

The business meeting of the Board of Education of the Borough of New Providence was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 24, 2026, at the New Providence High School/Middle School Media Center, 35 Pioneer Drive, by Mrs. Marano, Board President.

Present on the roll call were 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 Uglialoro, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, Jonathan Keaney, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision, James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and forty-eight (48) 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 in 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.

BOARD PRESIDENT COMMENTS

Mrs. Marano commented that she cannot believe that we have been back in school for a full month. She also stated that she is looking forward to a full meeting. She first extended a warm welcome to the new student representatives for the school year, Jordin Darnowski and Carsten Lepre. The Board is looking forward to working with both seniors through the year and is excited to hear everything that they have to report on. It is one of the most important things at the Board meeting each month.

Mrs. Marano then welcomed the members of the high school STEM club along with their advisors and families. She thanked them for representing New Providence this summer at the National TSA Conference. She commented that the Board is extremely proud of them and is looking forward to recognizing everyone during the meeting.

Mrs. Marano stated that, in addition to the regularly scheduled agenda, the Board would be hearing from Mr. Keaney as he presents the District's Assessment Report. She is also very excited about that.

Dr. Zirpoli echoed Mrs. Marano's sentiments and stated that it is so nice to see so many of the District students who will shortly be honored with Certificates of Excellence from the Board. It is great to have two (2) new student representatives. Dr. Zirpoli commented that she has known Carsten for quite a while and she has been getting to know Jordin, who she and Mr. Henry had lunch with the other day. She welcomed them and said that the student report is something that everyone looks forward to each Board meeting. She then asked for the student report.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Jordin Darnowski and Carsten Lepre, Student Representatives, reported the following:

Carsten started the report by introducing himself as an NPHS senior who was recently elected as Co-President of the senior class.

Jordin then introduced herself stating that she is also an NPHS senior who was elected as Co-President of the senior class. She stated that she and Carsten are so excited to be student representatives and share the report on some of the incredible achievements of our students every month.

Carsten reported on the STEM club. He stated that over the summer, the STEM club brought a total of fifty-eight (58) high schoolers to Washington, D.C for TSA nationals. As someone who attended, he can personally say it was an unforgettable event and he is incredibly proud of his fellow competitors for their amazing performance. New Providence truly did have an absolutely stellar showing with four (4) top ten (10) placements and a 3rd place trophy in TEAMS. Obviously, we will dive further into this with the STEM certificates of excellence that the Board will be handing out later tonight, but it's still worth emphasizing the remarkable performance of the students. Students competing in geospatial technology, data science and analytics, and coding events made it to the top twelve (12). Students competing in audio podcasting were ranked 10th, and students competing in engineering design were ranked 9th. We also had two top ten (10) finishers with the TEAMS design and build challenge. Huge congratulations to our impressive STEM Club and TSA competitors.

Jordin then discussed the opening of schools. She said that school came back in full swing three (3) weeks ago. Teachers and students were very excited to be back in the building and the day concluded with the football team's opener against Voorhees, where the cheer team and band got to debut their halftime performances and the team took home their first win.

Carsten stated that students, from the first day of school, have been very excited to see the Balanced by Design initiative in full practice. Classes have been notably more focused on mixing physical and technological learning. Next, this year's fall play, which we are very excited to announce, is the hilarious comedy *Play On!* Auditions concluded last week and the cast had their first official rehearsal and readthrough on Tuesday. Performances are set for November 20th and 21st.

Jordin commented that fall sports are up and running. Football is undefeated - quarterback Kevin Reilly already has 475 passing yards and they are looking forward to their game tomorrow at Roselle, where they hope to take home their fourth win. Girls' Soccer is 5-3, and just beat rival Governor Livingston in an away game. Boys' Soccer recently won at home versus Linden and is playing Oratory today at home. Girls' tennis is starting strong with a 7-2 record. Cross country recently ran at Thompson Park and all juniors and seniors on the team medaled. Girls' volleyball recently won their flight at the Madison volleyball tournament.

Carsten commented that, last night, our school hosted back to school night and there was a truly incredible showing of parents and so much great feedback. Huge shoutout to the peer leaders for showing up and guiding parents around the school.

Jordin stated that coming up in the near future, we have the club fair run by our peer leaders tomorrow, the PSAT for sophomores and juniors on October 1st, and our week of respect starting October 5th, where the character education theme is revealed. This is the second time students were able to vote on the theme.

Carsten stated that also coming up are a couple of really exciting events for our marching band. Scheduled on Saturday is their first competition with this year's show Prisms, which we got to see debuted at the first home football game and the wonderful fall preview. They will also compete at Metlife Stadium on October 3rd. The band's annual shake a can fundraiser was an outstanding success this year, raising over \$7,000.00.

Jordin concluded by thanking the Board for listening and giving Carsten and her this opportunity to share what is going on at NPHS.

Mrs. Marano thanked the student representatives and asked Mr. Uglialoro for the Enrollment Report.

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Mr. Ugliodoro gave a summary of the current enrollment. Allen W. Roberts School has 573 students, Salt Brook School has 600 students, New Providence Middle School has 385 students, New Providence High School has 655 students, and lastly, there are 38 out-of-district students, for a total of 2,251 students.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Dr. Zirpoli stated that she did not have many comments, but that she would like Mr. Keane and Mr. Ugliodoro to share with the Board the beginning phases of the implementation of Balanced by Design. She commented that they have both been in the classrooms and she would like them to share their feedback with the Board.

Mr. Keane stated that as part of the initiative, he, Mr. Ugliodoro, and Dr. Zirpoli decided to collect some informal data as quickly as possible. Over the past ten (10) days or so, he and Mr. Ugliodoro have visited fifty-eight (58) classrooms. They go into the classroom for about five (5) to seven (7) minutes and they go through a checklist of the foundational parts of the initiative that they presented to the Board last spring. They are looking at the following:

Are print-based materials being used?
Are students engaged in handwriting?
Is there a lot of one-to-one and face-to-face interaction between the students?
Are the iPads being used for supportive and transformative learning?
If the iPads are not being used, are they housed away from instruction?

Mr. Keane was pleased to share that in forty-four (44) of the fifty-eight (58) classrooms visited, there was no use of technology. There was a real focus on print-based materials, face-to-face interaction, and handwriting. The iPads were put away. So, it has been a very positive experience in all grades. It is encouraging to see. He will be visiting classrooms again over the course of the next few months to continue to collect data and to get an idea of the direction that the initiative is taking.

Mr. Ugliodoro commented that it has been a pleasure to not only be welcomed into the classrooms by the teachers, but also to see a shift in the energy of the classrooms. There was less interaction between students and their iPads and a lot more interaction of students with text and highlighters and annotating their text with one another. He had the pleasure of being in a high school class in which the students were reading, analyzing, annotating, and discussing Margaret Thatcher's eulogy for Ronald Reagan. It was a positive start to see that a lot of those essential elements of Balanced by Design are being implemented in the classroom.

Dr. Zirpoli thanked Mr. Keane and Mr. Ugliodoro. She commented that, as the Board knows, it is two (2) of the Curriculum Committee's goals to implement Balanced by Design by providing professional development, which we did at the beginning of the year and will continue to do throughout the year, and to also measure the success of Balanced by Design. This is just one way that it will be measured, by going into the classrooms to see how the professional development is now being turnkeyed in the classroom. There will be more to come on the metrics that we will be using and the success of the initiative.

Mrs. Marano next invited Dr. Empson Hayden and Dr. Zirpoli to hand out the Certificates of Excellence. Ms. Gunderman assisted.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Kristen Empson Hayden awarded the Certificates of Excellence to a number of students for their achievements in the area of STEM. Dr. Empson Hayden read the following:

We are delighted to honor the TEAMS/TSA National Award recipients with the prestigious STEM

Certificate of Excellence, a symbol of our profound respect for their outstanding achievements during the 2025/2026 academic year.

The Technology Student Association (TSA) offers over forty (40) competitions for middle and high school students to apply their knowledge and skills in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). TEAMS/TSA competitions help students explore topics that interest them and develop leadership skills. There are currently over 300,000 students enrolled in the organization worldwide.

Akhil Yadavalli and Arnav Sabde earned 3rd place in the extremely competitive TSA Coding competition. Erick Stoll, Nivaan Chheda, and Reyansh Karmarkar earned 1st place in the TEAMS Design and Build challenge. Ishan Bhagavathula, Aryav Patel, and Gouthesh Selvanarayanan earned 2nd place in TEAMS Mathematical Modeling and 2nd place in TEAMS Prepared Presentation. Brandon Baron, Owen Ettinger, Carsten Lepre, and Daniel Yoo took 3rd place in TEAMS Design and Build.

The New Providence School District is immensely proud of these students' achievements and encourages them to continue exploring their passions in STEM. A heartfelt thank you to the dedicated STEM educators, from elementary through high school, who have guided and supported our students throughout their journeys and during these competitions, and to their advisors Rachel Fintz, Holly Pizzonia, Dan Barletta, Sue Rembetsy, Mike Makmur, and Jennifer Pasuit.

A two minute break was then taken so that students could leave the meeting if they needed to do so.

Mrs. Marano then invited Mr. Keaney to give the Assessment Report.

ASSESSMENT REPORT PRESENTATION

Mr. Keaney stated that he will be giving the first assessment report tonight and will be giving another report at the October Board meeting. He began the report by addressing the NJGPA.

NJGPA

Usually this report is given in July. With the new test being implemented by the state this year, however, the District did not get the results until August 17th, so they are being presented today. All 11th graders are mandated by the state to take the New Jersey Graduation Proficiency Assessment (NJGPA), which determines whether they are ready to graduate at the end of their senior year. The new adaptive test was introduced to personalize the testing experience for students. It adapted the test according to the performance of the student during the test in an effort to provide students with questions which best reflect their performance level at that time and to give a more accurate assessment of their knowledge and their skills. It also had the intent to reduce test anxiety, reduce the length of the test, and provide more feedback on the student's performance. This feedback is intended to give more clarity and specificity as to how all the students did in certain areas and highlight other areas that may require additional focus. As it has been for the last four (4) years, the test is based on the 10th grade ELA standards and the standards for geometry and algebra I. With regard to how our students did this year, in ELA, over 90% of our students were deemed graduation ready and less than 10% were deemed to not be graduation ready. For math scores, 86.4% of our students were graduation ready and 13.6% were deemed not graduation ready. For those students deemed not graduation ready, there are a number of ways to become graduation ready.

New Providence School District Assessment Report 2026
Rooted in Purpose. Growing Together.

Next Steps for those Not Graduation Ready:

Second Pathway

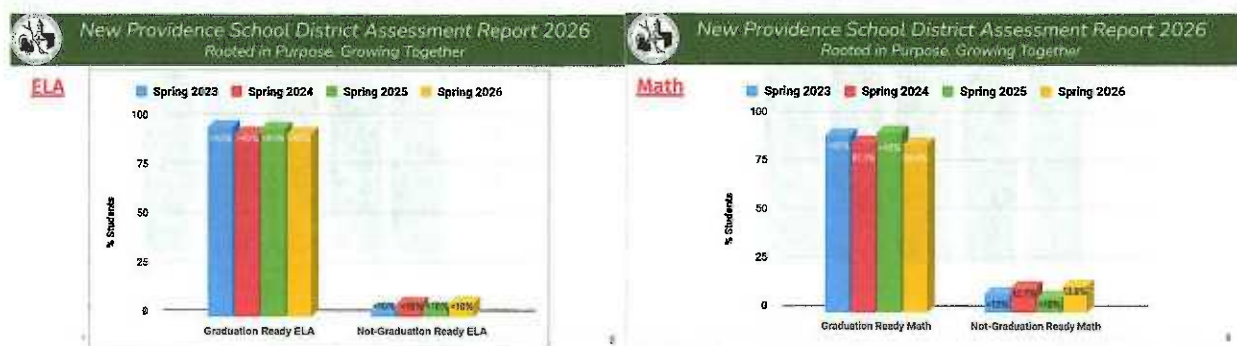
- ☐ NPHS Tutoring
- ☐ Sit for the PSAT in October (*optional, All PSATs are paid for by the district*).
- ☐ Sit for the NJGPA-A in October (*required*).
- ☐ Take SAT, ACT, and/or Accuplacer, if desired (*optional, at family's expense*).

If no passing score on above assessments by January 2027

Third Pathway

- ☐ Start the Portfolio process with department heads in January 2027.

Tutoring has already begun and will continue. Some of our students have already received the necessary test scores from the Second Pathway to now be deemed graduation ready. If, after going through all of the Second Pathway a student is still not graduation ready, then they start the Third Pathway. The student will work with the department heads of language arts and math and will receive small group tutoring targeted to their specific needs. The portfolio is submitted to the state. We have done this with a number of students over the past four (4) years and they have all been successful. Some historical data was reviewed.



The District graduates between 140 and 170 students per year, so there are very small differences in performance from one year to the next. The following, based on last year's scores, is how New Providence compares to surrounding districts.

New Providence School District Assessment Report 2026
Rooted in Purpose. Growing Together.

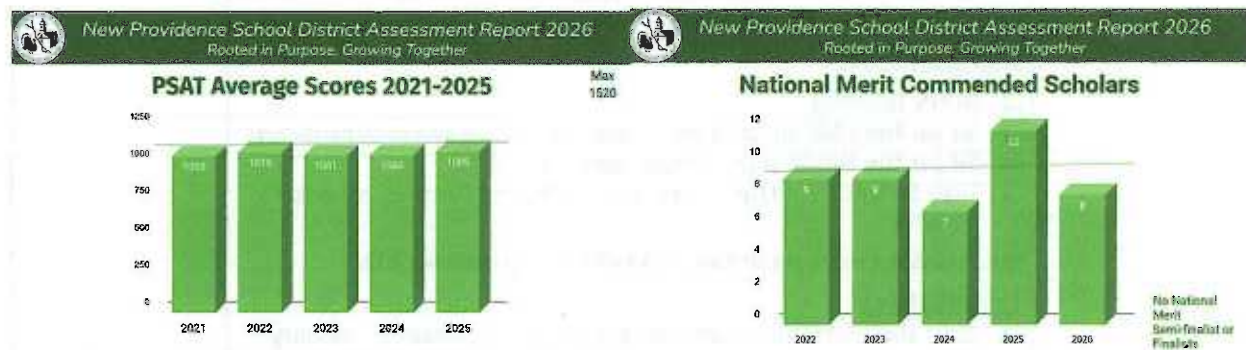
% of Class of 2026 Passing NJGPA

District	ELA	Math
New Providence	>90%	>90%
Berkley Heights	>90%	86.5%
Chatham	>90%	88.2%
Cranford	>90%	81.1%
Livingston	>90%	87.5%
Millburn	>90%	>90%
Medison	>90%	82.4%
Summit	>90%	79.9%
Westfield	>90%	87.7%

Note: data reflects the percentage of students who are graduation ready is greater than 90%, it will show none.

PSAT

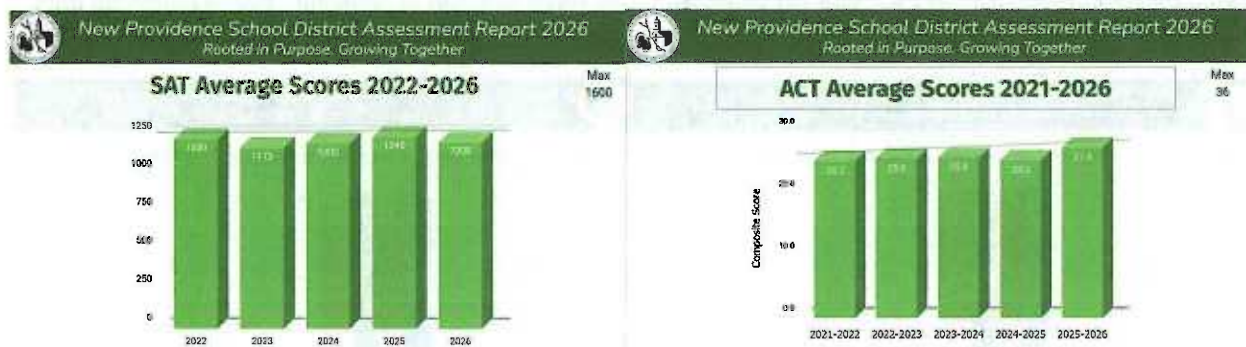
The five year PSAT scores were provided as follows:



As illustrated, the trend is edging upwards. Also illustrated was the number of Commended Scholars over the past few years.

SAT and ACT

Also trending upwards are the scores for our students on the SAT and the ACT.



As the Board can see, the ACT scores were the highest over the last five (5) years.

AP Testing

Mr. Keaney commented that the District has a lot of pride in our students' AP testing scores. About three (3) years ago the District started an initiative to try to get more of our students to take the AP exams and to increase the passing rate. Mr. Keaney gave credit to Mr. Henry and the HS staff who completed a deep analysis of the AP program. They looked at which courses could be offered and which classes can be opened to more students. For this year, 95% of the students who took an AP test got a score of three (3) or more, which is a passing score. When we look at the number of tests taken, keeping in mind that each student may take a number of tests, our students earned passing scores on 487 of 525 tests, a 93% pass rate.



Mr. Keaney was very happy to see our students pass the 4.0 average AP exam score from last year. The Board can see from the illustrations that we are trending upwards. Mr. Keaney again gave credit to the high school administration for the changes they made and the incentives they provided to our students. This is evidenced by the upward progress of the AP Scholars, AP Scholars with Honors, and AP Scholars with Distinction. The District continues every year to look at the scores. The department heads talk to the teachers to see what they think is working and we survey all of the AP students to get their feedback on the test and the courses. The District then continues to put the best teachers in the best position for student success.

Mr. Keaney said that he looked forward to presenting the NJSLA and WIDA scores to the Board at the October meeting.

Dr. Empson Hayden asked about the math increase from 10% to 13% of students taking the NJGPA and not being graduation ready. She asked if there is anything that can be attributed to that increase.

Mr. Keaney commented that it is always important for us to look at the scores and the analysis provided to the District by the state. The department head, in this case Katie DeAngelo, the 7-12 math department head, will do an analysis. She will also talk to the math teachers and try to identify things as early as possible. Last year, and again this year, there is money in the operating budget for early tutoring. This allows us to identify students the year before the test who may be struggling in math and to offer some small group tutoring. We have had success with this. There are a variety of different areas that the District is trying to address. Dr. Empson Hayden thanked Mr. Keaney.

Mrs. Marano also thanked Mr. Keaney.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mrs. Marano declared the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data system, for Reporting Period 2-January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026, open.

Mr. Ugliarolo presented the District summary for the Student Safety Data System report.

District Summary

4 Confirmed incidents of HIB
0 Incident of Weapons Possession
0 Incidents of Violence (Simple Threat, Electronic)
2 Incidents of Vandalism (Theft, less than \$10)
2 Incidents of Substance Abuse

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying Statistics

Total # of HIB investigations district-wide: 15

NPHS	- 3 Investigations (1 confirmed)
NPMS -	- 5 Investigations (1 confirmed)
SB	- 2 Investigations (1 confirmed)
AWR	- 5 Investigations (1 confirmed)

All of our investigations for Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying were completed within ten days as the law requires. The nature of these HIBs was race, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, and mental, physical, or sensory disability. The names of our investigators are: at the High School, Mrs. Kelly; at the Middle School, Mr. Chango; at Salt Brook, Mrs. Kwiatkowski; and at Allen W. Roberts, Ms. Wittenberg. The nature of the school's responses to these incidents was both disciplinary, which included consequences such as in and out-of-school suspension and detention. There were also educational and restorative interventions and supports, which included student safety plans, conflict resolution, student and parent conferences, and individual student counseling. The training we have conducted in programs that have been implemented to reduce HIB are policy, staff, and student services, and anti-bullying specialist training on law and policy. We have had training in social media and cyberbullying. Our health curriculum and instructional activities focus on bullying, our Character Education Program, peer relations, conflict resolutions, social-emotional learning activities, and Red Ribbon Week.

Mrs. Marano declared the Public Hearing on the Student Safety Data System, for Reporting Period 2-January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026, closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Marano opened the meeting to the public at 7:32 p.m. There were no public comments. Mrs. Marano declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Gunderman moved to approve the minutes for:

Business Meeting: August 31, 2026

Mrs. Lepre seconded the motion, and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</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

ACTION ITEMS**FINANCE ACTIONS**

Ms. Gunderman, the Finance Chairperson, moved to approve items 1 through 7 as listed below:

BOARD SECRETARY AND TREASURER REPORTS APPROVED

1. After review, we hereby accept the Board Secretary and Treasurer reports for August 2026. No major account or fund has been over expended in violation of financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

BILL LIST APPROVED

2. Approve the payment of bills for September 2026, in the amount of \$3,800,420.40.

**SWIMMING POOL AGREEMENT WITH MORRIS-
UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION APPROVED**

3. Approve the Swimming Pool Use Agreement between the New Providence School District and the Morris-Union Jointure Commission for the 2026/2027 school year.

MORRIS-UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION TRANSPORTATION AGREEMENT APPROVED

4. Approve the Joint Transportation Agreement between the Morris-Union Jointure Commission and the New Providence School District for the 2026/2027 extended school year as stated below:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Per Annum</u>	<u>Aide Per Diem</u>
907S	\$ 6,044.06	\$ 52.13
907S DDDC	\$ 5,323.26	\$109.32
915S	\$10,610.82	\$273.30
918S	\$ 4,939.00	\$ 81.17
925S	\$ 5,451.30	\$ 63.13
980S	\$ 5,815.80	N/A
985S	\$ 7,641.34	\$ 72.15
992S	\$10,352.10	N/A

REIMBURSEMENT FOR SERVICES PER PUPIL FEES APPROVED

5. Approve the Reimbursement for Services Per Pupil Fees (New Providence School District tuition rates for members of the MUJC), as a member of the Morris-Union Jointure Commission for the 2026/2027 school year, as follows:

Pre-School Disabled (Half Day Program)	\$36,786.00
Pre-School Disabled (Full Day Program)	\$55,771.00
Early Primary LLD-1	\$39,359.00
Primary LLD-2	\$50,779.00
Primary LLD-3	\$43,518.00
Behavioral Disabilities Program	\$48,255.00
LLD-5	\$28,992.00
Middle School Resource Center	\$20,228.00
High School Resource Center	\$21,477.00

**RESOLUTION TO ENTER COOPERATIVE PRICING
AGREEMENTS WITH MONMOUTH-OCEAN EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES COMMISSION (MOESC) APPROVED**

6. Approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency," has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, The New Providence Board of Education in the County of Union, State of New Jersey pursuant to N.N.A.C 5:34-7.6(a), duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

This **RESOLUTION** shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC).

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) and N.J.A.C 5:34-7.6(a), the New Providence Board of Education is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Monmouth-Ocean Educational Services Commission (MOESC), the Lead Agency.

The Lead Agency shall comply with the Public School Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.) and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

VOIDED AND REISSUED CHECK APPROVED

7. Approve the following voided check and reissued check:

Voided

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>	<u>Reason</u>
368399	8/31/26	\$2,284.00	11-402-100-500-01 11-000-252-340-99	Lost

Reissued

<u>Check #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Account</u>
368557	9/24/26	\$2,284.00	11-402-100-500-01 11-000-252-340-99

Mrs. Zane seconded the motion, and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

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

Yea Mrs. Marano
Yea Mrs. Zane

FACILITIES ACTION

Ms. Gunderman, the Facilities Chairperson, moved to approve item 1 as listed below:

DISPOSAL OF BESTWAY STEEL PRO POOL APPROVED

1. Approve the disposal of one Bestway Steel Pro Pool at the middle school as the Robotics curriculum no longer requires the use of the pool.

Mrs. Zane seconded the motion, and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

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

EDUCATION ACTION

Dr. Empson Hayden, in place of the Education Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 10 as listed below:

CURRICULUM GUIDES APPROVED

1. Approve the following curriculum guides with the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools. Each of these curricula has been written by a District teacher and revised by the appropriate Department Head according to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards and District expectations. The Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Supervision has reviewed and approved each curriculum, and each one has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Education Curriculum Committee.

Mathematics

Geometry Multi-Level (Phase 2) (Grades 8-10) Revised

Language Arts

American Literature Multi-Level (Phase 1) (Grade 10) Revised
 AP Language & Composition (Phase 1) (Grades 11-12) New

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #13281 AT ACADEMY 360 LOWER SCHOOL APPROVED

2. Approve the enrollment of Student #13281 at Academy 360 Lower School, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$145,990.00, effective 9/2/26.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #11916 AT COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL APPROVED

3. Approve the enrollment of Student #11916 at Columbia High School, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$19,203.00, effective 9/1/26.

**ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #12574 AT MARY K. McMILLAN
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER APPROVED**

4. Approve the enrollment of Student #12574 at Mary K. McMillan Early Childhood Center, Berkeley Heights Board of Education, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$167,625.00, effective 9/14/26.

**ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT #12002 AT GOVERNOR
LIVINGSTON HIGH SCHOOL APPROVED**

5. Approve the enrollment of Student #12002 at Governor Livingston High School, Berkeley Heights Board of Education, for the 2026/2027 school year, at a tuition cost of \$23,224.00, effective 9/1/26.

**MORRIS-UNION JOINTURE COMMISSION OCCUPATIONAL
AND PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES APPROVED**

6. Approve Morris-Union Jointure Commission, for the 2026/2027 school year, for occupational therapy services at a rate of \$215.00/hr. and for physical therapy services at a rate of \$235.00/hr., effective 7/1/26.

**USE OF GENPSYCH FOR PSYCHIATRIC CLEARANCE
EVALUATIONS APPROVED**

7. Approve GenPsych, for the 2026/2027 school year, for psychiatric clearance evaluations at a rate of \$250.00 per clearance, effective 9/14/26.

**2025/2026 ESSA GRANT APPLICATION AMENDMENT
FOR TITLE IIA FUNDS APPROVED**

8. Approve the submission and acceptance of the revised Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated Grant Application Amendment for Title IIA funds. This amendment allows for the addition of \$1,761.00 of rollover funds not previously budgeted for.

CLOUD-BASED SERVICES APPROVED

9. Approve the following cloud-based services for the 2026/2027 school year:
- a. Safari Montage
 - b. Sibelius
 - c. Project Lead the Way

**PLACEMENT OF NPMS STUDENT #12496 AT
SALT BROOK SCHOOL APPROVED**

10. Approve the placement of New Providence Middle School (NPMS) Student #12496 at Salt Brook Elementary School (Salt Brook), for the 2026/2027 school year, to receive required educational services. This student, while attending Salt Brook, will maintain their status as a 7th grade student for purposes of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), NJSLEDS, CDS, enrollment, assessment, and other applicable state and federal reporting requirements. Approve also all necessary actions by the District to implement this placement and to ensure that the student's records accurately reflect the student's elementary school placement and grade 7 status, as consistent with all applicable NJDOE requirements.

Mrs. Lepre seconded the motion, and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</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

PERSONNEL ACTION

Dr. Empson Hayden, the Personnel Chairperson, moved to approve Items 1 through 7 as listed below.

2026/2027 APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

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. John Giunta, baseball (spring), boys, second assistant, \$5,443.00
 - b. Kathleen DeAngelo, HS, for teaching above four (4) classes as a 7-12 department head (five (5) classes total), \$240.00 (base \$8,000.00), effective 9/3/26 through 9/11/26
 - c. Heather Huber, HS for teaching eighteen (18) periods per four (4) day rotation, \$240.00 (base \$8,000.00), effective 9/3/26 through 9/11/26
 - d. Shannon Adams, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - e. David Aprill, Jr., substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - f. Nancy Babbitt, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - g. Adam Winter, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary (subject to criminal history review procedures)
 - h. Alexa DeSeta, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - i. Hala Ebedo, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - j. Ellen Evins, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - k. Olivia Gelormini, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - l. Brenda Greenhowe, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - m. Maeve Hennessy, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - n. Sabah Hamdalla, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - o. Karen Lee, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - p. Natalie Petrides, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - q. Aditi Sanghi, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - r. Katerina Wachtel, substitute teacher, teacher aide, and secretary
 - s. Gavin Jakositz, MS mathematics club, advisor, \$2,147.00
 - t. Dr. Colleen Hasson, fall NJGPA remediation/support program, HS language arts teacher, not to exceed 12 hours @ \$57.09/hr.
 - u. Fiona Flanagan, fall NJGPA remediation/support program, HS language arts teacher, not to exceed 12 hours @ \$57.09/hr.
 - v. Kaely Maire Quinlan, fall NJGPA remediation/support program, HS language arts teacher, not to exceed 12 hours @ \$57.09/hr.
 - w. Gavin Jakositz, fall NJGPA remediation/support program, HS mathematics teacher, not to exceed 34 hours @ \$57.09
 - x. Samantha Price, music student intern, for the 2026/2027 school year at NPMS, effective 9/1/26 through 6/30/27
 - y. Katherine Sorrentino, music student intern, for the 2026/2027 school year at NPHS, effective 9/1/26 through 6/30/27
 - z. Dean Tariff, music student intern, for the 2026/2027 school year at AWR, effective 9/1/26 through 6/30/27
 - aa. Julieta Mercado, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$21.28/hr., based on 176 days, \$9,883.00 (base \$11,236.00), effective 10/13/26 (subject to criminal history review)

- procedures)
- bb. Monalisa Goswami, teacher, \$53,676.00 (base \$61,697.00), effective 10/13/26 (subject to criminal history review procedures)

ESY APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

2. 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. The following people will participate in the Extended School Year (ESY) Program.
- a. Lynn Kral, extended school year program substitute nurse, not to exceed 3.5 days, \$1,184.21
- b. Frances Spann, summer CST work, not to exceed 9.5 days, \$4,864.71

RESIGNATIONS APPROVED

3. Accept the resignations of the following employees:
- a. Euris Castillo, night custodian, effective 10/8/26
- b. Lynn Kowalskie, due to retirement, effective 12/31/26
- c. Grace Kinsella, District crisis counselor, effective 11/13/26

TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE #3051 APPROVED

4. Approve the termination of employee #3051, effective 9/16/26.

2026/2027 REVISIONS APPROVED

5. Approve the following revisions for the 2026/2027 school year:
- a. Jennifer Davison, long term substitute teacher, \$3,696.00 (base \$67,204.00), effective 9/1/26-9/16/26
- b. Brandon Hilf, teacher, from Step 7, Column V (\$71,319.00), to Master's, Step 7, Column VI (\$74,015.00), effective 9/1/26, due to course credits
- c. Michael Makmur, teacher, from Step 7, Column V (\$71,319.00), to Master's, Step 7, Column VI (\$74,015.00), effective 9/1/26, due to course credits
- d. Sujin Lee, teacher, from Step 10, Column V (\$77,031.00), to Master's, Step 10, Column VI (\$79,880.00), effective 9/1/26, due to course credits
- e. Christina Focacci, teacher, from Step 19, Column V (\$110,239.00), to Master's, Step 19, Column VI (\$114,042.00), effective 9/1/26, due to course credits
- f. Sioned Sanders, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$21.28/hr., based on 176 days, \$11,134.00 (base \$11,236.00), effective 9/8/26
- g. Gabriella Tundo, playground/lunch assistant, 3.0 hrs./day, \$21.28/hr., based on 176 days, \$10,942.00 (base \$11,236.00), effective 9/11/26
- h. Mitsuru Noguchi, teacher (.6), from Step 7, Column III (\$39,936.00), to Master's, Step 7, Column V (\$42,791.00), effective 9/1/26, due to course credits and receipt of Master's Degree
- i. Carol Zimmerman, summer speech evaluations, not to exceed 8 days, \$4,334.64

2026/2027 RESCINDED APPOINTMENTS APPROVED

6. Rescind the following appointments for the 2026/2027 school year:

- a. Wendi Kane-Millard, 8th grade class, co-advisor, \$588.00
- b. Rachel Fintz, HS advisor, freshman class, \$945.00
- c. Angelina Iosso, lacrosse (spring), girls, second assistant, \$5,443.00
- d. Marcello Fois, music student intern, for the 2026/2027 school year, effective 9/1/26 through 6/30/27
- e. Jennifer Pasuit, HS STEM club, advisor, \$2,147.00
- f. Elizabeth Miner, student intern, for the 2026/2027 school year, effective 9/1/26 through 6/30/27

EXTENDED LEAVE APPROVED

7. Approve the request of Rebecca Ratner, 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 2/1/27 through 6/30/27.

Ms. Gunderman seconded the motion.

Dr. Zirpoli recognized Lynn Kowalskie, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Lynn has been with us for thirty-six (36) years. She has been dedicated to Allen W. Roberts School, currently teaching 3rd grade. We will definitely miss her and we wish her well.

The motion was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</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

BOARD POLICY

Mrs. Zane, the Board Policy Chairperson, moved to approve the following Policies and Regulations:

FIRST READING POLICIES APPROVED

1. Approve the following Policies and Regulations on first 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

Dr. Empson Hayden seconded the motion, and it was carried on the following vote:

Roll call vote:

<u>Absent</u>	Mrs. Castellano
<u>Yea</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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology: Dr. Empson Hayden commented that the committee is continuing to review curriculum as it is received from Mr. Keaney.
2. Finance, Facilities, and Safety/Security: No comments.
3. Personnel, Management, and Communication: No comments.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Marano opened the meeting to the public at 7:36 p.m.

Matthew Chan
16 Delwick Lane
New Providence

Mr. Chan commented as follows. As the STEM club president and the New Jersey TSA vice president, he would like to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of his peers who have received the STEM Certificate of Excellence today for their outstanding achievement at the national TSA competition. Just as important as celebrating our peers' achievements, is looking into our club's future. He has been made aware that changes in District funding will make advisors unable to attend the national TSA conference due to a lack of additional compensation. It is hard to sit here today celebrating these achievements tonight knowing that hundreds of students that come after us may not get the same chance. In my personal experience, the national competition has inspired me to publish research alongside professionals in the field and, most importantly, has introduced me to a large number of individuals who I am wholeheartedly able to call my friends, my family, and a place that I can call home. This club has done so much for me and for so many other people. In 2025, fifty-eight (58) students qualified for and attended this selective national conference. As we saw today, our participation led to significant success. NPHS

graduates who have attended the TSA National Conference over the past four years have received and benefited the most. Nine (9) are in engineering programs ranked top 20 nationally, like Cornell and Duke. Roughly 72% are pursuing STEM majors and approximately 77% attend a university ranked top 50 nationally. Many students who have been part of the national conference are in the audience right now to support their peers' achievements, which goes to show how much they care. On behalf of countless current and previous concerned club members, I strongly urge those who have a say to reconsider this decision and to work with our advisors to find a path forward that allows them to continue supporting New Providence students at TSA Nationals. Thank you.

Aarush Kumar
960 Springfield Avenue
New Providence

Mr. Kumar commented as follows. I am affiliated with the New Providence STEM Club. On May 2nd, in a gym full of every competitor in the state, they called my team's name for first place. I froze. I just stood there. And beside me, my advisor was jumping. I thought about that moment a lot. Why couldn't I move? And, why couldn't she stand still? But, all I saw was that trophy with number one engraved on it. It was beautiful. But they saw the late nights. They saw us fall behind and they were the ones who brought us back. They saw the nights we wanted to quit and we didn't, because of them. That jump was for every one of those nights at once. And that competition sent us to nationals. And there, away from home on the biggest stage I have ever seen, the people we looked to were the same ones who had been with us every night before, carrying everything that they had learned from every conference before ours. None of those nights will show up on any paper, because there is no line item for a teacher jumping in a gym. A budget can tell you what something costs, but it cannot tell you what something is worth. However, since our advisors can't come to nationals, and if they do come to nationals they come without compensation, we would be asking the people who gave everything to us to give even more. So, the next time a New Providence name is called to that giant stage, the space behind and next to that student may be empty. And I understand that it is a line in the budget and I don't envy the choices and cuts that you have to make. But, from where I stand, it is a person with both feet off of the ground there for us. This Board's own goals call for putting resources where the District's priorities are. But if nearly 60 students a year competing against the best in the country isn't a priority, then what is? There will be a freshman in the school, maybe even in the hallway tomorrow, who hasn't frozen in the gym yet. But they will. And when they do, someone should be there jumping for them too. That night I didn't understand what that club had done for me and for us as a club. But tonight I hope you all do. Thank you.

Naomi Lee
66 Brookside Drive
New Providence

Ms. Lee commented as follows. Good evening. Four (4) minutes before the deadline, my submission portal froze. I had two (2) projects that I had to submit and had just received one (1) of them from my teammates six (6) minutes before. I couldn't submit them and I kept emailing the advisors asking what I should do. I thought it was over. They told me that they would figure it out and offered me reassurance. In the morning, I ran straight to their room before school started and they told me that they were able to fix the problem. They also went above and beyond in making sure that I was okay and helped me calm down after the website closed. The support carries on year after year at the nationals conference. There are hard deadlines that we have to meet and projects that we have to create in the time span of one day in order to place in the top ten (10) in those five (5) days at nationals. This work happens in real time with advisors being there every moment when we need them. At the nationals trip, the advisors have helped me edit speeches, projects, create posters, and even find rooms when I was lost in that giant conference hall. It is safe to say that I would not have made it to the top twelve (12) in the nation for geospatial technology without all of their help. In 8th grade I was accepted into UCVTS for sustainable science, but I chose to stay here for the STEM program and its national success. Over time, I realized that the opportunities that we have here are so much more than other schools. What makes my experience even more special and fulfilling are the advisors. I spend most of my lunches in their rooms, whether to ask questions, work on my projects, or talk to my friends and have a place to sit. They help us all throughout

the year and that help extends into the summer when we go on the national TSA conference trip. We need advisors at the nationals with us. They are the ones who hold us together, calm us down when we are panicking about deadlines, and they are the role models that we look up to. I aspire to be like them with their great amount of knowledge and ability to problem solve on the fly. Without the advisors, the club wouldn't have the same amount of national achievement that we have seen today. Thank you.

Hazel Chen
35 Alden Road
New Providence

Ms Chen commented as follows. Like any other sports team, we need our coaches. At nationals, they organize meetings for us. They make sure our projects are successful. And it works. Every year, New Providence scores among the highest in America. And every year, we bring home countless awards. Tonight, we are celebrating the fruit of our teachers', our coaches' labor in addition to our own. This would be impossible to do without them. And you're probably thinking that it is possible to go to nationals and still participate in the TSA competition without our coaches. That is true for a very few, select individuals, but not for the majority of people and not for the team. Every single year, we place higher than schools larger than us. We place higher than schools with more resources than us. How is it that a small school like New Providence is able to get so much national recognition? It is because of our advisors and everything they put into this. Without them, we would not be as successful. Similarly, at the Union County Magnet Schools, excellence in STEM is celebrated. But, our STEM team and our top level performance at the national level is why people choose New Providence over the Magnet school. I know this because I was one of those kids. And that is one of the main reasons why I stayed. What are people going to think when they see New Providence can no longer excel at nationals? Students and parents of students who get into these vocational schools care about STEM because that is where they see their future. But, part of what was reassuring for me about staying at New Providence was this great community of students and teachers who cared so much about this and who put so much into this pursuit, especially at nationals. So today, we are speaking on behalf of the people already in our high school who want to continue to excel at STEM, but we are also here for those people who are thinking about leaving and the people who want to stay. Thank you for your time.

Zuhayr Tabbarah
5 Hillary Place
New Providence

Mr. Tabbarah commented as follows. In my language arts class, beside having conversations about Margaret Thatcher, we are tasked with the seemingly realistic goal of transforming prose into its own form of poetry. We must paint a picture with our words and create paragraphs and essays that stir the soul. In history, we utilize key terms and historical concepts that reflect the time and place. In mathematics and science, logic is king. We transform equations into the language of the world and apply them to the fundamental concepts that make us what, and who, we are. These subjects transform our views, but often struggle with painting the picture of the world. STEM paints that picture. Every single subject is its own different color. But STEM gives us a canvas, water, and a paintbrush. I was able, through my own passion and drive, to pick colors that defined me as a scientist and as a person. I brushed the blues of language arts during our TSA essay and fiddled with the red of math in the engineering portion and mathematical modeling tests. The green of biology has layered my work at the school, with the help of Ms. Fintz, that carried on in my progress as a scientist. However, every single painting needs a canvas and a stand. And, if the completed canvas is our knowledge of STEM, evolving and changing with each passionate brushstroke, then the advisors are the stand. They are the immutable pillars of the STEM club, standing tall, stretching themselves out to support all of us. Without them at nationals, we cannot perform at our highest level. We need our advisors to bring out our best colors so that next year and the years following, students may receive the same certificates they received today in order to show their progress and their achievements at New Providence. Now, you have heard the previous passionate speeches of my peers and you might have seen some students from the soccer team coming to support us. Not all of them can come up to speak today, but I have heard their voices. I have read their comments and so many students have been changed for the better by this club and the national competition. They have made

friends, learned about themselves, and formed their own cohesive picture because of a competition they will no longer be able to attend with advisors if they do not have the additional stipend for nationals. That is what TSA nationals and the STEM club means to all of us. The ability to speak, to paint your own picture, and to make your voice heard in your own scientific way. Not just for the people in this room giving speeches today, but for everyone who views this club as their second home. Thank you for your time.

Mrs. Marano declared the public portion of the meeting closed at 7:48 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Dr. Empson Hayden moved to adopt the following resolution:

This body shall, on September 24, 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:

- Personnel
- Student Matters
- Negotiations

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.

Ms. Gunderman seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened to public session at 9:17 p.m. Mrs. Marano called the Board to order. Board members present were Dr. Empson Hayden, 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. Marano, and carried unanimously, Mrs. Marano declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.


James Testa, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

