

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on August 14, 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 Bernadette Cuccaro, Dr. Kristen Empson Hayden, Ms. Stacey Gunderman, Amanda Marano, and Donna Zane. Also present were Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Ugliarolo, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board, and one (1) member 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.

The following notice was posted on August 5, 2025:

The New Providence Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, for the purpose of Personnel and Policy matters.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli reviewed the following key points of revised Policy 5516 and New Regulation 5516.

The revised policy regarding electronic communication devices aims to address the growing concerns about the impact of excessive screen time and social media on students.

Key Aspects of Revised Policy 5516:

- Purpose:
 - To mitigate the negative effects of excessive screen time and social media, promote healthier habits and deeper engagement in the physical world.
- Implementation for Grades 9-12:
 - Students are required to place all personal electronic devices in their lockers at the start of the school day.
 - Devices will remain secured in lockers until dismissal, with exceptions for juniors and seniors during open lunch when they can access their devices.
- Policy for Grades 7-8:
 - No change; personal electronic devices must remain turned off and secured in lockers throughout the school day.

- Policy for Elementary Students:
 - Devices must be kept turned off and stored in backpacks or lockers until the end of the school day.
- Medical Exceptions:
 - Students needing to keep their devices for medical reasons may do so by establishing an Individualized Health Plan (IHP) with the school nurse, supported by a doctor's note.

Dr. Zirpoli stated that the building principals will communicate specific procedures related to the revised policy and new regulation in the upcoming weeks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:13 p.m. There were no public comments. Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:13 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

PERSONNEL ACTION

Ms. Gunderman, the Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 3 as listed below.

2025/2026 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 2025/2026 school year:
 - a. Jackson Barletta, football (fall), volunteer (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - b. Tania Kelly, HS treasurer, non-athletics, \$3,585.00
 - c. Alexander Robson, HS, student intern/coach/strength and conditioning assistant, for the 2025/2026 school year
 - d. Max Celler, summer technology work, \$14.60/hr., effective 7/30/25
 - e. Daniel Ruzicka, summer technology work, \$14.60/hr., effective 8/4/25
 - f. Jennifer Dowden, long term substitute teacher, \$25,801.00 (base \$62,170.00), effective 9/26/25 through 1/31/26
 - g. Sydney Pryor, long term substitute teacher, \$33,784.00 (base \$58,754.00), effective 9/1/25 through 2/25/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)

2025/2026 RESCINDED APPOINTMENT APPROVED

2. Rescind the following appointment for the 2025/2026 school year:

- a. James Vopal, football broadcast (fall), \$82.00 per game

RESIGNATION APPROVED

3. Accept the resignation of the following employee:

- a. Jenna Romeo, teacher, effective 10/7/25

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

Roll call vote:

<u>Absent</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>Absent</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

BOARD POLICY

Mrs. Cuccaro, the absence of the Board Policy Chairperson, moved to approve the following Policies and Regulations on first reading:

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS APPROVED

1. Approve the following Policies and Regulations on first reading:

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 3322	Staff Members' Use of Personal Electronic Communication Devices (Walsh)	Revised

Administrative Regulations:

Regulation 5516	Use of Electronic Communication Devices (Walsh)	New
Regulation 5111	Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident Students (Walsh)	Revised

Mr. Uglialoro briefly reviewed the policies and regulations.

Ms. Gunderman seconded the motion. It was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Absent</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>Absent</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:16 p.m.

Kathryn Biber, 9 The Arbors

Mrs. Biber, co-president of the New Providence High School PTSA, asked for an HVAC update.

Mr. Testa gave the following update:

- The HVAC startup is currently underway to prepare systems for the new school year.
- Salt Brook School:
 - Electrical upgrades are nearly complete and scheduled to finish soon.
 - Once complete, the HVAC startup process will begin.
 - The goal is to have air flowing into classrooms by the end of next week.
- High School/Middle School:
 - All HVAC units have been installed on the roof.
 - This week, connections for refrigerant, electricity, and controls are being finalized.
 - The system is expected to be operational by the end of the week or early next week.
- Auditorium Units:
 - Two HVAC units will be installed on the auditorium roof.
 - Installation is scheduled for next Tuesday.
 - Although full operation may not be ready by the start of school, the installation process will continue during the start of the school year.
- The district will continue to monitor and fine-tune the systems throughout the school year. A punch list will be developed and addressed during the year to ensure full functionality.

Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:18 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Mrs. Marano, seconded by Ms. Gunderman, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James Testa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Testa".

James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary