



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

AGENDA
January 22, 2026
High School/Middle School Media Center
7:00 p.m.

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

I Roll Call:

_____ Mrs. Castellano	_____ Mrs. Kale
_____ Dr. Empson Hayden	_____ Mrs. Lepre
_____ Ms. Gunderman	_____ Mrs. Marano
_____ 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.

- B.** Other comments

IV Report of the Superintendent of Schools

1. Student Report- Ariel Brenner
2. Enrollment
3. AP Honor Roll- Gold Award
4. 2027/2028 School Calendar
5. General Information

V Recognition of Bernadette Cuccaro

WHEREAS, Bernadette Cuccaro has ended her service on the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence after faithful service over the last twelve years; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Education are cognizant of the fact that Mrs. Cuccaro 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. Cuccaro has served as Board President, Board Vice President, Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology Chairperson and Committee Member; Personnel, Management, and Communication Chairperson and Committee Member; Union County School Boards Association Board Representative, Union County Educational Services Commission Board Representative, New Jersey School Boards Association Board Representative, New Providence Education Foundation Liaison, Tri-County Liaison, and Government Relations.

**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 Bernadette Cuccaro 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 22nd DAY of JANUARY, 2026, and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

VI Recognition of Joseph F. Walsh**WHEREAS,**

Joseph F. Walsh has ended his service on the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence after faithful service over the last nine years; and

WHEREAS,

the members of the Board of Education are cognizant of the fact that Mr. Walsh has greatly contributed toward the welfare of the children of the Borough by his energy and sincere application to all matters which have come before the Board; and

WHEREAS,

Mr. Walsh has served as Board Vice President, Finance, Facilities, and Security Chairperson and Committee Member; Personnel, Management, and Communication Committee Member; Union County School Boards Association Representative, 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 Joseph F. Walsh for his loyal and untiring dedication to the community; and they do hereby publicly commend him for the excellent example he has thus presented to the present and future members of the Board of Education.

APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY of JANUARY, 2026, and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

VII Public Comments:

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

VIII Approval of Minutes as follows:

Business Meeting:

December 18, 2025

Closed Meeting:

December 18, 2025

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

IX Action Items

A. Finance Actions – Ms. Gunderman

Approve Items 1 through 8 as listed below:

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for December 2025. No major account or fund has been overexpended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.
2. Approve the payment of bills for January 2026 in the amount of \$5,664,001.33.
3. Accept the generous donation to the New Providence Class of 1962 Scholarship Fund in the amount \$80.00.
4. Accept the generous donation to the New Providence Class of 1960 Scholarship Fund in the amount \$80.00.
5. Accept the generous donation from the Drive for Autism Foundation to Allen W. Roberts School, in the amount of \$1,400.00.
6. Accept the generous donation from the Drive for Autism Foundation to Salt Brook School, in the amount of \$1,000.00.

7. Approve the following voided check and reissued check:

<u>Voided</u>				
<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Reason</u>
366793	9/25/25	\$90.00	20-270-200-890-00	Lost

<u>Reissued</u>			
<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
601051	1/22/26	\$90.00	20-270-200-890-00

8. Approve District Membership in conjunction with the MUJC Cooperative Pricing System through Morris-Union Jointure Commission, effective January 23, 2026 for the remainder of the 2025/2026 school year.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

B. Facilities Actions – Ms. Gunderman

Approve Items 1 through 3 as listed below:

1. Approve the submission of a Local Recreation Improvement Grant in the amount of \$75,000.00 with a cash match funded through donations and fundraising. The grant will fund a project that will replace the north court playground equipment at Allen W. Roberts School.
2. Accept the project bids received in the office of the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary on January 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. Award as indicated:

HVAC Upgrades at New Providence High/Middle School- Contract #3

Vendor: AMCO Enterprises, Inc.
600 Swenson Drive
Kenilworth, NJ 07033

Base Bid: \$888,000.00

Total: \$888,000.00

3. Reject all project bids received in the office of the School Business Administrator/ Board Secretary on January 15, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. for the following:
 - HVAC Upgrades at Allen W. Roberts School- Contract #1
 - HVAC Upgrades at Salt Brook School- Contract #2

The lowest qualified base bid for each contract exceeds the referendum funds available for the project as well as the projected budget.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

C. Education – Mrs. Castellano

Approve Items 1 through 5 as listed below:

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:	3
Allen W. Roberts:	3, 4, 5, and 6
Salt Brook:	1 and 2

2. Approve the use of AAC & Me, LLC for AAC and Assistive Tech evaluation services for the 2025/2026 school year, at a rate of \$1,200.00 per evaluation, effective 1/1/26.
3. Approve the Gloucester County Special Services School District, for the 2025/2026 school year, for child study team evaluations, at a rate of \$475.00 per evaluation, effective 1/1/26.
4. Approve the enrollment of Student #13787 at Morris Union Jointure Commission DLC New Providence, for the 2025/2026 school year, at a tuition cost of \$101,038.69, effective 1/20/26.
5. Approve Inilingua Language Center for the 2025/2026 school year, for Spanish interpretation services at a rate of \$100.00 per hour and other language interpretation services at a rate of \$130.00 and up per hour, a two-hour minimum and an additional travel fee of \$50.00 applies for interpretative services, effective 1/15/26.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

D. Personnel Action – Dr. Empson Hayden

Approve Items 1 through 9 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. David Aprill, long term substitute teacher, \$23,998.00 (base \$60,754.00), effective 1/5/26 through 4/30/26
 - b. Morgan Eriksen, department head, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, 1/5/26-1/30/26, \$800.00 (base \$8,000.00)
 - c. Sarah Carrion, teacher, \$34,425.00 (base \$68,851.00), effective 2/1/26
 - d. Anthony Conzentino, baseball (spring), boys, second assistant, \$5,336.00
 - e. Lori White, secretary II, 12 months, 7.5 hours/day, \$20,989.00 (base \$59,531.00), effective 2/23/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - f. Karl Kavanagh, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$20.64/hr., based on 176 days, \$5,102.00 (base \$10,898.00), effective 2/9/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - g. Harold Jones, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - h. Srinivas Balla, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - i. Angelina Damico, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
 - j. Michael Esnes, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - k. Emily Thompson, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - l. Cristina Jerolimic, teacher (.5), \$22,235.00 (base \$44,469.00), effective 2/1/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - m. Jessica Fiore, teacher, \$21,634.00 (base \$66,565.00), effective 3/25/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
2. Accept the resignation of the following employee:
- a. Elizabeth Surman, teacher aide, effective 3/18/26
3. Approve the following revisions for the 2025/2026 school year:
- a. Tatiana Pereira, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, 11/10/25-1/30/26, \$2,000.00 (base \$8,000.00)
 - b. Jacqueline Henriques, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, 11/10/25-1/30/26, \$2,000.00 (base \$8,000.00)
 - c. Christian Rizzo, HS, for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, 11/10/25-1/30/26, \$2,000.00 (base \$8,000.00)
 - d. Miranda Hood, long term substitute teacher, \$40,353.00 (base \$70,179.00), effective 1/9/26 through 6/30/26
 - e. Marybeth Matthews, long term substitute teacher (.48), \$35,504.00, effective 9/1/25 through 6/30/26
 - f. Elizabeth Surman, Intramurals- for students with special needs K-8 (fall/winter/spring), advisor, \$1,399.89 (base \$2,105.00), effective 9/1/25-3/18/26
 - g. Michelle Hoogerhyde, teacher, from Salt Brook School to New Providence High School
4. Rescind the following appointments for the 2025/2026 school year:
- a. Jenna Stickle, lacrosse (spring), girls, second assistant, \$5,336.00
 - b. Anthony Conzentino, lacrosse (spring), boys, first assistant, \$6,225.00
5. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Kathleen Joyce, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 5/18/26 and ending 10/20/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 4/20/26 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)

6. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Shana Moran, accounts payable/receivable specialist, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 5/15/26 and ending 8/6/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 4/17/26 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)
7. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Alyssa Machado, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 10/1/26 and ending 12/24/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. (Based on 8/2/26 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)
8. Approve the request of Tara Nelson, reading specialist (.48), (currently on maternity leave), for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2025/2056 school year, pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, effective 2/1/26 through 6/30/26.
9. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Rebecca Ratner, teacher, under the federal Family Leave Act for a period of five days commencing 2/24/26 and ending 2/28/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law.

Seconded by: _____

Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

E. Board Policy – Mrs. Zane

No Policy and Regulations for approval.

X Committee Reports

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

XI Old Business

XII New Business

XIII Opportunity for the Public to be Heard

XIV Motion to Recess to Closed Session, if necessary

XV Adjournment