



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

AGENDA
April 30, 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 an actual 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.

IV Report of the Superintendent of Schools:

1. Student Report- Ariel Brenner
2. Enrollment
3. General Information

V Presentation of Certificates of Excellence- Laura Castellano, Board Member

VI New Providence Education Foundation Presentation- 2025/2026 Grants

VII Board Goals Update-

Promoting Digital Wellness- Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools and Dr. Joseph Harvey, Director of Special Services

Enhancing Family Engagement & Communication- Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools, Mrs. Jillian Shadis, Director of School Counseling, and Mrs. Kathryn Mangel, District Communication Coordinator

VIII 2026/2027 Budget Presentation – Stacey Gunderman, Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security Chairperson and Donna Zane, Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security Committee Member

- A. President declares a Public Hearing on the proposed 2026/2027 school budget.
 - 1. Presentation of the proposed 2026/2027 Budget
 - 2. Public Comments (on proposed budget)
- B. President declares Public Hearing on the proposed 2026/2027 school budget closed.

IX Public Comments:

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

X Approval of Minutes as follows:

Business Meeting:	March 19, 2026
Closed Meeting:	March 19, 2026

Seconded by: _____
Roll Call Vote:

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

Business Meeting:	March 26, 2026
Closed Meeting:	March 26, 2026

Seconded by: _____
Roll Call Vote:

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

XI Action Items:

A. Finance Actions – Ms. Gunderman

Approve Items 1 through 9 as listed below:

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for March 2026. 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 April 2026, in the amount of \$6,594,393.17.
3. Approve the 2025/2026 New Providence Education Foundation grant awards in the amount of \$69,833.65.
4. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2025/2026 school year.

March 2026

From:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-563	Tuition- Vocational	\$ 5,000.00
11-000-230-331	Purchased Professional Services	33,389.00
11-000-262-107	Salaries- Aides	15,000.00
11-000-262-300	Purchased Professional Services	6,000.00
11-000-262-622	Utilities- Electric	4,000.00
11-209-100-500	Other Purchased Services	50,000.00
		Total: \$113,389.00

To:		
Account	Description	Amount
11-000-100-560	Transfer Fund- Charter Schools	\$ 38,889.00
11-000-261-610	General Supplies- Maintenance	7,000.00
11-000-262-621	Utilities- Natural Gas	18,000.00
11-150-100-320	Purchased Professional Services	49,500.00
		Total: \$113,389.00

5. Approve the purchase of twenty-four Juniper Networks EX4100 48-PORT Switches, twenty-four Juniper EX Softwares, and two Juniper Network Power Supplies through the Software House International Purchasing Cooperative, Contract # E-8801-NJSBA ACES-CPS, in an amount not to exceed \$74,400.56.
6. Approve the generous donation from the New Providence PAL towards the softball field renovation, in the amount of \$700.00.
7. Approve the following voided and reissued check:

Voided

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Reason</u>
367657	02/26/26	\$650.00	11-000-219-320-11	Lost

Reissued

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
367970	04/30/26	\$650.00	11-000-219-320-11

8. Approve the adoption of the final budget as approved by the Executive County Superintendent:

WHEREAS, the New Providence Board of Education adopted a TENTATIVE budget on March 19, 2026 and submitted it to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for approval, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was approved by the Executive County Superintendent of Schools, and

WHEREAS, the TENTATIVE budget was advertised in the Courier News and posted on the District website and Tap Into New Providence on April 7, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the FINAL BUDGET was presented to the public during a public hearing held in the New Providence High/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, New Providence, NJ on April 30, 2026.

<u>2026/2027 School Year</u>	<u>Special General Fund</u>	<u>Debt Revenues</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Expenditures	\$53,516,890.00	\$1,055,673.00	\$2,902,467.00	\$57,475,030.00
Less:				
Anticipated Revenues	\$ 6,058,180.00	\$1,055,673.00	\$ 894,560.00	\$ 8,008,413.00
Taxes to be Raised	\$47,458,710.00	\$0.00	\$2,007,907.00	\$49,466,617.00

9. Approve that the following adjustments are included in the tentative 2026/2027 annual school budget, which will be submitted to the Executive County Superintendent of Schools for technical review:

- Adjustment for enrollment: \$0.00
- Adjustment for health care costs: \$1,362,819.00
- Adjustment for deferred PERS pension contribution: \$0.00
- Adjustment for responsibility transferred: \$0.00
- Adjustment for banked cap: \$0.00

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education includes in the tentative budget the adjustment for increased costs of health benefits in the amount of \$1,362,819.00. The additional funds will be used to pay for the additional increases in health benefit premiums. The Board of Education does not utilize an adjustment for the banked cap in the final budget.

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 Item 1 as listed below:

1. Approve the following bid and award the following contract:

HVAC Upgrades at Salt Brook School (DOAS Unit)

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

Base Bid: \$411,000.00

Total: \$411,000.00

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 3 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>
Middle School:	5

2. Approve the following resolution in observance of Teacher Recognition Week May 3rd through May 9th.

WHEREAS, the week of May 3rd through May 9th has been declared Teacher Recognition Week throughout the State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the faculty of the New Providence School District continue to provide excellent instruction, tutoring, encouragement, counseling, and understanding to the students who pass through their classrooms; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the regular educational programs many of the staff provide advice, direction, coaching, and sponsorship to extra-curricular activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

that the Board of Education acknowledges with pride and sincere appreciation the efforts of all of its teachers and its staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED

that the members of the Board extend to these teachers their best wishes for the future, firm in the belief that they will always perform in the same fine fashion.

APPROVED THIS 30TH DAY OF APRIL, 2026, and signed by the order of the New Providence Board of Education.

3. Approve the enrollment of Student #42361 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, for the 2025/2026 school year, at a tuition cost of \$7,704.00, effective 2/20/26.

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 5 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. Scott Rahner, chaperone, Youth and Government field trip, \$400.00
 - b. Gina Snyder, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - c. Michael Ondrey, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - d. Charles Conlan, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to issuance of certification)
 - e. Kathleen Cogan, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
2. Approve the appointment of the following person with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools subject to the requirements of Chapter 116 of P.L. 1986 for the 2026/2027 school year:
 - a. William Burroughs IV, teacher, \$97,474.00, effective 9/1/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
3. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
 - a. Gina Calleo, teacher, effective 6/30/26
 - b. Kathleen Shelley, school social worker, effective 6/30/26, due to retirement
 - c. Shayna Ponzo, reading specialist, effective 6/30/26
4. Approve the request for unpaid maternity leave for Danielle Chierchie, teacher, under the state Family Leave Act for a period of twelve weeks commencing 9/1/26 and ending 11/23/26, with continued health insurance benefits pursuant to law. Approve an extended leave pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, from 11/24/26 through and including 6/30/27. (Based on 8/4/26 due date. Dates subject to adjustment by actual birth.)
5. Approve the request of Kathryn Conway, teacher, currently on maternity leave, for an extended unpaid child-rearing leave for the 2026/2027 school year, pursuant to Article X of the Agreement between the Board and the NPEA, effective 9/1/26 through 1/31/27.

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

Approve Item 1 as listed below:

1. Approve the following policies and regulations on first reading:

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 1636.01 (Recommended)	Notification of Promotion, New Job, And Transfer Opportunities	New
Policy 2270 (Recommended)	Religion in the Schools	New
Policy 6111 (Mandatory)	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program	Revised
Policy 7450 (Mandatory)	Property Inventory	Revised
Policy 5339.01 (Mandatory)	Student Sun Protection	New

Regulations:

Regulation 6111 (Mandatory)	Special Education Medicaid Initiative (SEMI) Program	Revised
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Seconded by: _____
Roll Call Vote:

_____ Mrs. Castellano

_____ Mrs. Kale

_____ Dr. Empson Hayden

_____ Mrs. Lepre

_____ Ms. Gunderman

_____ Mrs. Marano

_____ Mrs. Zane

XII Committee Reports

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

- XIII Old Business**
- XIV New Business**
- XV Opportunity for the Public to be Heard**
- XVI Motion to Recess to Closed Session, if necessary**
- XVII Adjournment**