

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 6:45 p.m. on January 15, 2026, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive.

Present on roll call were Laura Castellano, Dr. Kristen Empson Hayden, Stacey Gunderman, Rupa Kale, Amy Lepre, Amanda Marano, and Donna Zane. Also present were Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, and James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board. There were no members of the public.

Mrs. Marano led the salute to the flag.

Mrs. Marano 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 to 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 January 13, 2026:

The New Providence Board of Education will hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2026 beginning at 6:45 p.m. in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, for the purpose of a student hearing related to Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying. The meeting will immediately adjourn to Closed Session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Marano opened the meeting to the public at 6:50 p.m. There were no public comments. Mrs. Mrano declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 6:50 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Empson Hayden moved to adopt the following resolution:

The body shall, on Hanuay 15, 2026, in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Maple 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:

- Student hearing related to Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

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. Lepre seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 7:51 p.m. Mrs. Marano called the Board to order. Board members present were Mrs. Castellano, Dr. Empson Hayden, Ms. Gunderman, Mrs. Kale, Mrs. Lepre, Mrs. Marano, and Mrs. Zane.

Mrs. Marano moved the following resolution and read it into the record.

Be it Resolved, that the New Providence Board of Education affirms the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools in case AWR-#7, and finds that harassment, initiation, and bullying is not substantiated in that matter.

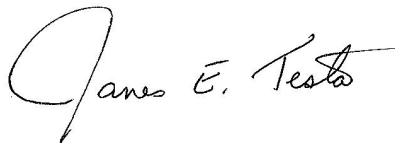
Ms. Gunderman seconded the motion.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business before the Board, on a motion by Dr. Empson Hayden, seconded by Mrs. Lepre, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Marano declared the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.



James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary