julia

Halldorson and Rachel Zack were selected for the High School All-State Chorus.

These students have earned special recognition for excellence in music performance. New Providence is very proud of their achievements and encourages them to continue with their music education. Congratulations!

PRESENTATION OF THE 2024/2025 NEW PROVIDENCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANTS

Dr. Zirpoli then invited Mrs. Szeto and Mr. Naughton to present the New Providence Education Foundation(NPEF) Grants.

Mrs. Szeto went on to explain that the NPEF is a board primarily made of parents, many like yourselves. Our goal is to raise money and to fund teacher-initiated requests. These are requests directly from the teachers and the staff for items and programs to enhance their classroom and to further push the curriculum. Throughout the year, we work with local businesses. We host events to raise money and we collect donations from many people like yourself and throughout the community. We're so grateful for the support that we receive from the town and all our businesses. All the money we raise and donations we collect go directly back into the classrooms. This year, we received a record number of teacher requests, which was great. Teachers submitted almost thirty grant applications this year. Everything from science to language arts to counseling um across all schools, from pre-k up to the high school. We're happy to say that we spent every dollar, and we funded as many as we could. including an annual financial literacy grant that we fund in honor of a former board member and parent, Dennis Naughton, who passed away suddenly a few years ago.

Next year, with your help, we hope to raise even more money so we can continue to fund even more teacher requests that we get next year. It's our honor to present a check for \$62,352.00 to the school district.

2025/2026 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Walsh highlighted the school district's financial planning for the upcoming year. The emphasis was on maintaining educational standards while managing costs effectively.

He explained that the budget goals remain consistent year-over-year and focus on several critical areas:

- Maintain Educational Programs: Ensure ongoing support for student achievement.
- Analyze Staffing Needs: Review and adjust staffing to meet educational demands.
- Maximize Operational Efficiencies: Streamline operations to reduce costs.
- Maintain Security and Facilities: Ensure the safety and functionality of school environments.
- Consider Taxpayer Burden: Balance budget needs with the financial impact on local taxpayers.
- Preserve District Culture: Uphold the values and community spirit of the district.

The budget allocates funds for various educational initiatives, including:

- Behavioral Disabilities Program: Implementation at Salt Brook to provide necessary services within the district, reducing the need for external placements.
- Curriculum Updates: Continuous improvement of curricula across all grade levels, including:
 - Introduction to Textiles, Fashion Design, and Construction.
 - Enhanced AP Computer Science course aligned with College Board requirements.
 - Expanded French and Spanish offerings in middle school.
- Budget Consistency: The overall budget has shown consistency with previous years, with a slight increase in employee benefits anticipated.
- Capital Items: Investments in facilities and equipment are planned, with careful consideration of prior year needs.
- Tax Levy: The total tax levy for the 2025-2026 budget is set at \$45,192,300.00, adhering to state cap regulations.

The budget presentation highlighted the district's commitment to educational excellence while addressing financial sustainability. The careful planning and analysis by the finance team aim to ensure that the district can continue to provide high-quality education and services to its students while being mindful of the community's financial concerns.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared a public hearing for the proposed 2024/2025 school budget.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024/2025 school budget closed at 7:36 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:37 p.m.

There being no comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public hearing on the proposed 2024/2025 school budget closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Gunderman moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	March 13, 2025
Closed Meeting:	March 13, 2025

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

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Abstain</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

Dr. Empson Hayden moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	March 27, 2025
Closed Meeting:	March 27, 2025

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

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Abstain</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

ACTION ITEMS **FINANCE ACTIONS**

Mr. Walsh, the 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 March 2025. No major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

BILL LIST APPROVED

2. Approve the payment of bills for April 2025, in the amount of \$5,231,549.27.

DONATION APPROVED

3. Approve the generous donation from Kevin McLane, President of the New Providence LAX Club, for the purchase of two Gilman PING Lacrosse Goals/Nets, in the amount of \$3,435.00.

DONATION APPROVED

4. Approve the generous donation from the Prunesti family to the John R. O'Neill Memorial Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$100.00.

FINAL BUDGET APPROVED

5. Approve the adoption of the final budget as approved by the Executive County Superintendent:

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 13, 2025 and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the Courier News on April 8, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the FINAL BUDGET was presented to the public during a public hearing held in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, New Providence, NJ on April 24, 2025.

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

FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS APPROVED

6. Approve that the following adjustments are included in the final 2025/2026 annual school budget, was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the final 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 final 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.

2025/2026 SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM GRANT SUBMISSION APPROVED

7. Approve the grant application submission under the 2025/2026 Safety Grant Program through the New Jersey School Insurance Group's Underwriting Surplus Fund to fund a portion of the bridge replacement with a walkway entrance at Salt Brook Elementary School, in the amount of \$4,072.00.

NP-TV TRANSFER OF RIGHTS APPROVED

8. Approve the transfer of all rights, ownership, interest, equipment, and any related materials that the New Providence Board of Education holds in connection with NP-TV to the Borough of New Providence, effective 7/1/25.

2025/2026 NEW PROVIDENCE EDUCATION FOUNDATION GRANT APPROVED

9. Approve the 2025/2026 grant awards amount, \$62,305.22, from the New Providence Education Foundation.

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

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

FACILITIES ACTIONS

Mr. Walsh, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

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

Quantity	Asset Number	Site	Room	Asset Description	Manufacture	Model #	Serial Number
3		AWR	STEM Room	Dash Robots	Wonder Workshop	DA01	BO0416300JTB0142 BO0418256JTC6448 BO418212JTC3833
1		AWR	STEM Room	Sphero Bolt Classroom Kit	Sphero	PP01	

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

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

EDUCATION ACTIONS

Dr. Empson Hayden, Education Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 4 as listed below:

2024/2025 HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, BULLYING RECOMMENDATIONS

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>
Allen W. Roberts:	11

TEACHER RECOGNITION WEEK APPROVED

2. Approve the following resolution in observance of Teacher Recognition Week May 4th through May 10th.

WHEREAS, the week of May 4th through May 10th has been declared Teacher Recognition Week throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the faculty of the New Providence School District continue to provide excellent instruction, tutoring, encouragement, counseling, and understanding to the students who pass through their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the regular educational programs many of the staff provide advice, direction, coaching, and sponsorship to extra-curricular activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

that the Board of Education acknowledges with pride and sincere appreciation the efforts of all of the teachers and its staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the members of the Board extend to these teachers their best wishes for the future, firm in the belief that they will always perform in the same fine fashion.

APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF APRIL, 2025, and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

ADAM KRASS CONSULTING, LLC APPROVED

3. Approve Adam Krass Consulting, LLC, for assistive technology evaluations, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a rate of \$1,600.00 per evaluation.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #11916 AT COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL APPROVED

4. Approve the enrollment of Student #11916 at Columbia High School, for the 2024/2025 school year, at a tuition cost of \$5,025.00, effective 4/1/25.

Mrs. Zane seconded the motion.

Dr. Empson Hayden read into the record the resolution for the observance of Teacher Recognition Week, May 4th through May 10th. It was carried on the following vote.

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Ms. Gunderman moved to approve Items 1 through 9 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. Tonya Donnelly, game worker
 - b. Laina Magnani, game worker
 - c. Phyllis Appiah, substitute bus driver
 - d. Eduardo Lopez, substitute custodian
 - e. Christopher Puorro, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - f. Kyra Licari, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
 - g. Gian Cacioppo, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary

2025/2026 APPOINTMENT APPROVED

2. 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 2025/2026 school year:
 - a. Rachel Winard, department head, language arts, grades 7-12, \$4,787.00, effective 7/1/25
 - b. Michael Criscitello, MS Principal, \$137,000.00, effective 7/1/25
 - c. Brian Henry, HS Principal, \$178,955.00* effective 7/1/25

*Subject to the completion of negotiations for the 2025/2026 school year:

RESIGNATIONS APPROVED

3. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
 - a. Kristen Nazzaro, student teacher at AWR, effective 2/1/25-6/18/25

2024/2025 REVISION APPROVED

4. Approve the following revision for the 2024/2025 school year:
- a. Taylor Madden, student teacher at AWR, effective 2/1/25-6/18/25

2025/2026 REVISION APPROVED

5. Approve the following revision for the 2025/2026 school year:
- a. Lyndsay Wittenberg, from MS Assistant Principal, 12 months, to AWR School Assistant Principal, 10.5 months, \$91,875.00* (base \$105,000.00*), effective 7/1/25

2024/2025 REVISED EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY SCHEDULES APPROVED

6. Approve the following revised 2024/2025 Employee Holiday Schedules.
- a. 12 Month (EXHIBIT A)
b. 10/10.5 Month (EXHIBIT B)

2025/2026 EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY SCHEDULES APPROVED

7. Approve the following 2025/2026 Employee Holiday Schedules:
- a. 12 Month (EXHIBIT C)
b. 10/10.5 Month (EXHIBIT D)

UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED

8. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Tara Nelson, reading specialist, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of two weeks commencing 9/12/25 and ending 9/25/25, and under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 9/26/25 and ending 12/19/25, 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 12/22/25 through and including 1/31/26. (Based on 8/14/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

UNPAID LEAVE APPROVED

9. Approve the request for unpaid leave for Jennifer Morra, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 4/22/25 and ending 9/18/25, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

Dr. Zirpoli congratulated Mr. Criscitello for becoming the new Middle School principal and highlighted his accomplishments. She also introduced Mrs. Winard as the new 7-12 language arts department head.

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion. It was carried on the following vote.
Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

BOARD POLICY

Mr. Walsh, the Policy Chairperson, moved to approve Item 1 as listed below:

BYLAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS ON SECOND READING APPROVED

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

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 3351	Healthy Workplace Environment (Teaching Staff) (Walsh)	New
Policy 4351	Healthy Workplace Environment (Support Staff) (Walsh)	New
Policy 5512 (Mandated)	Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 5533 (Mandated)	Student Smoking (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 7441 (Mandated)	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds (Walsh)	Revised

Administrative Regulations:

Regulation 5533	Student Smoking (Walsh)	Revised
Regulation 7441	Electronic Surveillance in School Buildings and on School Grounds (Walsh)	Revised
Regulation 8220	Opening Exercises (Walsh)	Revised

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion. It was carried on the following vote.
Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Cuccaro
<u>Yea</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: The Committee already had its first meeting for strategic planning, and will be meeting again later next week.

Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: The Committee will be meeting on May 11, 2025, to discuss Strategic Planning.

Personnel, Management, and Communications: The Committee will be meeting tomorrow to discuss Strategic Planning.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mrs. Cuccaro asked the Board who would be able to march in the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Testa needs to respond to Ms. Allison Smith.

The following board members will be marching in the parade: Mrs. Castellano, Ms. Gunderman, Mrs. Marano, Mrs. Zane, and Mr. Walsh. Dr. Empson Hayden will possibly be marching in the parade.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Gunderman moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall on April 24, 2025, 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 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.

Mr. Walsh seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

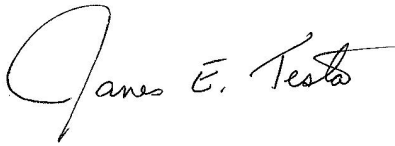
RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:02 p.m.

Mrs. Cuccaro called the Board to order. Board members present were Mrs. Castellano, Mrs. Cuccaro, Dr. Empson Hayden, Ms. Gunderman, Mrs. Marano, Mrs. Zane, 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 8:0355 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