

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 Laura Castellano, Bernadette Cuccaro, Dr. Kristen Empson Hayden, Ms. Stacey Gunderman, Joseph Walsh, and Donna Zane. Also present were Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board, and eight (8) 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.

Mrs. Marano arrived at the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Ugialoro gave a summary of the end-of-year enrollment. Allen W. Roberts School has 608 students, Salt Brook School has 560 students, New Providence High School has 647 students, New Providence Middle School has 391 students, and lastly, 35 out-of-district students, to give us a total of 2,241 students.

Mr. Ugialoro reported on kindergarten enrollment for September 2025. Currently, ninety (93) students are registered for kindergarten at Salt Brook, and fifty-seven (59) students are registered for kindergarten at Allen W. Roberts. First grade enrollment is currently eighty-three (83) students registered at Salt Brook and seventy-seven (77) students registered at Allen W. Roberts.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli updated the Board on the administrators' retreat that took place during the week. Administrators reflected on the strategic plan and board goals. They worked on the Frontline program and learned how the evaluation system will be used for staff observations. Also, they worked on learning more about how to use the new Link It program.

Dr. Zirpoli took a moment to thank Mr. Keaney and Mr. Ugialoro for their help in presenting and coming up with engaging activities for the administrators' retreat.

ASSESSMENT REPORT #1 PRESENTATION

Mr. Keaney began his assessment report by letting the Board know that this is the first part of the assessment report. In October, the second part of the assessment will be presented. The Assessment Report is summarized in the following highlights:

NJ GPA

- Requirement: All high school students in New Jersey must pass the NJ Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJ GPA) to graduate.

- Passing Rates: This year, both the English Language Arts (ELA) and Math components have shown strong performance, with passing rates exceeding 90%.

Learning Support

- Tutoring Services:
 - Tutoring will be available for students who do not pass the NJGPA to help them improve their skills.
 - Students are also encouraged to take the PSAT and other assessments, which provide additional opportunities for success.

ACT Score

- Performance Consistency:
 - The school has maintained consistent ACT scores over the last four years, ranging between 25.2 and 25.8.
- Tutoring Initiatives: Ongoing partnerships are being explored to enhance tutoring strategies, with the goal of improving student performance on the ACT.

AP Scores

- Success Rate:
 - A significant 95% of Advanced Placement (AP) students scored 3 or higher on their exams.
- Increased Achievement: There has been an increase in the number of students achieving scores of 3+, as well as an increase in the count of AP Scholars with Distinction, rising from 41 to 60.

Mrs. Marano asked Mr. Keaney if the AP scores are only for juniors or seniors.

Mr. Keaney responded that the AP scores presented from 2021 to 2025 are for all students who are taking AP courses. This year, there are students who are taking AP courses in ninth grade.

Dr. Empson Hayden commented that the number of AP Scholars and AP exams being taken by students has seemingly doubled in 2021-2022. Is this change due to the District offering more AP classes or more students enrolling in these classes?

The change is due to a review of the criteria for students to enter these AP classes, and the encouragement and promotion that teachers have been giving students to enter these classes. This started to become a self-perpetuating cycle once success takes place; then, it breeds more success.

BELONGING AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATION

Mr. Keaney began his presentation by stating that the Belonging and Community Initiative is a key district effort aimed at fostering inclusivity, equity, and a strong sense of community across all schools.

Mr. Keaney's presentation is summarized in the following points:

Objectives

- Professional Development (PD) for Teachers- The initiative prioritized ongoing PD throughout the school year to equip teachers with strategies to create inclusive and welcoming environments.
- Guiding Principles Development- Clear guiding principles were developed for both staff and the wider community to define shared values and support a cohesive approach to belonging and equity.

Progress

- PD Sessions- Multiple PD days and mini-workshops were conducted, focusing on topics such as identity and cultural competence, enabling teachers to collaborate and reflect on best practices throughout the year.
- Inclusive Classroom Resources & Codes of Conduct- Schools have created resources to build inclusive classrooms and updated student handbooks and codes of conduct to reflect equity-focused standards and behavior expectations.

Community Engagement

- Student Surveys- Surveys were administered periodically to gather student feedback on their experiences and sense of belonging, helping schools understand and address student needs better.
- Coordination Between Schools - Elementary schools (Allen W. Roberts and Salt Brook) are collaborating to enhance inclusive practices, including the development of surveys for parents to provide richer student information before the school year begins.

Mrs. Zane asked if the y-axis is always on a base of 100 for the sample survey data.

Mr. Keaney responded that the y-axis is on 100 for illustration purposes.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION

Mr. Keaney started his presentation by stating that over the past year, four professional development (PD) days were held, primarily focused on topics related to *Belonging and Community*. The following are the highlights of the presentation:

PD Day Focus:

- The first three PD days addressed staff needs around belonging and community.
- The final PD day (June 6th) was split for K–6 and 7–12 groups:
 - For K–6, an outside consultant (Rachel Haynes) conducted sessions on emotional regulation in the classroom, supported by a grant from the Alliance.
 - For grades 7–12, focus was on school climate, technology surveys, and department-specific information.

In-School Professional Planning (ISPP) Days:

- This was the first year with three ISP days.
- Over 400 ISPP days were utilized by teachers, some using multiple days.
- Teachers found ISP days extremely beneficial, particularly appreciating the focused time to develop lessons and collaborate with colleagues.
- Quotes from teachers emphasized ISP days as the most valuable professional development they have experienced in the district.

Teacher Feedback:

- Teachers greatly valued the PD days, especially the time for self-reflection, in-depth exploration of belonging/community topics, and collaborative work.
- The PD days were well spaced throughout the year, allowing progressive learning and ongoing collaboration.
- Overall feedback was very positive, highlighting the PD days as productive and meaningful.

Conclusion:

- Both PD and ISP days contributed significantly to teacher professional growth.
- The district plans to continue encouraging the use of ISP days for focused teacher development.

This comprehensive approach to PD has helped enhance teacher skills, particularly in fostering inclusive and supportive classroom environments.

Mrs. Cuccaro thanked Mr. Keaney for his presentations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:32 p.m. There were no public comments. Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Zane moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting:	June 26, 2025
Closed Meeting:	June 26, 2025

Mr. Walsh 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>Abstain</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mr. Walsh
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

ACTION ITEMS

FINANCE ACTIONS

Mr. Walsh, the Finance Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 11 as listed below:

BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORT APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for June 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 July 2025, in the amount of \$5,407,124.52.

2024/2025 TRANSFERS APPROVED

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

June 2025

From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-262-107	Salaries- Lunch/Recess Aides	\$ 932.00
11-000-291-241	Other Retirement Contributions	5,000.00
11-000-291-270	Employee Benefits	5,200.00
		Total: \$11,132.00
To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-262-199	Unused Vacation Payments	\$ 932.00
11-000-262-622	Utilities- Electric	9,000.00
11-000-291-299	Unused Sick Payments	1,200.00
		Total: \$11,132.00

VOIDED CHECKS APPROVED

4. Approve the following voided checks:

Voided Check#	Date	Amount	Account	Reason
10828	10/05/2023	\$ 100.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
10875	10/13/2023	\$ 120.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
10962	11/08/2023	\$ 50.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
11059	01/11/2024	\$ 150.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
11083	01/22/2024	\$ 100.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
11084	01/22/2024	\$ 100.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
11145	02/07/2024	\$ 100.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
11191	03/08/2024	\$ 75.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED
11270	04/19/2024	\$ 68.00	Athletics Account	LOST/OUTDATED

BUS COMPANIES APPROVED

5. Approve the following bus companies for athletics, extracurricular, and field trip transportation in the event the Morris-Union Jointure Commission is unable to provide transportation for the 2025/2026 school year:

Company	Location	2025/2026 Rates
Belair Transport	Orange	Price to be determined based on trip
Durham Charter Services	Roselle	Price to be determined based on trip
First Student	Berkeley Heights	Price to be determined based on trip
Charter UP	Newark	Price to be determined based on trip
US Coachways	New York	Price to be determined based on trip

PURCHASE OF IREADY MATH CLASSROOM RESOURCES APPROVED

6. Approve the following additional purchase in accordance with N.J. Statutes 18A:18A-5(a)(5) for the 2025/2026 school year:

- iReady Math Classroom workbooks and Supplemental Resources for Grades K-6 from Curriculum Associates, not to exceed \$66,551.40.

CLASS OF 1962 SCHOLARSHIP DONATION APPROVED

7. Approve the generous donation from the New Providence High Class of 1962 Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$109.00.

PRESCHOOL TUITION REFUND APPROVED

8. Approve the refund of a 2025/2026 preschool tuition deposit in the amount of \$345.00 to Jessica and Ariel Nunez.

OMNIA PARTNERS COOPERATIVE PURCHASING ALLIANCE RESOLUTION APPROVED

9. Approve the following resolution for the 2025/2026 school year:

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education is authorized to use State and County contracts and New Jersey and National Cooperative Purchasing Agreements, and

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education, authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary to use New Jersey and County Purchasing Contracts and New Jersey and National Cooperative Purchasing Agreements, whenever it is determined to be in the best interest of the school district, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the New Providence Board of Education will participate in the following cooperative purchasing agreement:

- OMNIA Partners, previously National Cooperative Purchasing Alliance (NCPA)

PUBLIC SCHOOL CONTRACTS BID THRESHOLD RESOLUTION APPROVED

10. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, possesses a Qualified Purchasing Agent (QPA) license;

WHEREAS, The State Treasurer, in consultation with the Governor and pursuant to N.J.S.A 52:34-7 and N.J.S.A 18A:18A-3 (b), has increased the bid threshold amount for school districts with a Qualified Purchasing Agent, from \$44,000.00 to \$53,000.00, effective July 1, 2025;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Providence Board of Education, pursuant to N.J.S.A 18A:18A-3 (a), establishes and sets the bid threshold amount of \$53,000.00 for the school district, and further authorizes the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, the Qualified Purchasing Agent, to award contracts, in full accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-3 (a), for those purchases that do not exceed in the aggregate of the newly established bid threshold amount. For contracts in the aggregate that are less than the bid threshold but more than \$2,500.00, the School Business Administrator/Board Secretary shall award contracts after soliciting at least two competitive quotations.

The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-37 (c), is authorized to award contracts that are in the aggregate less than \$2,500.00 without soliciting competitive quotations.

2025/2026 MORRIS UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION TRIP RATES APPROVED

11. Approve the following Morris Union Jointure Commission trip rates for the 2025/2026 school year.

Service	Rate
Trip Rate 54 Passenger (Mon-Sat*)	\$ 99.46 per hour
Trip Rate 54 Passenger (Sun & Holidays)*	\$128.62 per hour
Trip Rate Small Bus (Mon-Sat)*	\$ 94.16 per hour
Trip Rate Small Bus (Sun & Holidays)	\$114.03 per hour
*Weekend/Holiday trips have four-hour minimum	

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 ACTION

Mr. Walsh, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 4 as listed below:

DISPOSAL OF TECHNOLOGY APPROVED

1. Approve the disposal of 12 VEXnet 802.11g remotes and 16 VEXnet 802.11g cortices and the donation of the items to a New Jersey School District.

DISPOSAL OF LEGO KITS APPROVED

2. Approve the disposal of 23 LEGO EV3 Mindstorms kits and the donation of the items to a New Jersey School District.

DISPOSAL OF 3D PRINTERS APPROVED

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

Quantity	School	Item Description	Model/ISBN#	BOE#/Ser.#	Reason
1	NPBS- STEM Classroom	Dremel 3D40 Printer	N/A	N/A	Non-functional
1	SB	Dremel 3D40 Printer	412014410	N/A	Non-functional

OFF-SITE EMERGENCY EVACUATION LOCATION FOR PRIMROSE SCHOOL OF NEW PROVIDENCE
APPROVED

4. Approve the use of the New Providence Middle School gymnasium as an off-site emergency evacuation location for the Primrose School of New Providence.

Ms. Gunderman 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 ACTION

Dr. Empson Hayden, the Education Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 10 as listed below:

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS REGARDING HIB
INVESTIGATIONS APPROVED

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2025/2026 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	5
Middle School:	7

2025/2026 NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED

2. Approve the New Providence School District Strategic Plan for the 2025/2026 school year through the 2029/2030 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.

2025/2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION GOALS APPROVED

3. Approve the Board of Education Goals for the 2025/2026 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.

2025/2026 TEXTBOOKS/EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS ADOPTION APPROVED

4. Approve the following textbooks/educational materials adoption for the 2025/2026 school year, details of which are in the hands of each Board member:

- a. Biology for the AP Course (AP Biology, 10th - 12th grades)
 b. College Physics for the AP Physics 1 and 2 Courses, 3rd Edition (AP Physics 1, 11th grade)

2025/2026 ANTICIPATED FIELD TRIP DESTINATIONS APPROVED

5. Approve the attached list of anticipated field trip destinations for the 2025/2026 school year in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-5.8. **(EXHIBIT A)**

2025/2025 CHAPTER 27 EMERGENCY VIRTUAL OR REMOTE INSTRUCTION PLAN APPROVED

6. Approve the New Providence School District's annual Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Plan for the 2025/2026 School Year, as prepared in compliance with N.J.A.C. 6A:32. Approve also the submission of this plan to the NJDOE.

ENROLLMENT OF 7TH GRADE OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENT APPROVED

7. Approve the enrollment of the following out-of-district student for the 2025/2026 school year, effective 8/28/25:
- a. 7th Grader, on a tuition basis of \$17,670.00

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #19027 AT CORNERTONE DAY SCHOOL APPROVED

8. Approve the enrollment of Student #19027 at Cornerstone Day School, for the 2025 extended school year, at a tuition cost of \$14,466.00, and for the 2025/2026 school year, at a tuition cost of \$90,171.40, effective 7/10/25.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #13769 AT THE CENTRAL AVENUE SCHOOL APPROVED

9. Approve the enrollment of Student #13769 at The Central Avenue School (the Madison Board of Education), for the 2025 extended school year, at a tuition cost of \$6,469.00, and for the 2025/2026 school year, at a tuition cost of \$82,761.00, effective 6/30/25.

REVISED ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #12555 AT CALAIS SCHOOL APPROVED

10. Approve the revised enrollment of Student #12555 at Calais School, for the 2025 extended school year, at a tuition cost of \$2,616.36, and for the 2025/2026 school year, at a tuition cost of \$78,490.80, effective 7/7/25.

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

Dr. Empson Hayden highlighted a few educational items. She specifically highlighted that the Board received a copy of the Strategic Plan for the school years 2025/2026 through 2029/2030 school year, and also received a copy of the 2025/2026 Board Goals.

Dr. Zirpoli brought to the attention of the Board the new flip book that contains the District's mission statement, portrait of the graduate, five-year Strategic Plan, and the Board Goals. There are tabs for the five-year plan, and the Board will continue to add to this flip book as they move through the strategic plan.

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 ACTION

Ms. Gunderman, the Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 7 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. Marybeth Matthews, long term substitute teacher (.48), \$17,752.00 (base \$35,504.00), effective 9/1/25 through 1/31/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - b. Kathleen DeAngelo, department head, math 7-12, \$4,787.00, effective 7/1/25
 - c. Rebeca Barbagallo, teacher, \$62,754.00, effective 9/1/25
 - d. Russell Anderson, new teacher technology training workshop, not to exceed 10 hours @ \$55.97/hr.
 - e. Byron Tracey, trainer, new teacher professional development workshop, not to exceed 35 hours @ \$55.97/hr.
 - f. Michelle Testa, trainer, new teacher professional development workshop, not to exceed 10 hours @ \$55.97/hr.
 - g. Jaclyn Kaufmann, trainer, new teacher professional development workshop, not to exceed 10 hours @ \$55.97/hr.
 - h. Heather Huber, teacher, \$58,754.00, effective 9/1/25
 - i. Byron Tracey, department head, world language (.75), \$5,359.00 (base \$7,145.00), effective 7/1/25
 - j. Stephanie Aurilia-Miller, teacher, \$95,098.00, effective 9/1/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - k. Brittany Spina, HS marching band (fall), assistant director, \$4,910.00
 - l. Peter Creutzberger, HS marching band (fall), low brass/marching/ maneuvering instructor, \$1,693.00
 - m. Lucia Siino, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$20.64/hr., based on 176 days, \$10,898.00, effective 9/1/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - n. Melissa Marano, department head, science, \$7,145.00, effective 8/1/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - o. Melissa Marano, teacher, \$104,552.00, effective 9/1/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - p. Tatiana Pereira, teacher, \$73,890.00, effective 9/1/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - q. Joanna Brown, teacher aide, \$25,485.00, effective 9/1/25 (subject to criminal history review procedures)

PERSONNEL ATTENDANCE TO NEWMARK SCHOOL TRAINING APPROVED

2. Approve the attendance of the following personnel, with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools, at the Newmark School for training and consultation services in order to facilitate the setup and implementation of the District's new Behavioral Disabilities program. This training was provided on July 15, 16, and 17, 2025. Staff will be compensated based on their 2025/2026 salary.
 - a. Kelly Hawkins
 - b. Colby Roebuck
 - c. Christina Piccirillo
 - d. Julie Triana
 - e. Natasha Feliciano-Allen
 - f. Stephanie Kwiatkowski
 - g. Cherilyn Johnson
 - h. Laurel Brockman

RESIGNATION APPROVED

3. Accept the resignation of the following employee:
 - a. Christine Hubert, teacher, effective 6/27/25

2025/2026 REVISION APPROVED

4. Approve the following revision for the 2025/2026 school year:
 - a. Russell Anderson, 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

2025/2026 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

5. Rescind the following appointments for the 2025/2026 school year:
 - a. Rebeca Barbagallo, teacher aide, \$25,485.00, effective 9/1/25
 - b. Leah Bromley, HS National Science Honor Society, advisor, \$2,105.00
 - c. Leah Bromley, HS Science Competition Club, advisor, \$2,105.00

UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED

6. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Kimberly Newmark, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 10/29/25 and ending 1/30/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 10/1/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

UNPAID MATERNITY LEAVE APPROVED

7. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Rebeca Barbagallo, teacher, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of six weeks commencing 10/13/25 and ending 11/21/25, and under the state Family Leave Act for a period of 12 weeks commencing 11/24/25 and ending 2/25/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 10/10/25 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

Mrs. Marano seconded the motion.

Dr. Zirpoli introduced new staff members joining the New Providence School District.

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 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 2340	Field Trips (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 2433	Student Participants in Reg, State & National Events (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 5850	Social Events and Class Trips (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 2430	Co-Curricular Activities (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 2431	Athletic Competition (Walsh)	Revised
Policy 5350	Suicide Prevention (Walsh)	Revised

Administrative Regulations:

Regulation 2430	Co-Curricular Activities (Walsh)	Revised
Regulation 5200	Attendance (Walsh)	Revised

Dr. Empson Hayden 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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology- Dr. Empson Hayden reported that the committee has met and gone over the process of curriculum reviewing. Curriculum should be finalized soon and the committee will begin to review them.

Mrs. Cuccaro thanked all the teachers who had been writing the curriculum over the summer. It's not an easy task, and the District is grateful for their work.

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

Personnel, Management, and Communications- No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Ad Hoc Committee of Students and Staff Memorials Report- Ms. Gunderman thanked Mrs. Castellano, Mrs. Marano, and Dr. Zirpoli for being a part of the ad hoc committee on student and staff memorials. The committee met on July 14th to review the request from the Salt Brook PTA to honor the retiring principal, Mrs. Drexinger. The committee unanimously approved the request, and a commemorative stone will be placed at the new school playground at Salt Brook School.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Zirpoli shared that she will be meeting with the Personnel Committee on August 5th to discuss her Superintendent goals, and during closed session, at the August 25th board meeting, the goals will be reviewed again with the full board. The goals will be approved at the September board meeting.

Dr. Zirpoli asked Mr. Uglialaro to discuss the Attendance Regulation 5200.

Mr. Uglialaro commented that our attendance regulation establishes for our families what absences are considered excused and unexcused at the school level and what the impact of an accumulation of unexcused absences is for a student in grades K through 8 and then in 9 through 12. The most important adjustment we've made to the regulation is that moving forward, we will have as excused absences the six specific absences that are established as excused in state code by the state department of education. As is our purview as a school district, we are establishing that student illness, when excused by a note from a physician or a doctor, will also be considered excused. That is a change from the regulation in its current state, which says that a student's absence due to a student's illness, excused by a parent note, will be considered excused. The rationale behind this is, as always, we want to recognize that students see time in school and get a significant impact on their continuous growth. We want to do what we can to optimize that, recognizing that children will get sick. We are trying to encourage and educate parents that if they do take their child to the doctor, we want them to come back in with a doctor's note, and those absences will be considered excused.

Recognizing that this is a big change in our practice at the school level, we're going to begin a real communication campaign around this with our families. It's going to start with communication from my office regarding the change and what that means. That'll be followed up by adjustments and revisions to our parent and student handbooks for each of the schools, then followed by communication from our principals about this change.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cuccaro opened the meeting to the public at 7:44 p.m. There were no public comments. Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:44 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Walsh moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall, on July 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:

- Litigation

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.

Dr. Empson Hayden seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:57 p.m. Mrs. Cuccaro called the Board to order. Board members present were Mrs. Castellano, Mrs. Cuccaro, Dr. Empson Hayden, Ms. Gunderman, Mrs. Marano, Mr. Walsh, and Mrs. Zane.

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 8:58 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Testa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary