



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

AGENDA
October 15, 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- Jordin Darnowski and/or Carsten Lepre
2. Enrollment
3. General Information

V Presentation of Communication Plan- Dr. Lauren Zirpoli, Superintendent of Schools

VI Public Hearing - Mr. Joseph Ugialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

- A.** President declares a Public Hearing on the 2025/2026 School Self-Assessment For Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.
- Presentation of the 2025/2026 - School Self-Assessment Scores and District Average
- B.** President declares the Public Hearing on the 2025/2026 School Self-Assessment For Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act closed.

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: September 24, 2026
 Closed Meeting: September 24, 2026

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 5 as listed below:

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for September 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 October 2026, in the amount of \$3,161,562.78.
3. The New Providence School District (LEA 3560) has seventy-seven (77) projects identified in its Five Year Long Range Facility Plan. The seventy-seven (77) projects have an estimated total cost of \$37,724,577.00. Thirty-nine (39) projects have been completed, initiated, or advanced. Thirty-eight (38) remaining projects, with a total cost of \$17,144,012.00, are currently identified in the plan for initiation. The local share would be funded from bond proceeds and/or annual school budget appropriations (based on needs and dictated by the availability of funds). The District may be eligible for state debt service or EDA grant funds for the identified projects in the amount of \$6,857,604.80. The local share amount of \$10,286,407.20 for the identified projects represents the maximum amount the New Providence School District may deposit in its capital reserve fund for the 2026/2027 school year.
4. Ratify the action of the Superintendent in making the following transfers for the 2026/2027 school year.

September 2026

From:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-218-105	Salaries- Guidance	\$ 2,300.65
11-000-218-110	Salaries- Guidance	200.00
11-000-218-500	Other Purchased Services	1,500.00
11-213-100-101	Salaries- Resource Room	16,000.00
11-215-100-106	Salaries-Preschool	9,689.00
		Total: \$29,689.65

To:

Account	Description	Amount
11-000-218-199	Unused Vacation Day Payments	\$29,689.65
		Total: \$29,689.65

5. Approve the following voided check:

<u>Voided</u>	<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Reason</u>
	368500	8/31/26	\$1,416.85	11-000-261-612-00	Overpayment
				11-000-261-612-01	
				11-000-261-612-05	

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. Adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Department of Education requires New Jersey School Districts to submit three-year maintenance plans documenting “required” maintenance activities for each of its public-school facilities, and

WHEREAS, the required maintenance activities listed in the plan for the various school facilities of the New Providence School District are consistent with these requirements, and

WHEREAS, all past and planned activities are reasonable to keep school facilities open and safe for use or in their original condition and to keep their system warranties valid,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Providence School District hereby authorizes the School Business Administrator to submit the Comprehensive Maintenance Plan for the New Providence School District in compliance with the Department of Education requirements. **(EXHIBIT A)**

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 10 as listed below:

1. Per the 2011 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, approve the recommendations of the Superintendent of Schools regarding the following 2026/2027 Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying investigations:

<u>School</u>	<u>Incident Report Number(s)</u>
High School:	1 and 2

2. Approve Buena Regional School District to provide home instruction to student #11224, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a rate of \$46.66/hr., for 10 hours weekly, plus mileage reimbursement, effective 9/28/26 through 6/17/27.
3. Approve the enrollment of Student #12011 at Columbia High School, South Orange & Maplewood Board of Education, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$18,029.46, effective 9/22/26.
4. Approve the addendum to the ECLC tuition contract for student #11912, for additional 1:1 aide service, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a rate of \$30.00/hr.
5. Approve the New Providence School District Communications Plan for the 2026/2027 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.
6. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between New Providence High School and Rutgers School of Health Professions for the Health Science Careers Program, effective for five (5) years beginning with the 2026/2027 school year, copies in the hands of each Board member.
7. Approve the enrollment of Student #11133 at Gloucester County Special Services School District, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$48,600.00 plus an additional non-resident fee of \$3,460.00, effective 9/2/26.
8. Approve the enrollment of Student #13896 at Shephard Preparatory High School, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$55,665.90, effective 10/6/26.
9. Approve the enrollment of Student #13769 at Central Avenue School, Madison Board of Education, for the 2026 extended school year, at a tuition cost of \$6,469.00 and for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$108,202.94, effective 6/30/26.
10. Approve the following cloud-based services and data privacy agreements for the 2026/2027 school year:
 - a. Classkick
 - b. MakeBlock
 - c. Commubridge
 - d. Teachers' Discovery- Flango
 - e. MackinVIA
 - f. Piascore
 - g. Zaner-Bloser Handwriting

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 3 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 2026/2027 school year:
 - a. Brett Paulan, night custodian, \$43,564.00 (base \$65,346.00 (\$64,660.00 + night stipend \$686.00)), effective 11/1/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - b. Andrew West, baseball (spring), boys, 1st assistant, \$6,350.00 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - c. Brandon Hilf, 8th grade class, co-advisor, \$588.00
 - d. Karen Gaeta, tennis (spring), boys, 1st assistant, \$5,293.00
 - e. Biatriz Borges, long term substitute teacher, \$51,432.00 (base \$60,154.00), effective 10/16/26 through 6/30/27 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - f. Lindsey Giordano, teacher, \$54,654.00 (base \$65,848.00), effective 10/23/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - g. Melissa Luis, school psychologist, \$61,390.00 (base \$92,316.00), effective 12/7/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - h. Christian Rizzo, teacher, \$48,703.00 (base \$60,879.00), effective 11/1/26 through 6/30/27
 - i. Jennifer Dowden, long term substitute teacher, \$55,309.00 (base \$63,574.00), effective 10/13/26 through 6/30/27
 - j. Eric Aviram, long-term substitute teacher, effective 11/30/26, to be paid on a per diem basis of \$300.77 (prorated Step 1, Column I, base of \$60,154.00) (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - k. Jennifer Zahtila, SB STEM club, advisor, 1st grade, \$2,147.00
 - l. Christine Demareski, SB STEM club, advisor, 4th grade, \$2,147.00
2. Approve the following revisions for the 2026/2027 school year:
 - a. Michael Sudberg, teacher, from Step 10, Column III (\$71,230.00), to Master's, Step 10, Column IV (\$74,091.00), effective 9/1/26, due to course credits and receipt of Master's degree
 - b. Virginia Gifford, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$21.28/hr., based on 176 days, \$10,495.00 (base \$11,236.00), effective 9/23/26
 - c. Russell Anderson, District summer technology work, not to exceed 100 hours @ \$57.09/hr.
 - d. Monalisa Goswami, teacher, \$52,443.00 (base \$61,697.00), effective 10/19/26
3. Rescind the following appointment for the 2026/2027 school year:
 - a. Sydney Marciano, SB STEM club, advisor, 4th grade \$2,147.00

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

1. Approve the following Policies and Regulations on second reading:

Bylaws and Policies:

Policy 2361	Acceptable Use of Computers/Technology/ Network and Resources	Revised/ Mandatory
Policy 2411	Career Education and Academic Counseling	Revised/Mandatory
Policy 3321	Acceptable Use of Computers/Technology/ Network and Resources by Teaching Staff Members	Revised/Mandatory
Policy 4321	Acceptable Use of Computers/Technology/ Network and Resources by Support Staff Members	Revised/Mandatory

Regulations:

Regulation 2361	Acceptable Use of Computers/Technology/ Network and Resources	Revised/Mandatory
Regulation 2411	Guidance Counseling	Abolish

Seconded by: _____
 Roll Call Vote:

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

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**