



**NEW PROVIDENCE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Administrative Offices**  
**356 Elkwood Avenue**  
**New Providence, New Jersey 07974**  
[www.npsd.k12.nj.us](http://www.npsd.k12.nj.us)

**AGENDA**  
**September 25, 2025**  
**High School/Middle School Media Center**  
**7:00 p.m.**

[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 Report of the Superintendent of Schools**

1. Student Report- Ariel Brenner
2. Enrollment
3. Consensus to move forward with the Salt Brook Softball Field project
4. *The Anxious Generation* Presentation
5. General Information

**V Recognition of Rebecca Coniglio**

**WHEREAS,** Rebecca Coniglio has ended her service on the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence after faithful service over the last six years; and

**WHEREAS,** the members of the Board of Education are cognizant of the fact that Mrs. Coniglio has greatly contributed toward the welfare of the children of the Borough by her energy and sincere application to all matters which have come before the Board; and

**WHEREAS,** Mrs. Coniglio has served as Curriculum, Instruction and Technology Chairperson and Committee Member; Personnel, Management, and Communication Chairperson and Committee Member; New Providence Alliance Board Representative, New Providence Education Foundation Board Representative, Government Relations, and Board Policy.

**NOW, THEREFORE,  
BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence, in the County of Union, that the personal and collective gratitude and appreciation of the members of the Board of Education are hereby extended to Rebecca Coniglio for her loyal and untiring dedication to the community; and they do hereby publicly commend her for the excellent example she has thus presented to the present and future members of the Board of Education.

**APPROVED THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY of SEPTEMBER, 2025,** and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll Call Vote:

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

**VI Presentation: Summer College Visits-** Jillian Shadis, Director of School Counseling

**VII Public Hearing -** Mr. Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

A. President declares a Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System, for incidents that occurred during Reporting Period 2 - January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

1. Presentation of the Student Safety Data System for Reporting Period 2 - January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025.

B. President declares the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System for Reporting Period 2 - January 1, 2025 through June 30, 2025, closed.

**VIII Public Comments:**

A. Opportunity for the Public to be heard (on specific agenda items)

B. Public portion of the meeting declared closed

**IX Approval of Minutes as follows:**

Special Meeting:	August 14, 2025
Business Meeting:	August 25, 2025
Closed Session:	August 25, 2025

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll Call Vote:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Castellano

\_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Gunderman

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Cuccaro

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Marano

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Empson Hayden

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Walsh

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Zane

**X Action Items**

**A. Finance Actions – Mr. Walsh**

Approve Items 1 through 9 as listed below:

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for August 2025. No major account or fund has been over expended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
2. Approve the payment of bills for September 2025, in the amount of \$4,195,507.36.
3. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2025/2026 school year.

**August 2025**

From:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-240-103	School Administration- Salaries	\$ 8,567.00
11-120-100-101	Grades 1 through 5- Salaries	19,942.00
		Total: \$ 28,509.00

To:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-240-199	Unused Vacation Payments	\$ 8,567.00
11-000-291-299	Unused Sick Payments	19,942.00
		Total: \$28,509.00

4. Approve the Swimming Pool Use Agreement between the New Providence School District and the Morris Union Jointure Commission for the 2025/2026 school year.
5. Approve BlueSnap for online payment to provide a secure payment gateway.
6. Approve a vending machine rental agreement with NutriVantage, LLC.
7. Approve the following bus company for athletics, extra-curricular, and field trip transportation in the event the Morris-Union Jointure Commission is unable to provide transportation for the 2025/2026 school year:

<b><u>Company</u></b>	<b><u>Town</u></b>	<b><u>2025/2026 Rates</u></b>
Coach America	New York	\$175.00 per hour

8. Approve the generous donation of four violins, one flute, and one guitar, from Jennifer Pasuit, K-12 Department Head of STEM.

9. Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Morris Union Jointure Commission and the New Providence School District for the 2025/2026 extended school year as stated below:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Per Annum</u>	<u>Aide Per Diem</u>
918	\$ 6,131.40	\$101.72
920	\$28,168.79	\$240.37
925	\$ 4,286.40	\$ 55.28
980	\$ 8,816.10	\$ 85.42
985	\$14,438.10	\$134.27
992	\$ 6,705.90	N/A

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**

Approve Item 1 as listed below:

1. Approve the Union County Improvement Authority (UCIA) Purchase Option for the Authority's Renewable Energy program. The New Providence Board of Education will purchase the solar systems located at the New Providence High/Middle School and Allen W. Roberts school for \$1.00 as the current lease agreement ends in February 2027.

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Roll Call Vote:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Castellano

\_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Gunderman

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Cuccaro

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Marano

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Empson Hayden

\_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Walsh

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Zane

#### **C. Education – Dr. Empson Hayden**

Approve Items 1 through 6 as listed below:

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

Art- Visual and Practical

Introduction to Textiles/Fashion Design & Construction	(Grades 9-12)	New
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Language Arts 7-12

7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts	(Grade 7)	New
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts	(Grade 8)	New
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Basic Skills	(Grade 7)	New

Science

Human Physiology	(Grades 10-12)	Revised
AP Environmental Science	(Grades 10-12)	New

Social Studies

Honors World Studies	(Grade 9)	Revised
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STEM

AP Computer Science Principles	(Grades 9-12)	Revised
AP Computer Science A	(Grades 10-12)	Revised

World Language

French A	(Grade 7)	New
Spanish A	(Grade 7)	New
French 1	(Grades 9-12)	Revised

2. Approve the Morris-Union Jointure Commission, for occupational therapy services at a rate of \$210.00 per hour, and for physical therapy services at a rate of \$230.00 per hour, for the 2025/2026 school year.
3. Approve the settlement agreement for Student #1301167, copies in the hands of each Board member.
4. Approve acceptance of the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Every Student Succeeds Act Consolidated Grant Application for Title IIA (\$23,596.00), Title III Consortium (\$8,308.00), Title III Immigrant funds (\$6,736.00), totaling \$38,640.00 for the period 8/1/25 through 6/30/26.
5. Approve for the 2025/2026 school year acceptance into a Title III Consortium with the Springfield Board of Education in order to receive the amount of \$8,308.00, since federal legislation requires a consortium given that the District's allocation is below the \$10,000.00 minimum requirement. The Springfield Board of Education will be the lead district in this consortium.
6. Approve Llamame, LLC to provide multilingual and multicultural staff training services in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.00, for the 2025/2026 school year.

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 Items 1 through 6 as listed below:

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 2025/2026 school year:
  - a. Racquel DeCicco, Ph.D., teacher, \$97,374.00, effective 9/1/25
  - b. Kaileigh Volker, school psychology practicum student, effective 9/1/25-6/30/26
  - c. Sydney Bleach, HS Science Competition Club, advisor, \$2,105.00
  - d. Melissa Marano, HS National Science Honor Society, advisor, \$2,105.00
  - e. Mike Neilson, football broadcast, \$82.00 per game
  - f. Kathryn Colon, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$20.64/hr., based on 176 days, \$9,932.00 (base \$10,898.00), effective 9/29/25
  - g. Holly Pizzonia, HS advisor, freshman class, \$926.00
  - h. Holly Pizzonia, HS math team, advisor, \$2,105.00
  - i. Caroline McKenna, long term substitute teacher, \$62,603.00 (base \$68,794.00), effective 9/29/25 through 6/30/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - j. Wendi Kane-Millard, HS musical (winter), costumes, \$1,224.00
  - k. Michael Makmur, HS STEM club, advisor, \$2,105.00
  - l. Lindsay DiBella, MS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, full year, \$8,000.00
  - m. Erin Strathern, long term substitute counselor, \$25,798.00 (base \$68,794.00), effective 12/22/25 through 4/27/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - n. Maeve Gregorio, social work student intern, effective for the 2025/2026 school year
  - o. Jenna Stickle, MS yearbook, co-advisor, \$1,053.00
  - p. Victoria Delia, MS mathematics club, advisor, \$2,105.00
  - q. Wendi Kane-Millard, 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, co-advisor, \$576.00
  - r. Christian Rizzo, 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, co-advisor, \$576.00
  - s. Brandon Hilf, MS Esports, advisor, half year, \$1,052.50
  - t. Margaret Gilroy, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - u. Marybeth Matthews, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - v. Erin Strathern, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - w. Mohamed Ereclen, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - x. Eman Abdelrahman, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
  - y. Ryan Glatz, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - z. Cristina Maurizi, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - aa. Khaled Elserty, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - bb. Shannon Adams, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
  - cc. Catherine Reddington, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - dd. Michael Rox, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - ee. Judith Mahlstadt, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
  - ff. Tracey Blanchard, summer teacher for IEP meeting, \$76.74/hr.
  - gg. Elizabeth Rapoano, substitute bus aide, \$18.67/hr.
  - hh. Brenda Debski, substitute bus aide, \$18.67/hr.
  - ii. Tara Garcia, SB STEM club, advisor- 1<sup>st</sup> grade, \$2,105.00
  - jj. Gavin Jakositz, game worker, subject to game worker fees
  - kk. Carlene Conlin, game worker, subject to game worker fees
  - ll. Kaely Sturges, NJGPA Bootcamp ELA Instructor, not to exceed 3 hours at \$55.97/hr.
  - mm. Fiona Flanagan, NJGPA Bootcamp ELA Instructor, not to exceed 3 hours at \$55.97/hr.

- nn. Gavin Jakositz, NJGPA Bootcamp Math Instructor, not to exceed 3 hours \$55.97/hr.
  - oo. Kieran Moss, long term substitute teacher, \$25,776.00 (base \$64,440.00), effective 10/20/25 through 2/19/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - pp. Kieran Moss, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
  - qq. Nancy Babbitt, long term substitute teacher, effective 10/27/25, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$293.77 (prorated Step 1, Column I, base of \$58,754.00), to work 3 days a week (subject to criminal history review procedures)
2. Accept the revised resignation of the following employee:
    - a. Jenna Romeo, teacher, effective 8/25/25
  3. Accept the resignation of the following employee:
    - a. Nhan Ngo, teacher, effective 12/31/25, due to retirement
  4. Approve the following revisions for the 2025/2026 school year:
    - a. Alyssa Machado, MS, for teaching sixteen (16) periods per four (4) day rotation, full year, \$4,000.00
    - b. Wendi Kane-Millard, HS/MS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, half year, \$4,000.00
    - c. Craig Barclay, teacher, from Step 7, Column V (\$71,194.00), to Master's, Step 7, Column VI (\$73,890.00), effective 9/1/25, due to course credits
    - d. Kristin O'Brien, teacher, from Step 11, Column V (\$81,397.00), to Master's, Step 11, Column VI (\$84,505.00), effective 9/1/25, due to course credits
    - e. Danielle Chierchie, teacher, from Step 6, Column V (\$69,992.00), to Master's, Step 6, Column VI (\$72,309.00), effective 9/1/25, due to course credits
    - f. Jill Lepre, teacher, from Step 9, Column III (\$68,979.00), to Master's, Step 9, Column VI (\$77,274.00), effective 9/1/25, due to course credits
    - g. Benjamin Ruben-Schnirman, teacher, from Step 7, Column V (\$71,194.00), to Master's, Step 7, Column VI (\$73,890.00), effective 9/1/25, due to course credits
    - h. Jennifer Dowden, long term substitute teacher, \$30,774.00 (base \$62,170.00), effective 9/3/25 through 1/31/26
    - i. Margaret Gilroy, long-term substitute teacher, effective 10/1/25, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$293.77 (prorated Step 1, Column I, base of \$58,754.00)
  5. Rescind the following appointments for the 2025/2026 school year:
    - a. Gavin Jakositz, MS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, full year, \$8,000.00
    - b. Colleen Spadora, long term substitute teacher, \$23,998.00 (base \$60,754.00), effective 10/20/25 through 2/18/26
    - c. Daniel Mango, HS musical (winter), music director, \$3,366.00
    - d. Scott Ziegler, HS musical (winter), accompanist, \$2,346.00
    - e. Holly Pizzonia, 8<sup>th</sup> grade class, advisor, \$1,152.00
    - f. Holly Pizzonia, MS mathematics club, advisor, \$2,105.00
    - g. Holly Pizzonia, MS yearbook club, co-advisor, \$1,053.00
    - h. Elizabeth Stuart, AWR RAMS newspaper club, advisor, grades K-6, \$2,105.00
  6. Approve the request for unpaid paternity leave for Steven Siracusa, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 12/1/25 and ending 3/4/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on a 11/20/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

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**

Approve Item 1 as listed below:

1. Approve the following Policy on second reading:

**Bylaw and Policy:**

Policy 8505	School Nutrition (Walsh)	Revised
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Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Roll Call Vote:

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

**XI Committee Reports**

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology
2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security
3. Personnel, Management, and Communication

**XII Old Business**

**XIII New Business**

**XIV Opportunity for the Public to be Heard**

**XV Motion to Recess to Closed Session, if necessary**

**XVI Adjournment**