

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on January 8, 2026, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive.

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 seventeen (17) members of the public.

Mr. Testa led in the salute to the flag. Mr. Testa began the meeting by stating that before the new board president being elected, he would be conducting the meeting.

Mr. Testa 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 an annual 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.

Mr. Testa then asked Mrs. Kale and Mrs. Lepre to come up and be sworn in. The elected board members repeated the following oath after Mr. Testa:

"I, state your name, do solemnly swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same, and to the Governments established in the United States and this State, under the authority of the people.

I, state your name, do solemnly swear, that I possess the qualifications prescribed by law, for the office of member of a Board of Education, am not disqualified as a voter, am not disqualified due to conviction of a crime or offense as per statute, and that I will faithfully, impartially, and justly, perform all the duties of that office, according to the best of my ability."

Mr. Testa took a roll call. Present on roll call were Laura Castellano, Stacey Gunderman, Rupa Kale, Amy Lepre, Amanda Marano, and Donna Zane.

Mr. Testa read the official election results of November 4, 2025. Members elected for three-year terms, Rupa Kale: 1,027 votes, and Amy Lepre: 1, 037 votes. The total votes cast were 6,221, and the total number of registered voters was 10,377.

Mr. Testa then opened the nomination for the office of the Board of Education president.

Mrs. Castellano nominated Amanda for the office of President.

Mrs. Zane seconded the nomination.

Mrs. Castellano then shared the following comments regarding her years of service:

I am nominating Amanda in recognition of her dedication and service to this board as she enters her sixth year and her second term, most recently serving as Vice President. Amanda has spent two years on the Curriculum Committee and four years on the Finance and Facilities Committee, where she served as chair and was part of the original team that led the 2022 bond referendum. She also served on the Negotiations Committee during the most recent rounds of contracts for teachers, custodians, and administrators.

Amanda leads with integrity, preparation, and a clear focus on the success of our district. But perhaps most importantly, her fun and great sense of humor helps make even the hardest work enjoyable. I have no doubt she will be a great president.

Seeing no other motions, Mr. Testa closed the nominations and took a roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Absent</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Ms. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Kale
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Lepre
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

Mrs. Marano thanked Mrs. Castellano for her kind words and shared the following:

Thank you to my fellow board members for electing me as President for this term. As someone who grew up in New Providence, attended Allen W. Roberts Elementary School and the Middle School, and graduated from New Providence High School, it is truly a little surreal to be sitting in this seat.

Since joining the Board in January 2021, we have seen many new faces around this room—from school administration to the Board of Education. We are fortunate that one constant has been Mr. Testa, who has continued to guide us in his role as our Business Administrator. Despite these changes, one thing remains the same: we are all here for a common purpose—to ensure our students receive the best education possible, and that our teachers, staff, and community feel supported and able to thrive. I look forward to working together as a unified board and in partnership with our greater community.

Mrs. Marano then opened the nomination for the office of vice president of the Board of Education.

Mrs. Zane nominated Ms. Gunderman for the office of Vice President.

She shared the following statement:

Stacey Gunderman has served on this board for four years, and in that time she's been involved with many of our key efforts - the most recent bond referendum, launching full-day kindergarten, the superintendent search, and establishing our current five-year Strategic Plan. Additionally, she has served on the Ad Hoc Calendar Committee that led to additional observed holidays and structured professional development time for our staff. During Stacey's years on the board, she's been on Finance, Facilities & Security, and served as both a member and chairperson for the Personnel, Management & Communication committee and the Curriculum, Instruction & Technology committee.

Mrs. Castellano seconded the nomination.

Seeing no other motions, Mr. Testa closed the nominations and took a roll call vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Absent</u>	Dr. Empson Hayden
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Gunderman
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Kale
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Lepre
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Marano
<u>Yea</u>	Mrs. Zane

Mrs. Marano announced the new committee assignments as follows:

Curriculum and Technology:

Chairperson: Mrs. Castellano

Committee Member: Dr. Empson Hayden

Committee member: Mrs. Kale

Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security:

Chairperson: Ms. Gunderman

Committee Member: Mrs. Castellano

Committee member: Mrs. Zane

Personnel, Management, and Communication:

Chairperson: Dr. Empson Hayden

Committee Member: Ms. Gunderman

Committee member: Mrs. Lepre

Union County School Board Association Liaison: Mrs. Zane

Union County Educational Services Commission Liaison: Mrs. Lepre

New Jersey School Boards Association Liaison: Mrs. Marano

Municipal Alliance Representative: Mrs. Kale

Morris Union Jointure Commission Liaison: Dr. Zirpoli

New Providence Education Foundation Liaison: Mrs. Kale

New Providence Borough Council Liaison: Mrs. Lepre

Board Policy: Mrs. Zane

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Marano opened the meeting to the public at 7:10 p.m.

There being no public comments, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:10 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Gunderman moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall, on January 8, 2026, 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:

- Legal

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.

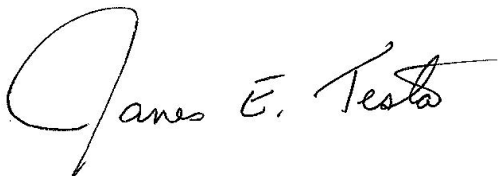
Mrs. Zane seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 8:47 p.m. Mrs. Marano called the Board to order. Board members present were Mrs. Castellano, Ms. Gunderman, Mrs. Kale, Mrs. Lepre, Mrs. Marano, and Mrs. Zane.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Ms. Gunderman, seconded by Mrs. Zane, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Cuccaro declared the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Testa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'J'.

James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary